

PASA Flyer

Vol. 65, NO. 3- December 2022

Proud Leadership for
Pennsylvania Schools

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Selected to Shapiro
Transition Team**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



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Cover photo: Dr. Colleen Lelli speaks to attendees at the 2022 Women's Caucus Regional Dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy in King of Prussia.

Photo by Aubrey Kyler



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Coming Spring 2023!

National Superintendent Certification Program

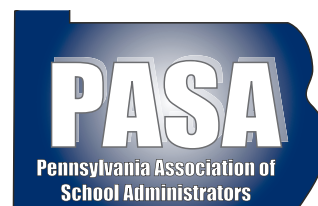
About the Program: PASA, in collaboration with AASA, is pleased to offer a new Cohort for the AASA-PASA National Superintendent Certification Program.

This program is a unique opportunity for Pennsylvania Superintendents who seek to experience a deep study into the skills necessary for leading a successful school district. The Program will be implemented over six, two-day sessions over the next two years, starting April 19-20, 2023.

Some of the sessions will be in-person at the PASA Office in Harrisburg, and some will be virtual. Sessions will be facilitated by former superintendents who led highly successful school districts and guest speakers, along with experienced mentors for all participants.

What to Know: Participation is limited to 25.

How to apply: Applications for this program will become available the first week of January on the PASA website.



The PASA Flyer is published monthly by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

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Please report your appointments, renewals, awards or special achievements, or that of others in your region to Adam Kulikowski at PASA either by phone (717) 540-4448, by fax (717) 540-4405, or via email at pasa@pasa-net.org. Copy deadline is the 1st of each month.

From the Executive Director

Tis the Season to be Jolly!



By Dr. Sherri Smith

Executive Director, PASA

The holiday season is upon us. It is a time that is traditionally set aside for happy and joyous occasions. For our schools, it is a time filled with concerts, assemblies, and programs to celebrate the season.

Our schools bring together parents, grandparents and community members to celebrate traditional holiday activities and appreciate the many talents and gifts of our students. For many of our schools, it is also the first opportunity in several years for community members to reconnect with their local schools and appreciate all the good that public schools provide for their students and community.

The reality, however, is that for many of our students, staff, and families, the holiday season does not bring about joy and is not a season to be jolly, but a sad and stressful time of the year. As I set out to do my own Christmas shopping this year, I notice the stores are strangely empty and the energy from those shopping is not full of joy, but a duty to buy gifts. There are many students and staff who are struggling emotionally— an ongoing effect of the difficult three years we have all faced.

Maybe some of you have fallen into this slump as well; quite understandably so with the difficult work conditions you have faced. We may be moving forward with the pandemic, but its effects and impact on so many continue to be a challenge both personally and professionally.

As leaders, we need to continue our efforts to take care of those under our charge and to return our schools to a healthy and happy place. We must also strive to find the real spirit of the holiday season and serve as a beacon of positivity for our students, staff, families, and communities.

Thank you to each of you for your persistent care and hard work, and for leaning into the difficult journey to move our schools to an emotionally safe place. We all need to focus on the positives we provide for our students and communities and reignite the spirit of joy and happiness that should be present during this time of year. If we can all focus on all the good that we do, what a better place our society, and our schools would be in.

Make sure you are taking care of YOURSELF during this special time of the year. We have much work to do at the start of the new year, but for now – find the time to replenish your own healthy heart and mind. Take time to enjoy your family and friends and make the season “jolly”.

Let's make a New Year's resolution to unify our efforts and focus on the good in public education, and what our schools mean to so many children and communities across the Commonwealth. I look forward to the journey together with all of you!

You have my best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!



David R. Schuler Named Executive Director Of AASA



The School Superintendents Association (AASA), is proud to announce that David R. Schuler has been selected by the organization's executive committee as its new executive director, replacing Daniel A. Domenech, who will retire in February 2023.



"As we continue to reshape America's public education agenda, I am honored and humbled to have been selected to lead AASA, an organization that has become the standard-bearer for strengthening school system leadership while celebrating and embracing the magnificent achievements occurring in our school communities on a day-in, day-out basis."

--David R. Schuler

Schuler, the 2018 National Superintendent of the Year®, currently serves as superintendent of High School District 214 in Arlington Heights, Ill., where he and his team designed and implemented the District 214 Career Pathways program to provide students with an at-scale model for early college credit, industry credentials and work-based learning experiences before leaving high school. Under his leadership, the district established the Center for Career Discovery, which encompasses more than 1,000 industry partners and delivered approximately 2,500 work-based learning experiences during the 2021-2022 school year, as well as the non-profit District 214 Education

Foundation that raises hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Nearly 83% of the District 214 class of 2022 took a college-level course while in high school.

Earlier this year, District 214 was one of only 13 districts across the country to be named as an AASA Lighthouse Demonstration System, serving as models of positive change in public education. The selected designates are members of AASA's Learning 2025 Network, a cadre of more than 120 demonstration systems representing forward-leaning, urban, suburban and rural school districts engaged in learning, networking and working together to help drive education policy and ultimately improve student learning.

"David Schuler has a solid track record as a strategic innovator who is highly experienced, successful and well-regarded throughout the country," said Shari L. Camhi, 2022-23 president of AASA and superintendent of the Baldwin Union Free (N.Y.) School District. "He is a future-driven leader and a champion for every child in our school systems, working diligently to carve out new paths for public education on behalf of the more than 50 million students in America. David has the qualities AASA members want in our next leader."

Schuler served on AASA's executive committee from 2011 to 2017 and was elected the 2015-16 president. He's the architect of Redefining Ready!, an initiative administered by AASA that introduces research-based metrics to appropriately assess whether students are ready to pursue their lifelong goals and dreams following post-secondary education, and defines what it means for them to be college-, career- and life-ready. Since its launch in 2017, Redefining Ready! has rapidly become a mainstay in AASA's growing stable of Leadership Network professional development programs that have mobilized thousands of superintendents and their respective teams in order to drive innovation, thought leadership, research and

PASA Executive Director selected to serve on Gov. Shapiro's Transition Team

Planning and work is already underway for our change in State leadership, both in the Governor's Office and as well as in the General Assembly.



Governor-elect Josh Shapiro has created a diverse group of leaders in the Commonwealth to help prepare the new administration before he is sworn in on January 17.

Dr. Sherri Smith, PASA's Executive Director received an invitation to join the Shapiro-Davis Transition Advisory Committee on Education and Workforce Development Education, giving PASA a voice at the table.

Although these meetings are closed conversations at this time, it is an honor to have PASA as a recognized leader in education and a critical voice at the table.

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors:



collaboration among school system leaders from coast to coast.

Schuler serves as a lead superintendent in AASA's National Superintendent Certification Program®, an initiative designed for early career superintendents who desire to refresh and sharpen their skill sets and engage in world-class professional learning opportunities. He also serves as a lead superintendent in AASA's Aspiring Superintendents Academy®, a highly interactive year-long program that equips participants with the real-life skills that a next-generation superintendent needs to thrive on the job and lead high-

performing teams.

"Being a superintendent represents an opportunity to ensure that no child in our country is marginalized. All of us in public education have the chance to inspire new dreams in the minds of our students to imagine the possibilities beyond high school graduation," said Schuler. "As we continue to reshape America's public education agenda, I am honored and humbled to have been selected to lead AASA, an organization that has become the standard-bearer for strengthening school system leadership while celebrating and embracing

the magnificent achievements occurring in our school communities on a day-in, day-out basis."

Schuler has served 22 years as a superintendent, 17 of them at High School District 214 – one of Illinois' largest high school systems. He earned his bachelor's degree at Carroll College in Waukesha, Wis. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Madison, Wis.

Schuler will join AASA on January 1, 2023, as executive director-designate, allowing time for crossover and an orderly transition.

State News:



PA Property Tax Relief Supporters Have a New Friend in Josh Shapiro

Monroe, Lehigh and Northampton counties continue to have some of the heaviest property tax burdens in the state, giving lawmakers plenty of motivation to keep seeking relief for hard-hit taxpayers. They appear to have a willing new partner in Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro. During his campaign, Shapiro proposed tax relief moves similar to ones Valley lawmakers have unsuccessfully sought to push through the state Legislature.

Read the rest of the story: [“PA Property Tax Relief Supporters Have a New Friend in Josh Shapiro”](#) (from Reading Eagle, 11/25/22)

Philly Schools’ Head of Finance is Named Shapiro’s Budget Secretary, a Big Loss for the District

Uri Monson, the longtime Philadelphia School District chief financial officer, will become Pennsylvania’s next budget secretary, Gov.-elect Josh Shapiro announced Tuesday.

Monson’s elevation to the commonwealth’s top finance job is a blow for the school system, where Monson has worked for nearly seven years. Superintendent Tony B. Watlington Sr. had just promoted him to deputy superintendent, overseeing operations and finance. Monson earned widespread kudos during his district tenure for his fiscal stewardship, skill and steady hand. When he took over the CFO job, the district’s finances were on shaky ground, in large part because the school system has no control over its own finances and must look largely to Harrisburg and City Hall for revenue.

Under his watch, the district was able to emerge from 17 years of state control. Its credit rating also climbed out of junk-bond status for the first time since the 1970s.

Read the rest of the story: [“Philly Schools’ Head of Finance is Named Shapiro’s Budget Secretary, a Big Loss for the District”](#) (from Philadelphia Inquirer, 12/6/22)

PA Educator Receives National Teaching Excellence Award

This has been National Education Week, and a Pennsylvania high school teacher is among only five educators nationally to receive one of the profession’s highest honors. The Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence went to Kevin Gallagher, a high school computer science, math and statistics teacher at Keystone Oaks High School in Pittsburgh. It comes with a \$10,000 award, and Gallagher will be featured in a mini-documentary from the National Education Association Foundation.

Read the rest of the story: [“PA Educator Receives National Teaching Excellence Award”](#) (from Public News Service, 11/18/22)

PA School Test Scores Still Trail Pre-Pandemic Levels

Pennsylvania public school students have made little progress in making up for the learning losses suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest Pennsylvania System of School Assessment results released Monday show just over half of test-takers in grades three through eight statewide scored proficient or advanced, which is regarded as grade level or above, on the language arts exam. Read the rest of the story: [“PA School Test Scores Still Trail Pre-Pandemic Levels”](#) (from Pennlive, 11/30/22)

‘Grow Your Own’ Programs Train High Schoolers to Become Teachers

Nationally, [the number of people completing](#) teacher education programs from 2011-12 to 2019-20 fell 25%, according [to federal data](#), with steeper drops in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. While the percentage of students of color in teacher preparation programs nationally has grown, in Pennsylvania, classes have remained overwhelmingly white. In 2018-19, just 5% were Black and 4% Hispanic. West Chester’s PRIZE program aims to change that. High school students will take dual-enrollment classes in teacher education through West Chester at no charge. They’ll get internship opportunities and have mentors. The cost of the classes will be covered by West Chester and the host school district. They will be offered in person or online, removing transportation as a barrier.

Read the rest of the story: [“‘Grow Your Own’ Programs Train High Schoolers to Become Teachers. West Chester is Joining the Movement to Combat the Teacher Shortage.”](#) (from Philadelphia Inquirer, 12/11/22)

National News:

Schools are Spending Big Bucks on Online Tutoring. Here's What They've Learned

Tutoring works. That's been the message for schools and educators since before the COVID-19 pandemic, with lots of research to back it up. But pervasive staffing problems have gotten in the way. That is, until online tutoring came along. For decades, companies like Varsity Tutors and FEV Tutor have been offering online and virtual tutoring services to school districts. Startups like Paper, which began offering on-demand tutoring in the 2018-19 school year, seized the pandemic moment and ramped up services.

Read the rest of the story: ["Schools Are Spending Big Bucks on Online Tutoring. Here's What They've Learned"](#) (from EducationWeek, 12/9/22)

The Crisis of Student Mental Health is Much Vaster than We Realize

The change was gradual. At first, Riana Alexander was always tired. Then she began missing classes. She had been an honors student at her Arizona high school, just outside Phoenix. But last winter, after the isolation of remote learning, then the overload of a full-on return to school, her grades were slipping. She wasn't eating a lot. She avoided friends. Her worried mother searched for mental health treatment. Finally, in the spring, a three-day-a-week intensive program for depression helped the teenager steady herself and "want to get better," Alexander said. Then, as she was finding her way, a girl at her school took her own life. Then a teen elsewhere in the district did the same. Then another.

Read the rest of the story: ["The Crisis of Student Mental Health is Much Vaster than We Realize"](#) (from The Washington Post, 12/5/22)

What Schools Can Do to Ease Students' Anxiety

Secondary students say anxiety, stress, and depression are derailing their ability to get back on track academically as the pandemic recedes, and they need more support from their schools and teachers. Mental health issues top the barriers to learning for middle and high school students, according to a report released last month by [YouthTruth](#), a nonprofit that surveys K-12 students and families for school districts. Fewer than half of students in the survey said their school has services to help them with issues like anxiety or depression, and only 1 in 5 had access to a school counselor or therapist.

Read the rest of the story: ["What Schools Can Do to Ease](#)



[Students' Anxiety"](#) (from EducationWeek, 11/23/22)

As Cyberattacks Increase on K-12 Schools, Here Is What's Being Done

In recent years, cyberattacks on K-12 schools have increased. Not only do these attacks disrupt educational instruction and school operations, they also impact students, their families, and teachers. The scale and number of attacks increased during COVID-19 as more schools moved to remote learning and increased their reliance on IT services. Read the rest of the story: ["As Cyberattacks Increase on K-12 Schools, Here Is What's Being Done"](#) (from U.S. Government Accountability Office, 12/1/22)

N.J. Could Become First State to Enact Media Literacy Curriculum for K-12 Students

New Jersey lawmakers want to help students at every grade level learn how to figure out fact vs. fiction. The state could become the first in the country to require public schools to teach media literacy to K-12 students to combat misinformation. A bipartisan bill approved last month by the Legislature would take effect immediately if signed into law by Gov. Phil Murphy.

Read the rest of the story: ["N.J. Could Become First State to Enact Media Literacy Curriculum for K-12 Students"](#) (from The Philadelphia Inquirer, 12/2/22)

From the President's Pen

Take Time to Savor the Holiday Moments, Unplug, and Refresh



By Dr. John Sanville

2022-23 PASA President

Greetings one and all...

As I write this the forecasters are predicting snow, sleet, freezing rain, and every other kind of cold weather precipitation. It is December in Pennsylvania! This is the time when PennDot and our road crews take center stage. We will begin hearing the "Snow Day" chants from both young and old. I have dug out my gloves, hat, heavy coat, and windshield scraper and (hope I don't have to dig out my car). We are prepped and ready... right?

Additionally, we are all feeling the onset of 'the holidays' – at work, at home, in stores, and everywhere we go. It seems that educators have the inside track on fun and festivities- between school concerts and plays, craft fairs, and decorations in offices, hallways, on doors, and in classrooms well, it would be hard to miss. Children- from pre-K to high school seniors- are excited and looking forward to the break. I suspect that faculty and staff are as well!

Communities also reflect the season and there are lights and music everywhere! It is a cornucopia of sights and sounds – and we all know that some people take this as a challenge- to both the electric grid and their neighbors! Maybe someone reading this participates in this kind of fun competition. It is a great way to take advantage of the early darkness.

This is also a great time to simply enjoy the scenery. Enjoy the lights someone has spent hours and lots of money on. Savor the cheeriness in the office. Smile more often and lend a hand or give a compliment when possible. Share the wonder in the beliefs of kids- perhaps while remembering when you also held them. Most of all it is a time to be considerate of others. The closer we get to the last day of school the more intense things will get. Excitement spreads like wildfire- so put on your thoughtful hat during any tense situations and while making decisions.

This celebratory expanse of time concludes with the start of a new year, so many of us are thinking ahead. Funny how we are so anxious for the future during a time when there is so much to savor. Like you, I am already tossing ideas for January around in my head. You might have new goals to share with colleagues, new approaches for instruction and leadership, or maybe just a new personal goal-all waiting for 1/1/23!

With so much to partake of right now, let's not rush into January just yet. Before I look ahead, I am going to look back.

We survived and thrived in another challenging year unlike any other. With so much going on we were spread thin quite a few times. Despite the ups and downs, there is no shortage of things to be grateful for in 2022- so let me share a few of my bright spots:

Bells, lights, music, decorations, and delicious treats. 'Tis the season to enjoy sensory delights of all kinds. I am living in the moment and it is great!

Ringing in the New Year with Jack- who will celebrate one year with us on 12/31/22!

Incomparable, fantastic, and creative success in schools and districts across the Commonwealth. I have seen and heard amazing strategies and marveled at accomplishments across the breadth and depth of Pennsylvania.

Gridiron success for the Eagles. What a great season it has been!

Hallowed halls of learning. I appreciate the many opportunities I have had to learn from, meet with, and talk to educators. There is always room to grow- and here in Pennsylvania, that is the norm.

That I am celebrating another Christmas with Debbie- our 30th! We met in school- and one of us is still there! She is my biggest fan, best friend, and has made so much of my career possible.

I am sending wishes for a joyous, happy, and fulfilling holiday season across Pennsylvania. This is the time to honor

Region News:

Region 12:

The Red Lion School District announced recently that Dr. Robert L. Walker will serve as superintendent. Walker, a graduate of James Madison University and Red Lion alum, previously served as the assistant superintendent for the Conewago Valley School District.

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Dr. Rita Sterner-Hine will become the superintendent of Waynesboro Area School District following the retirement of Dr. Tod Kline in February. Sterner-Hine is a graduate of Shippensburg University and member of the Waynesboro staff since 1991.

Region 19:

Elk Lake Superintendent Kenneth Cuomo will retire at the end of this school year after more than 30 years in education. He's served as superintendent since 2014 after tenures as high school principal from 1992 to 2013 and elementary school principal during the 2013-14 school year.

Region 22

Dr. William E. Harner recently announced that he will retire as Quakertown Community School District superintendent at the conclusion of the school year. Harner led the district for nearly 10 years. Prior to his role at Quakertown, he served as the Acting Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Region 25:

Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen will retire this month as superintendent of Rose Tree Media after more than 22 years at the district and almost five as superintendent. Mr. William Dougherty will serve as interim superintendent for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year.

Please report member news to PASA at pasa@pasa-net.org. Announcements of professional vacancies across Pennsylvania and in neighboring states are posted on the PASA website at www.pasa-net.org (Click on the "Leadership Development" button and look for "Career Center.")

traditions, spend time with family and friends, travel, spend time at home, and do any other thing that feeds your soul. Leaders need time to unplug so our minds and bodies get a break. The best gift you can bring to the office in 2023 is the refreshed and rested version of you!

In case you are wondering how it became mid-December so quickly- well so am I! And Dr. Seuss had just the same thoughts...

How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness, how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon? Dr. Seuss

Jingle, jingle, happy, happy, merry, merry.

See you in 2023!

Thank you to Our Silver Sponsors!



Professional Development

Connectedness: The Work and Home Juggling Act



By Dr. Jodi Frankelli

Superintendent, Palmerton Area

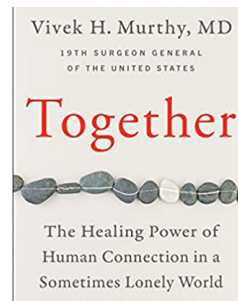
A few years ago, I realized that I wasn't reading enough. As a lover of books and a former English teacher, I knew I needed to make this a top priority in my life as it once was. Like many of you, I often feel as if I am in a constant state of juggling... trying to find a balance between home and work life while I try not to let any of the balls fall on the floor. It was then that another superintendent recommended the Next Big Idea Club (NBIC). If you haven't heard of the NBIC, I would highly recommend that you look it up online. By joining this club, I was able to find the balance I had been seeking. It also allowed me the opportunity to connect my passion for reading with my professional life.

The NBIC gave me back my love of reading, while still managing to make the books relevant to my work life as a superintendent. Two of the books presented in the NBIC, were *Get It Done* by Ayelet Fishbach, an award-winning author, psychologist, and researcher in human motivation and *Together*, by Dr. Vivek Murthy, the 19th Surgeon General of the United States. In their unique way, both books focused on the idea of connectedness and working together. In *Get It Done*, Ms. Fishbach discussed the idea of pursuing goals with others rather than in isolation. As superintendents, I'm sure you've all heard that "it's lonely at the top". This may be part of the reason why so many of us find the professional development opportunities facilitated by PASA so refreshing and necessary. These opportunities allow us, as encouraged by Ms. Fishbach, to work on our goals in a safe space in the presence of others.

The idea of creating a connected life is so important in the work that we do as leaders. This idea of connectedness is essential to our personal and professional well-being and success. In *Together*, Dr. Murthy stressed four key areas that I found to be very beneficial to both my home and work life:

Spend Time With Those You Care About

Do you intentionally set aside time each day to truly connect with those who are important in your work and home life? While this may be easy to do in your home life, do you devote as much time to those who are important to you at work? Small amounts of time each day can make big differences in these relationships.



Quality v. Quantity

Giving your full attention to someone for 10 minutes is better than 30 minutes of distracted conversation.

Enjoy Time With Yourself

Take time to hit the pause button every now and then. Embracing solitude allows us to connect and re-center ourselves.

Allow Yourself to Help and Be Helped

Human connectedness through service to others is so powerful in helping you find a purpose and meaning in life. Don't be afraid to open the door to helping others or allowing others to help you.

As 2022 draws to a close and you begin looking ahead to 2023, I hope that all of you will take some time for yourself and those around you. Balancing home and work can be challenging, so please spend time with those you care about and enjoy a few quiet moments all to yourself before diving into 2023.

I look forward to connecting with all of you at some of the wonderful PASA professional development opportunities that are planned in 2023. Have a wonderful winter break and happy new year!

Dr. Colleen Lelli highlights PASA Women's Caucus event in King of Prussia



By Rina Vassallo

Almost 150 female leaders from 35 districts and IUs, as well as consultants and professional developers, came together on Wednesday, November 16th for the annual Delaware Valley Women's Caucus region dinner and networking event at Maggiano's Little Italy in King of Prussia.

Dr. Colleen Lelli, Cabrini University professor and author of *Trauma-Sensitive Schools: The Importance of Instilling Grit, Determination, and Resilience*, highlighted the evening affair with her keynote address.

"I was awestruck to witness the collective range of experience, expertise, energy, and contribution of the female leaders in attendance. To see so many female leaders come together for the annual dinner was inspirational," Women's Caucus President Tina Kane said. "The beauty of the Women's Caucus is at its core, it provides a network of women in educational leadership positions to support, guide, and develop colleagues into the leaders they aim to be. Dr. Colleen Lelli was very knowledgeable presenter who provided worthwhile theory, practice, and practical resources that can be reasonably implemented to benefit students."

Dr. Lelli shared research on childhood trauma and toxic stress and its impacts as well as practical and specific pedagogical tools to address the needs of children exposed to trauma.

Some takeaways included:

- In teaching you can't do the Bloom stuff until you take care of the Maslow stuff
- No two stress events are experienced in the same way
- There are noted differences between acute and chronic stress
- There are levels of stress in childhood- positive, tolerable, toxic, trauma
- Both toxic and trauma can be harmful to body emotionally and physically
- Trauma lives in the nervous system
- Trauma affects the brain's "air traffic control system" which affects executive function, emotional regulation, and social



Above: Dr. Colleen Lelli speaks to attendees at the 2022 Women's Caucus Regional Dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy in King of Prussia.



skills

- The importance of and ways to ensure a positive school climate

Participants were welcomed by newly elected Women's Caucus President and Marple-Newtown Superintendent, Dr. Tina Kane as well as PASA Executive Director, Dr. Sherri Smith.

Each year a non-profit is featured and supported by this event. This year, the Delaware Valley representatives chose Philabundance. Their Chief Executive Director, Loree Jones, spoke eloquently about their mission including their food backpack project which supplies students in the region who are food insecure.

A special thank you to our dinner sponsors Denise Ricciotti of Right at School and Lauren Patterson of Bloomboard who provided goodies and gift cards to attendees.



The Advocate: Looking Ahead Post-Midterms

The 118th Congress will be another divided governing body with Democrats controlling the Senate and Republicans re-taking the House. As Republicans assert their power, expect lots of public statements, speeches and promises of action.



The House will likely introduce and pass many pieces of legislation to fulfill those promises and strengthen their party's base leading into the Presidential election. In particular, the House will have many hearings to conduct oversight on hot-button issues including the NSBA-Garland probe of parents at school board meetings, ESSER spending and the participation of transgender students in athletics and other Title IX-adjacent issues.

The first major order of business for Congress in December is passing the FY23 appropriations bills and extending the debt ceiling. There will likely be a good-faith effort to meet the new government funding deadline of December 16 and to try and only do a short-term "continuing resolution" for a few days or weeks.

One exciting development for the K-12 community is that the new Senate Appropriations Chair will be none other than Patty Murray of Washington, who has long led or co-lead the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee, and the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. She is also a champion for increased funding for Title I and IDEA among other K-12 spending priorities. Sharing the dais with her will be Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, a moderate Republican with a willingness to spend money on K-12 priorities she supports such as the Rural Education Achievement Program and legislation to address the teacher shortage. She is also a well-respected negotiator and dealmaker. Both women have a friendly, collaborative relationship, which should bode well for alignment on K-12 funding levels in the future.

On the House side, the House Appropriations Committee is expected to also be led by two women again: Reps. Kay Granger of Texas and Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut. DeLauro, who also chairs the House Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee, is an

In the December Issue of School Administrator Magazine:

The December edition of AASA's monthly publication features articles on Community Schooling, the connections small towns make with their schools and how districts can work with the private sector to close digital divides experienced by students and their families.



Quotes:

"In today's world, the definition of help has gone far beyond the need to educate and make sure students can understand basic skills of the academia world that will help them as they grow. Learning in a school has become social skills, communication, language, coping skills, and so much more. ... It has become about food security and making sure kids are nourished enough to be able to focus in school. The stressors of working in a school have become much more than worrying about whether or not our children pass a test."
-from "Just Keep Going" by Peter. C. Blake

"Put a group of school leaders together for even a short time and you are certain to hear concerns about conflicts they had, have or anticipate. Conflict arouses anxiety and causes sleepless nights and burnout. Unresolved conflict can derail even the most well-crafted plan for school improvement."
- from "Conflict to Collaboration: A School Leader's Guide to Unleashing Conflict's Problem-Solving Power" by Robert Feirsen

outstanding champion for additional K-12 funding and was instrumental in pushing for the \$120 billion for districts in the American Rescue Plan. At this point it's not clear whether Tom Cole of Oklahoma, the current ranking member on the subcommittee, will become the chairman or whether a new chair would step in. Regardless of who is running the committee, expect K-12 COVID relief funds to be an issue that both sides are eager to explore in hearings.

On the authorization side, the picture on the House side is a bit murkier. Rep. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, who has served as chair and ranking member of the House Education and Labor Committee over the past decade, would like to re-take the job as chair. It is unclear whether anyone will challenge her for the position and whether she would receive a waiver from Republican leadership to continue in the top slot.

Rep. Bobby Scott will be the ranking member for the committee. Foxx or whomever leads the committee will likely follow McCarthy's policy agenda, which includes advancing his "Parents' Bill of Rights," bills to restrict transgender minors' access to gender-affirming care and prohibit schools from addressing students by different pronouns without parental consent. For example, the Empower Parents to Protect Their Kids Act would apply to all schools that receive federal funding and would allow parents to sue schools that use pronouns they believe are incorrect. Foxx also promised to increase oversight on how Covid relief funds are being used to address learning loss and will fight to expand federal "school choice" programs via a \$10 billion tuition tax credit voucher bill known as the Educational Choice for Children Act.

On the Senate side, there will be new leaders on the Senate Health, Educa-



tion, Labor and Pensions Committee. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont will serve as the chairman of the committee and Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana will be the ranking member. Given that both men are intensely focused on healthcare issues, there is speculation that the other areas of jurisdiction (like K-12 education!) for the committee will receive scant attention. Very few education issues are likely to rise to the top of the heap for the committee aside from student loans although Cassidy has expressed a desire to work on issues related to improving the identification of dyslexia (his wife founded a charter school for students with dyslexia).

And of course, there's the Presidential election looming large, which always means more politicking and less policy work in Washington. There is roughly one year left for the Biden Administration to utilize Democrats in Congress to its advantage before re-election politics completely consumes the political parties. Will Republicans have any real desire to demonstrate they can work across the aisle and forge common



ground with Democrats? Will there be any attempt to address overdue reauthorizations like the child nutrition or Head Start? At this point, it's hard to see how meaningful K-12 policy conversations get any traction in the divided Congress. The best we can hope for is more robust funding.

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors:



PLUS Caucus of PASA

A Holiday Rewrite



By Dr. Christopher Dormer
PLUS Caucus Chair



Twas the week before winter break
In PA schools - we know we're the best!
Teachers, students, and administrators
all ready for some rest

But most of all, Superintendents
Who have poured blood, sweat, and tears
Into leading and inspiring
Each and every school year

Sups say - This work can be daunting
But rewarding just the same
To help mold the future
It's hard work, not a game!

We pause to say thanks
To all the people who help
And support public schools
With nary a whelp

We need to celebrate the wins
Of this past school year
Like, increased funding for all
That made everyone cheer

Are we back to old normal?
I am not really sure
Pushing forward with purpose
Sure sounds like a cure

There is still more work to be done
And we are ready to lead
Maybe Harrisburg will give us
A few less mandates to need

I have but one promise
Looking ahead to next year,
No more bad poems from me!
And you all say "HERE HERE!"

Wishing everyone happy, healthy, and restful holidays with your family, friends, and loved ones!

Christopher Dormer is the proud Superintendent of Schools of the Norristown Area School District in Montgomery County. He is the President of the Pennsylvania League of Urban Schools (PLUS) Caucus of PASA, and also serves on the PASA Board of Governors and the PASA Professional Development Committee.

Writing Out Loud

Cherish the Moments



By Adam Kulikowski
Director of Communications

There's nothing like time in nature to help you regain a sense of what is truly important in life.

Each year, my dad and I plan to spend time together after Thanksgiving to traverse the farmland my grandfather once cultivated. I cherish the moments we share during the day and the time with my mom in the evenings.

Between the chirping birds, squirrels scurrying to stock nuts away for the coming winter, and even the occasional deer, it's an opportunity to share a few moments together and reflect.

This year was a bit different, however. A bout with what I've casually called the plague threatened to cut short this time—in fact, it did initially.

After half a day outside it was pretty evident that 'the plague' was going to prevent us from spending the full time together as planned. I left my parents' home Monday morning disappointed.

On the way home, I reflected on the presentation Michael Snell provided to our New Superintendents' Academy participants.

Aside from his love of Seinfeld—a show that will likely always rank No. 1 on my sitcom list—he spoke about time-saving routines and strategies to maximize productivity.

He showcased his methods for blocking out time in his calendar for self-reflection, and family and work meetings.

He used the analogy of the childhood playground merry-go-round to describe the endless spin of tasks, meetings, events, and other life occurrences that can often make life feel like that dizzying childhood ride. And he offered strategies to help 'control the spin.'

I could relate. Day-to-day life is a delicate balance of professional tasks—both as a still-learning newbie at PASA and through the high school football website I launched more than a decade ago when life seemed so much more



simple—, family, friends, and activities I enjoy the time each day seems to sift through the hourglass at warp speed.

When things run smoothly, the balance is a harmonious delight, albeit exhausting. But throw a wrench in any one task, like... cough... an illness, and the whole house of cards teeters.

Finding time in that merry-go-round to recover and provide a re-do to the father-son time we missed proved to be a challenge.

But not one that we would not overcome.

The spin doesn't stop. It's unforgiving to missed opportunities or illness. But between deadline projects, state championship football games, and commitments to my loving wife, my dad and I found a day that worked.

Life is filled with reminders to cherish these moments while they last. Enjoy the conversation. Make memories. Share a laugh.

This holiday season as you prioritize time with those you love, I urge you to take a look at your calendars for 2023.

Block out a few more slots in your merry-to-go-like life to enjoy what is truly important—and maybe even plan for the unexpected. It's a New Year's resolution you will never regret.



By Ann McMullan
Project Director, CoSN



EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel Series

The EmpowerED Superintendents broadcast series – sponsored by ClassLink – is now in its fifth season. Each monthly broadcast is co-hosted by CoSN, AASA and edWeb.net.

December EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel Broadcast:

The most recent broadcast of the CoSN / AASA EmpowerED Superintendent edLeader Panel Series, *Planning and Sustaining Technology Innovations: Aligning Priorities, Costs, and Outcomes*, aired this past Monday, December 12 at 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

Dr. Chris Gaines, Superintendent, Mehlville School District, MO, along with Dr. Kelly May-Vollmar, Superintendent, Desert Sands Unified School District, CA, and David Din, Chief Information Officer, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, VA, shared the strategies they lead within their school districts to evaluate, rethink, and strengthen district technology decision making. You are welcome to access the free edLeader Panel Recording or Podcast version at <https://home.edweb.net/webinar/supers20221212/>

Upcoming January 9, 2023 edLeader Panel Broadcast

The next installment of the EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel Broadcast airs on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 5 p.m. Eastern Time. The focus in January is on Leveraging Technology Tools to Provide Equitable Learning Opportunities for ALL Students.

In this edLeader Panel broadcast, two leading-edge super-

intendents, Dr. Baron R. Davis, Superintendent of Richland School District Two in Columbia, South Carolina and Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent for the Washoe County School District in Reno, Nevada join in an interactive discussion with Cynthia Curry, CAST Director of Technical Assistance, to share the strategies they use to successfully lead accessibility for ALL. Training procedures for providing teachers and staff with the skills to effectively leverage technology to assist students, parents, guardians, and staff will be reviewed along with other resources to share with all educators. Free registration for the January 9, 2023, edLeader Panel Broadcast is available at <https://home.edweb.net/webinar/supers20230109/>

CoSN EmpowerED Superintendents Initiative

Created in partnership with AASA, the EmpowerED Superintendents Initiative provides superintendents and school district leaders with a multitude of free resources to help current and aspiring superintendents and district leaders build on their knowledge, skills and confidence when it comes to leading and sustaining technology innovations. The EmpowerED Superintendent Toolkit, One-Pager Documents to help superintendents communicate with a variety of stakeholders on important edtech topics, tools for learning how to successfully finance and sustain technology innovations and other relevant resources are easily accessible at <https://www.cosn.org/superintendents/>.

CoSN Membership

If you, your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN please contact membership@cosn.org.

PASA Calendar



December:

December 26-30

PASA office closed

January:

January 9-10:

New Superintendents Academy Part 3

January 16:

PASA office closed

January 17:

Understanding the Basic Education Formula (BEF), Full-day at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA: Thompson Professional Development Center.

January 18:

Managing the Risks: Red-Flags and Salvaging Your Career when Board Relationships Go South

January 18:

Understanding the Basic Education Formula (BEF), Full-day at I.U. 18

January 24, 25, 31

Developing & Maintaining a Balanced Budget

January 26:

Joint Boards Dinner

January 27:

Board of Governor's meeting

February:

February 3:

Aspiring to Leadership Workshop

February 16-18:

AASA National Conference (San Antonio)

February 20:

PASA office closed

March:

March 30-21:

PASA Leadership Forum

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