

THE PASA Flyer

Vol. 65, NO. 9- June 2023

Proud Leadership for
Pennsylvania Schools

Inside: Women's Caucus Conference

Delivers Impactful
Message to Attendees

From PASA's Executive Director:

State Budget Passes House, Heads to the
Senate with Education Increases

From the President's Pen:

Hello Across the Commonwealth



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2023 PASA Book Study:

Emotional Poverty in all Demographics: How to Reduce Anger, Anxiety, and Violence in the Classroom

By Ruby Payne

Virtual Meeting dates: June 28 | July 18 | August 10

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Are you an educational leader looking to boost your skills, expand your horizons, and connect with like-minded professionals? Look no further! We invite you to join our engaging and enriching book study group designed exclusively for leaders like you with the flexibility of meeting virtually!

Title: Emotional Poverty in all Demographics: How to Reduce Anger, Anxiety, and Violence in the Classroom by Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D.

This informative book offers innovative strategies and practical tips for transforming your schools and classrooms into a student-centered, dynamic learning environment.

Format: Virtual meetings via Zoom and Use of Canvas Infrastructure Meeting

Dates: June 28, July 18, and August 10, 2023 Meeting Schedule: 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Note: *Chapters 1-3 will be discussed on June 28.*

For more information and to register, visit [PASA's website](https://www.pasa-net.org).

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

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From the Executive Director

State Budget Passes House, Heads to the Senate with Education Increases



By Dr. Sherri Smith

Executive Director, PASA

Out of a sense of curiosity, I went back into the Flyer archives to see what past PASA Executive Directors stated in their Flyer columns for June. I wanted to see if the topics and emphasis had changed over time, realizing that it's the time of year to emphasize securing a state budget and outlining school code items.

The oldest article I could locate was one written by Jim Buckheit published in the Flyer in June 2010. It is funny how Jim's emphasis in the article was on the complexity of developing a state budget and the inner workings at the Capital to accomplish a budget each year. In his article, he relays that "the combination of relatively inexperienced legislative leadership, large numbers of relatively new legislators and lack of resources in which to make deals, mixed together, has turned this year's legislative session into the wild, Wild West." Major issues that were in discussion at that time were economic furloughs, elimination of Act 1 exceptions, qualifications to serve as a district superintendent, and tuition vouchers. Sound somewhat familiar?

We are currently in a similar situation with many changes in legislative leadership and a sizeable number of new legislators, however, it does appear that the relationship between our Governor and legislators is in a better place than in 2010. Unfortunately, some of the same issues remain on the docket for conversation – a reminder that tuition vouchers have been around for quite some time!

We are feeling the impact of new leadership and a late start to the budget this year; there is much bustle in the Capital as time is running short to get a budget passed by the June 30 timeline. The House accomplished passing House Bill 611, the bill that outlines both the state and federal appropriations for state expenses for 2023-2024. In this bill, they increased the BEF funding, Special Education funding, and added in a healthy increase in Level Up funding. Now this bill sits with the Senate for their input and revisions to these budget recommendations. In the meantime, schools should be hesitant to make any adjustments to their local budgets based on the latest numbers from HB 611.

Last Tuesday, PASA, along with PASBO and PA Principals Association, held our annual Advocacy Day at the Capital. Our attending members were able to see firsthand the



chaos in the Capital at this time of year, with many groups advocating their causes to our legislators. A huge thank you to our members who were able to attend and share our legislative priorities for this year's budget! It makes a difference!

PASA's Women's Caucus is to be congratulated for hosting a wonderful conference on May 21-23! What a great opportunity for our women leaders to come together, celebrate their work across the Commonwealth, and learn about the Brain's Impact on Student Success! Great work and leadership!

It's June! Please take the time to relax and rejuvenate yourself! You have more than earned it!

Best, Sherri

From the President's Pen

Hello Across the Commonwealth



By Dr. John Sanville

2022-23 PASA President

By the time you are reading this, I think 99% of us have completed the 2022-23 school year. By that I mean, of course, that the kids, teachers, and most of the staff have left the buildings. There are still some of us working...but with Memorial Day in the rearview and the Fourth of July coming up - the summer is here!

There are a million different things this means. Selections are based on age, location, personal preferences, family and cultural traditions, etc.

However, it seems fair to say that for most of us, these first few days and weeks of 'summer' are marked by relief, gratitude, and satisfaction. Hallways and classrooms are quiet.

Buses stay parked. Cafeterias are idled. Phones ring less.

Yes, the year is over and now is the chance to relax and enjoy the music.

While thinking about what to write I was remembering that one of my favorite things to do was to listen to music. Pre-Internet and even pre-Walkman days meant that we used 'boom boxes' and car radios and even transistor radios.

What a thrill it was to meet up with friends and blare our favorite artists- at 10:00 am on Tuesday!

We listened everywhere and anywhere – on bicycles, in backyards, by the water, and in garages. So many of my memories are connected to the tinny notes coming out of our devices (that kids today would not know what to do with!).

So when Those Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer arrive - what will you be doing? While I still love music as much as in the Summer of '69 my ability to listen to much higher quality sound is in my back pocket!

Yes, our phones are better than all of our old conductors by far. This means that if I am doing yard work All Summer Long I am enjoying music every step of the way. What does it mean for you?

Whether you like Summer in the City or summer at the beach or summer in the mountains or summer in suburbia I hope you take some time to relax, reconnect, and rejuvenate. There are plenty of tasks and meetings and challenges waiting on deck- but for right now- you can let that go.

Fill your calendars with family, friends, and fun. Call an old friend, read a new book, make that new recipe, and laugh out loud.

The more joy you have In the Summertime, the better your attitude will be...and we all know that when leaders are positive it improves the health of the whole organization.

America's pastime, played by The Boys of Summer, is inextricably connected to summer for me. A long-time, long-suffering Phillies fan, I can remember watching games on television with rabbit ears in a room barely cooled by a fan. Stretched out on the floor, my hands cupping my head, my father and I would spend many nights oohing and aahing at



Region News:

Region 6:

Brockway Area Superintendent Jeff Vizza announced that he will retire on Feb. 2, 2024. Vizza has served as superintendent at Brockway since 2018.

Region 10:

Jonathan Bucher was hired by the State College Area School Board to fill the role of assistant superintendent for secondary education. Bucher fills the role previously held by the district's new superintendent, Curtis Johnson. Bucher will leave his post as a principal at East Pennsboro High School in Cumberland County to join the team at State College.

Region 16:

The Lewisburg Area School District hired Vicent Hoover as its next assistant superintendent. Hoover previously served as the director of curriculum and instruction at Pine Grove Area School District in Schuylkill County.

Region 20:

Easton Area School District Superintendent David Piperato announced that he will retire in August. Piperato has served as the district's leader since 2019.

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.")

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plays and players and final scores.

Even with central air conditioning and a bigger and better streaming television, the Phillies provide ample opportunities for dismay... but the hope for success is still there.

Here Comes the Summer of 2023- ready for you! Ball games, fishing, lemonade, farmer's markets, bike riding, cookouts, vacations, and lots of other adventures, activities, and aspirations are waiting.

Maybe this is the summer that you learn/do something new. Maybe this is the summer that you take care of something. Maybe this is the summer you go to a place you have always

wanted to but have not yet gotten there.

Maybe this is the summer your health takes priority. Whatever you choose- and you can do multiple things – give them your full attention. Doing this ensures that you absorb all the benefits of your efforts.

We are sure to have heat, humidity, rain, thunder, sunshine, clouds, and an occasional Summer Breeze. Use your common sense and innate flexibility to adapt to the 853 weather conditions happening across Pennsylvania on any given day.

Allow your sense of humor to prevail when things go awry- as they always

do- and untangle the fishing line, follow the new directions, and eat the burned dinner.

Life is never a straight line- and Sunshine and Summertime – add a few more curves.

With that, I wish you all the very best over the next few weeks. I am looking forward to stretching out literally and physically- getting out of the office a bit and having fun with my bride Debbie.

The longer days will find me gardening, on the pitch, and even on the fairway a time or two.

Do that which brings some mirth and merriment to your life. Enjoy!

PASA Celebrates the Achievements of Dr. Brian Troop, 2023 PA Superintendent of the Year

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators was proud to honor Ephrata Area School District's Dr. Brian Troop as the 2023 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year last week at the Cork Factory in Lancaster.

More than 60 attendees gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of Dr. Troop and his team at Ephrata Area.

The National Superintendent of the Year Program instituted by AASA, The School Superintendents Association, honors outstanding public school superintendents. The goal of this prestigious awards program in each state is to further inspire exemplary educational leadership and promote a sense of confidence and pride in the nation's public schools. Criteria for the award include leadership for learning, communication skills, professionalism, and community involvement.

Rep. Keith Greiner, who serves the 43rd legislative district presented Dr. Troop with a citation honoring his recognition as 2023 PA Superintendent of the Year.

Ephrata Area Board President Chris Weber, I.U. 13 Executive Director Matt Stem, Fidevia President and Founder Dan Cicala, and PASA Executive Director Sherri Smith also provided comments, highlighting the work Dr. Troop has led.

Dr. Troop's innovative thinking, collaborative leadership, and drive to succeed have improved communication in his district, elevated student performance, and led to the launch of several community-connected initiatives including the Life Ready Graduate and Cornerstone Projects.

Ephrata Area earned recognition as an AASA Learning 2025 Lighthouse School System under Dr. Troop's guidance—one of the first 13 districts nationwide to earn this distinction and serve as a model for positive change in public education.

Dr. Troop prioritizes student involvement as evidenced by adding a pair of student engagement facilitators to the Ephrata staff to help elevate the voice of students by identifying ways the district can ensure that all students feel like they belong.

He embraces outside-of-the-box ways to engage students, creating opportunities for student input such as in the redesign of the school's library and



Above: PASA Board President John Sanville (left), Dr. Brian Troop and PASA Executive Director Dr. Sherri Smith | Below: Dr. Brian Troop (left) and Rep. Keith Greiner



engaging high school learners to repurpose an old school bus into a space for elementary students to create—a task that required high school students to apply practical knowledge to gut the bus and redesign its interior for elementary students to participate in a hands-on learning experience.

Dr. Troop utilizes his legislative prowess to successfully advocate on behalf of his school community and public schools across the Commonwealth.

He's fostered relationships with local legislative leaders including Sen. Ryan Aument and Sen. Scott Martin to lobby for education-related legislative priorities and the reform of cyber charter funding.

He's also an active member on a number of boards and committees including the PASA Board of Governors as an I.U. 13 Representative, a member of the PASA Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee, the Ephrata Area Education Foundation, and the Lancaster STEM Alliance.

Congratulations again to Dr. Troop!



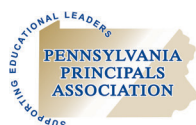
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FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Hamish Brewer

Monday, August 7th Session



Hamish Brewer is a powerful and positive disruptor who transcends the status quo and typical norms in leadership and education. He is a globally recognized advocate who built his reputation on results and performance, becoming affectionately known as **the Relentless, Tattooed Skateboarding Principal** with his galvanizing message to **"Be Relentless."** Mr. Brewer served as an award-winning principal at both the secondary and elementary school levels. Recognized as the NAESP National Distinguished Principal and Virginia Principal of the Year, he was also honored with the VAESP School Bell Award and ASCD Virginia Impact Award. He was named a Northern Virginian of the year by **Northern Virginia Magazine** and Principal of the Year for the online national publication, **Education Dive**.

Under his leadership, Mr. Brewer's elementary school was recognized as a Nationally Distinguished Title 1 School, and he has since gone on to turn around one of the toughest middle schools in the state of Virginia. He is the best-selling author of **"Relentless – Disrupting the Educational Norm,"** published in 2019.

Dr. Quintin Shepherd

Tuesday, August 8th Session



Dr. Quintin Shepherd, a true visionary for the future of education, is the Superintendent at Victoria Independent School District in Victoria, Texas. When Dr. Shepherd came to Victoria, his first priority was to listen to the voice of the community, parents, staff and students, and he then invited those stakeholders to be a part of shaping the future of the district. He focuses on the practice of compassionate leadership and expressing vulnerability, and he believes that's why

radical transparency works.

Dr. Shepherd brings inspiration, hope and valuable insights about how we can transform the way we lead school districts by modifying our approach to some of the most basic leadership practices, which he shares in his new book: **The Secret to Transformational Leadership**. Within the book, he considers how some leaders are able to connect with their communities, followers and stakeholders while others struggle. This guiding question sets the stage for a discussion on the language of leadership and the need for our language to evolve.

Jennifer Rieger, Upper Merion Area High School teacher and author of *Burning Sage* (a collection of short stories), will speak on Sunday, August 6th, at the Awards Dinner.



[View more good news from around the Commonwealth on PASA's website.](#)

Fox Chapel High School Duo Among Nation's Best In Policy Debate

The Fox Chapel Area High School team of 2022-2023 junior Adhitya Thirumala and 2022-2023 sophomore Moonyoung Hwang advanced to the octofinal elimination round in Policy Debate at the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament. The team placed 11th out of 76 policy debate teams from across the nation.

The national tournament was held May 27 & 28, 2023, in Louisville, Kentucky. Adhitya and Moonyoung qualified for the tournament at the Pittsburgh Diocese Catholic Forensic League national qualifying tournament in March.

Seneca Valley's Ryan Gloyer Middle School Begins New Service Program, "Community Grown"

In an effort to strengthen connections with each of the nine communities within the Seneca Valley School District, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) will be hosting "Community Grown," a school-wide community service project initiative that allows students to give back to the communities that have given so much for their education. Seventh and eighth grade students will be volunteering at various townships and municipalities.

Municipal leaders have been working with the RGMS administration to identify needs in their community. Once a need was determined, RGMS staff members and administrators worked with each of their 10 teams to plan a solution that would include community service.

Students serving Jackson Township during "Community Grown" began their day meeting with township officials at

the Jackson Township Municipal building. Students were then broken up into groups to work on a variety of service projects at the municipal building, Jackson Township Police Department and the Jackson Township Parks and Recreation department.

Some of the service projects included planting trees and shrubs, mulching, washing police vehicles and installing benches and bike racks.

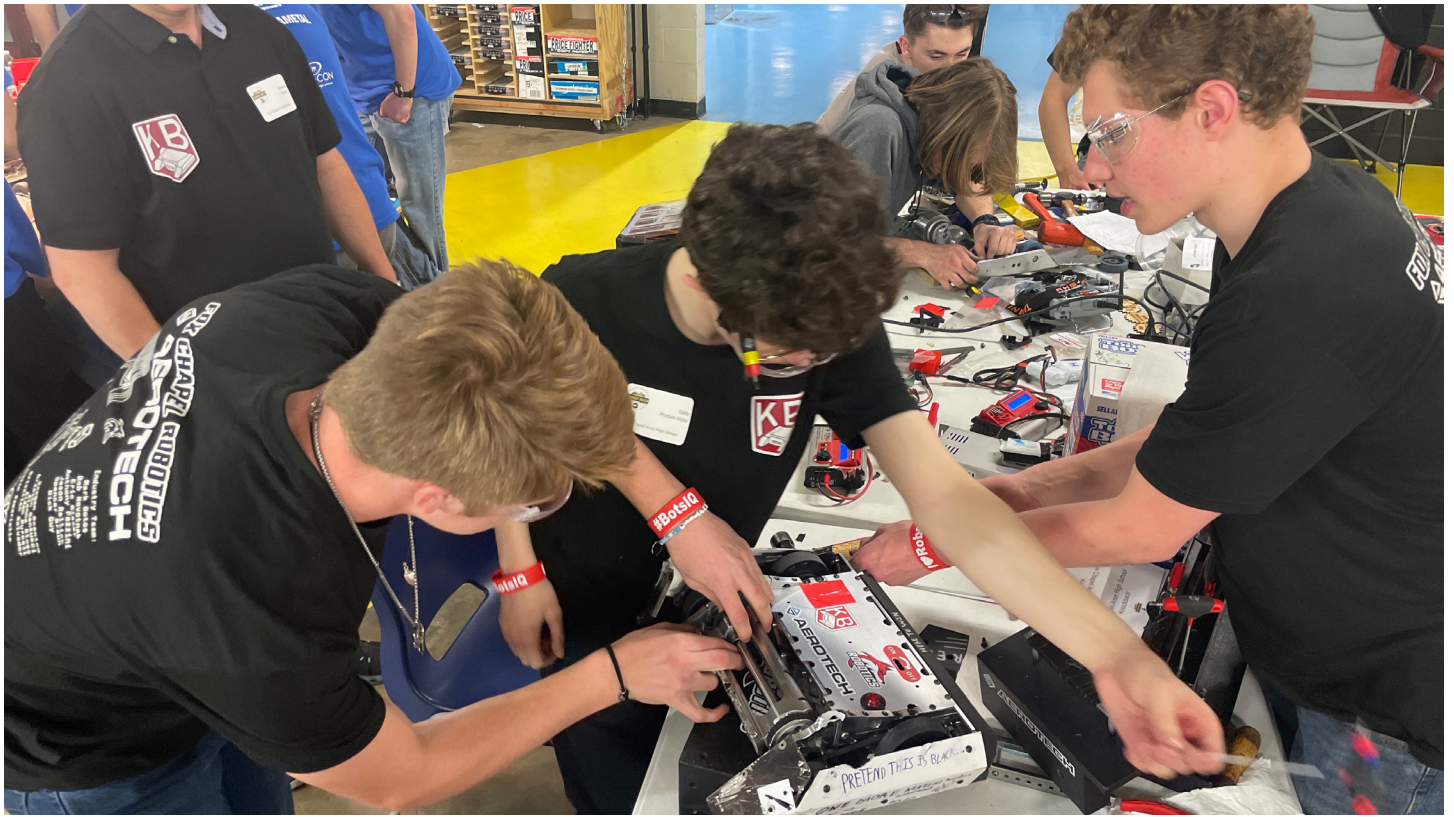
Avon Grove Students Earn Excellence and Programming Award at Drone Competition

The Avon Grove High School (AGHS) aerial drone team competed at the 2023 Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation Aerial Drones Competition Dragonfly Championship in Fairmont, West Virginia, May 19-20, receiving the Excellence and Programming awards. The awards were given at the event following two days of intensely competitive and highly successful aerial robotics and technical skills performance.

Fox Chapel Area Team Wins National Robotics Championship

A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students was named the overall grand champion in the 'Burgh Bash National Championships, hosted by the BotsIQ manufacturing workforce program. The team overcame great odds when, on the first day of the competition, their 15-pound BattleBot suffered a mechanical failure. The team ended up going through the entire consolation bracket of the double-elimination tournament with a record of 9-0 and placed second in the battle portion of the event. Averaged with the team's outstanding engineering documentation scores, the team, nevertheless, was named the overall grand champion.

Junior Eduardo Phelan-Vidal was responsible for the research, documentation, primary design, and assembly of the BattleBot's frame, armor, and weapon systems



in the three-dimensional modeling software. Senior Adam Zimmerman aided in design and commanded the mechanical construction of the complex aerospace titanium, nylon, and structural aluminum assemblies. Sophomore Jackson Hagler was in charge of the power system, battery, electrical design, and soldering, aided by freshman Benjamin Sun.

Seniors Aiden Dorneich and Kevin Quinn were responsible for the propulsion and programmable control systems. During competition, Adam drove the robot with precise control and unmatched strategy, while Aiden controlled the offensive weapon.

The other members of the Fox Chapel Area High School robotics team are senior Samuel Kuhns; juniors Ava McCaffrey, Aiden Purcell, and Lucy Rygelski; sophomore Riley Puklus, Graeson Santucci, and Keegan Scanlon; and freshmen Krisztian Salvador and Alanna Sloss. The team's sponsor is teacher Ryan Siniawski and its industry partner is Pittsburgh-based Aerotech Inc., which provided mentorship and design consultations.

A total of 38 teams participated in the 'Burgh Bash National Championships, including teams from California and Kansas. The competition was held May 19 and 20, 2023, at Rosedale Technical College in Kennedy Township.

Prior to being named the overall grand champion at the 'Burgh Bash National Championships', the team participated in the BotsIQ State Finals Competition, held at PennWest California at the end of April, where they won second place in Engineering Documentation with a near-perfect score.

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Professional Development

PASA Women's Caucus Conference Delivers Impactful Message



By Dr. Francine Endler
Executive Director, I.U. 10



Throughout the year, PASA provides a wide variety of high-quality professional learning to educators across the commonwealth. The Women's Caucus conference held in May at the Hotel Hershey was no exception.

More than 150 attendees participated in the three-day conference featuring a wide variety of topics and content area experts. Female leaders were able to engage in learning that will enhance their work with students, families, and staff.

The conference was highlighted by three inspiring keynote speakers. Dr. Christina Theokas, Director of Applied Developmental Science at the National Center on Education and the Economy, kicked off the conference with her presentation, "Insights From Science: Implications for Education."

Dr. Ruby Payne gave a keynote presentation entitled "Emotional Poverty: How to Reduce Anger, Anxiety, and Violence in Your Classroom."

Dr. Payne defined emotional poverty as when the brain is unintegrated and unregulated, when the bonding and attachment is not secure, and the inner self is underdeveloped.

This is an important topic as increasingly schools are dealing with more students who are angry, anxious, and tending to violence (particularly at PK and K). This is

To view upcoming professional learning opportunities, visit [PASA's website](#) or check out our calendar of events on Page 22.

taking significant time away from learning.

Dr. Kristina Lenker delivered final keynote, "Sleep and Mental Health: What Can Be Done In The Educational Setting" highlighting insights on sleep and mental health and what interventions and supports can be implemented in the educational setting.

Her research and connection to the classroom setting provided attendees with current information to take back to their districts.

The breakout sessions included topics such as the Learning 2025 initiative; Rethinking MTSS Frameworks; Artificial Intelligence; Strengths-Based Approaches to Learning; Relationship and Skill Building; Sleep and its Impact on Learning and Assessment Trends.

Participants also heard updates from PDE as well as both Legal Updates and Legislative Updates. In addition to the formal learning opportunities, attendees had the chance to share experiences and learn from one another.

The Women's Caucus committee is already working on plans for next year's conference and another great opportunity for learning.

Celebrating the Achievements of Our 2023 Women's Caucus Award Winners



Each year, PASA's Women's Caucus honors a pair of distinguished individuals for their achievements in education at the annual conference. This year, Awards Chair and previous Women's Caucus President, Lynn Fuini-Hetten, presented the awards to this year's female leaders.

Wanda McDaniel Award: Dr. Nicole Dice

Wanda McDaniel Award, is given to an aspiring school administrator who shows evidence of great leadership potential. The 2023 award was presented to Dr. Nicole Dice, Superintendent at Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District. In 2020, Nicole became the youngest female superintendent in Pennsylvania—a monumental achievement.

Despite age and gender stereotypes and criticism from parents who tried to challenge her knowledge base, she thrived in the role, earning recognition as the 32nd Senatorial District 2021 Person of the Year for her leadership through the pandemic.

Her district was one of the few to demonstrate educational growth through the pandemic. Nicole has worked tirelessly to develop a district leadership team comprised of administration members, parents, teachers, and support staff to increase the district's responsiveness to differences in student ability and interests to help each maximize their potential while fostering professional growth among staff.

She's an effective listener to concerns others have and an innovative problem solver. Through feedback from her school community, she has put a plan into place to launch a new student information system designed to better communicate student progress and other vital information in an efficient manner.

And she's a tireless worker. When the special education director position was vacated, Nicole stepped in, using her background in special education to train staff, oversee programming and complete the cyclical monitoring all on top of her duties as superintendent.

When the district faced a half-million dollar deficit in 2020 during the pandemic, Nicole's innovative thinking helped the district revise the bussing system and create efficiencies to balance the budget. She re-installed the district's music



program after it was cut before she became superintendent and initiated a performing arts program.

She's also continually working to uplift and encourage leadership in women through her district leadership team which focuses on professional learning and personal growth to help individuals become ready for leadership roles within the district. Oh, and Dr. Dice just earned her doctoral degree from Pennsylvania Western University—California!

Margaret Smith Leadership Award: Dr. Misty Slavic

The Margaret Smith Leadership Award is presented annually to a female administrator who has demonstrated proven leadership in education. The award is named in honor of Dr. Margaret Smith, the first president of the Women's Caucus, a former Pennsylvania superintendent and a former PA Secretary of Education.

Our 2023 award was presented to Dr. Misty Slavic. During her tenure as superintendent at Kiski Area, Misty made a tremendous impact on the school community. Among her many accomplishments, she has helped to lead the development of a synchronous virtual educational entity called Alle-Kiski Academy of Excellence.

Initially created through a multi-district partnership, the



academy allows families and students who want an online educational environment to continue their connection to the district with access to field trips, sporting events, clubs, teams and the flexibility to seamlessly shift back to the classroom if they wished.

She's also established a curriculum revision cycle and implementation process, helped to restructure special education programming in her district to provide least-restrictive learning environments, established a public relations division to share news with the Kiski school community and paved the way for the addition of a certified therapy dog, Roo, to support the mental health of her staff and students.

In addition to her work as superintendent, Misty is an active member in the Kiski Area Education Foundation and a mentor at the Community College of Allegheny Campus for student internships.

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors:





PASA, PASBO, and PA Principals Association Host Advocacy Day at the Capitol

The PA Principals Association, PA Association of School Business Officials, and PASA collaborated to host a successful joint Advocacy Day on June 6 at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg.

More than 40 school leaders from across the state attended the day which featured more than 50 legislative visits with Senate and House Education Committee members and other legislative representatives.

The group targeted their advocacy for funding and policy improvements to address the educator workforce shortage, charter school tuition costs, school facilities funding, and increased special education funding.

The group also visited the Department of Education (PDE) to meet with key senior staff members including Acting Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid Mumin for an update on PDE activities and a question-and-answer session.

Several members of the group were able to meet with a key member of Governor Josh Shapiro's team, Mike Vereb, Secretary of Legislative Affairs to discuss current school safety concerns in our schools.

PASA thanks all those who committed their time and expertise to make this a beneficial day at the Capitol in support of students and public school education.

The success of this day adds to our goal to increase our presence and advocacy efforts with our legislators across the Commonwealth.



Above: Acting Secretary of Education, Dr. Khalid Mumin speaks to attendees June 6 at the Department of Education in Harrisburg.

State News:

PA Educators And Students Rally In Harrisburg As Teacher Shortage Reaches Record Numbers

Pennsylvania educators and students pleaded for help and demanded solutions at a rally held at the state capitol on Tuesday addressing the ongoing teacher shortage crisis. “We are in the midst of the worst teacher shortage crisis the Commonwealth has ever seen,” said Teach Plus Pennsylvania Executive Director Laura Boyce. “All signs point toward it only getting worse.” The rally organized by the #PANEedsTeachers Campaign highlighted challenges and issues facing today’s teachers, causing a growing attrition rate.

Read the rest of the story: “[PA Educators And Students Rally In Harrisburg As Teacher Shortage Reaches Record Numbers](#)” (from Fox43, 6/6/23)

Disputes Over Education Spending, Cash Reserves Emerge As PA Budget Deadline Approaches

With three weeks until the June 30 deadline to pass a new spending plan, Pennsylvania lawmakers appear split over how much of the state’s multi-billion surplus to invest in public services — a fundamental divide that must be resolved to move forward on the budget. The Democratic-controlled state House this week passed an expanded version of Gov. Josh Shapiro’s budget plan that adds hundreds of millions of dollars to the state’s education system. It faced immediate opposition from Republicans who control the state Senate.

Read the rest of the story: “[Disputes Over Education Spending, Cash Reserves Emerge As PA Budget Deadline Approaches](#)” (from, Spotlight PA, 6/9/23)

Governor Shapiro Highlights Universal Free Breakfast Proposal For Pennsylvania Students In Visit To Montgomery County Elementary School

Governor Josh Shapiro and Acting Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid N. Mumin highlighted the importance of providing free and nutritious breakfast to Pennsylvania students in a visit to Colonial Elementary School in Montgomery County. Governor Shapiro’s first budget proposes \$38.5 million to provide universal free breakfast to all Pennsylvania students – regardless of income – through the Free School Breakfast Program and to cover the cost of lunch for 22,000 school students whose families earn less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Since its implementation, the program has served more than 23 million breakfasts to students across the Commonwealth.

Read the rest of the story: “[Governor Shapiro Highlights](#)



[Universal Free Breakfast Proposal For Pennsylvania Students In Visit To Montgomery County Elementary School](#)” (from Gov. Josh Shapiro, 6/1/23)

PA Lawmakers Propose \$10K Student-Teacher Stipend, Rewards For Mentors

After announcing plans to draft a proposed student-teacher stipend program in Pennsylvania, a bipartisan pair of Senate lawmakers have officially attached a number to incentivize students into entering the profession by alleviating some financial burden for aspiring educators. Sens. Ryan Aument, R-Lancaster, and Vincent Hughes, D-Philadelphia, officially unveiled language for their bill that proposes rewarding aspiring teachers at a Pennsylvania college or university and completing the student-teaching graduation requirement, amounting to \$10,000 for those enrolled in a teacher preparation program and an additional \$5,000 for those completing the student-teacher experience requirement at a school that doesn’t traditionally have student-teachers or where staffing shortages are high.

Read the rest of the story: “[PA Lawmakers Propose \\$10K Student-Teacher Stipend, Rewards For Mentors](#)” (from, Pennsylvania Capital-Star, 5/23/23)

National News:



Biden Administration Asks Districts To Investigate Their Discipline Disparities

The Biden administration has opened a new chapter in the years-long debate over racial disparities in school discipline, recently urging schools to ensure their policies are applied fairly and consistently to students in all racial and ethnic groups. In a May 26 joint letter to education leaders, the U.S. departments of Justice and Education said schools that unfairly discipline students could be found in violation of Title VI the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits racial discrimination in federally funded programs.

Read the rest of the story: “[Biden Administration Asks Districts To Investigate Their Discipline Disparities](#)” (from EducationWeek, 6/9/23)

Federal Rule on Trans Athletes Is Delayed. Here’s What That Means For Schools

The U.S. Department of Education will not finalize long-awaited changes to Title IX until October, leaving the rights of transgender athletes in limbo and potentially forcing school administrators to change athletic policies in the middle of next school year. In a blog post published May 26, the Education Department announced it will not release the final version of two major changes to Title IX, the federal law that protects against sex discrimination at schools and colleges that receive federal funding, until October.

Read the rest of the story: “[Federal Rule on Trans Athletes Is Delayed. Here’s What That Means For Schools](#)” (from EducationWeek, 6/2/23)

How Much Money Do Public Schools Get? The Latest Numbers

Overall funding for K-12 schools in the U.S. grew by \$38 billion during the 2020-2021 school year—the first one that entirely coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. That growth can be attributed in large part to the infusion of pandemic relief aid the federal government approved for districts in three rounds between March 2020 and March 2021. That investment totaled just shy of \$200 billion.

Read the rest of the story: “[How Much Money Do Public Schools Get? The Latest Numbers](#)” (from EducationWeek, 6/8/23)

Ed Dept. To Appoint Coordinator To Take On Book Bans Nationwide

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights is appointing a new coordinator to take on book bans in classrooms and libraries across the country, the White House announced Thursday. “Book banning erodes our democracy, removes vital resources for student learning, and can contribute to the stigma and isolation that LGBTQI+ people and other communities face,” the White House said in a fact sheet released to mark Pride Month.

The coordinator is to develop new training for schools nationwide regarding how book bans targeting specific communities and driving “hostile school environments” may violate federal civil rights laws.

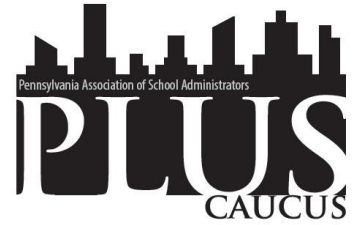
Read the rest of the story: “[Ed Dept. To Appoint Coordinator To Take On Book Bans Nationwide](#)” (from K-12Dive, 6/8/23)

PLUS Caucus of PASA

Summer Time is Our Time



By Dr. Christopher Dormer
PLUS Caucus Chair



As you read this, you have probably already concluded the 2022-23 school year, or are just about to wrap up. Let me start by thanking and congratulating every PASA member for your leadership and all of your contributions to the successes and growth of your respective school district. The work hasn't gotten any easier, as we continue to navigate negative public perception, an exploding mental health crisis, and attacks on many fronts, but it is no less rewarding. As I shared in my graduation speech, be sure to take a moment to just breathe, reflect on the moment, and reaffirm that you are worthy.



My friends and family outside of education always ask me, "What exactly do you do over the summer? Students and teachers are gone. It must be so quiet and relaxing." That always brings a mischievous smile to my face. While there is truth to students and teachers not being in our schools and buildings for most of the summer, and some truth to it being more quiet, I am always excited to share what I do get to do over the summer. As I remind our leadership team in the weeks leading up to the close of each school year, summertime is our time.

I need to frame the context of "our time" as I try to explain it to friends and family. As someone who fully embraces servant leadership, I share with people that on any given work day during the school year, I maybe have one hour a day that is "my time". That is the hour that I intentionally arrive in my office each morning before anyone else in the Administration Building arrives, and the time before almost all district staff have started their work day. "My time" lets me set my day, prep any communication that needs to get out before the day gets going, and clear anything left from the day before. Once the first person arrives, "my time" becomes "their time" where my focus shifts to how I can best support and meet the needs of my admin team, teachers, students, parents, and members of the community. Sure, this occurs through meetings and tasks that are at my direction and my discretion, but almost all of the time is to help and support others. We do this to ensure that our schools run efficiently, that staff have what they need to do their jobs to the best of their abilities, and that students have every opportunity for growth, learning, achievement, and mastery. In the summertime, we don't have these daily demands. "Their time" is less and less demanding, so we get to focus on "our time."

So what exactly is "our time" and why do I get so excited about it? Summer is when our leadership team, including me as the lead learner, focuses on our own personal and professional growth and development. We take time for ourselves to learn, grow, reconnect, re-energize, and support each other. We intentionally use our time to collaborate and plan how to meaningfully put things into action during the upcoming year. Our time is vital as it allows us to take "summer vacation" to plan for future successes in our district.

Be sure to make the most of your time this summer to be the best leader you can be.

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

A Shining Example of Good Leadership in Public Education



By Adam Kulikowski
Director of Communications



I cherish moments like last Thursday night.

Some of the brightest minds in the Commonwealth came together Thursday to celebrate the achievements of Ephrata Area's Dr. Brian Troop, the 2023 PA Superintendent of the Year, at a reception at the Cork Factory Hotel in Lancaster.

Beyond the long list of Dr. Troop's personal and district accomplishments—of which we captured a few on Page 7—I wanted to highlight a few moments that stood out as the guy behind the camera capturing the event.

On an evening in which it would have been easy to focus on oneself, Dr. Troop was the first to greet his wife Maureen and son Aidan outside the reception area. Always an educator, Dr. Troop paused to help teach his son how to knot his tie before they entered the reception area together. Family moments like these are special.

Strong leadership consists of more than just the results on paper. It is also important how you achieve them. Some leaders can garner great results, but do so at the expense of those who help them achieve success.

Others, like Dr. Troop, provide the support and learning opportunities to foster professional growth, value the knowledge and expertise of their colleagues and work to clear the proverbial path so they can succeed. The collective enthusiasm of the room—the stories shared, laughter and genuine appreciation for Dr. Troop's leadership abilities was

resounding.

While my understanding of the nuances of the education field is still growing now just over one year into my tenure at PASA, what I do know is that the partnerships and collaboration developed at Ephrata Area between its board, legislative leaders, community, and district staff have made the culture in the district a model for others in the Commonwealth.

It's what every district strives to achieve.

Congratulations again to Dr. Troop—and the entire Ephrata Area school community. You've found the ideal dynamic—one that embraces the tremendous challenges of successfully educating children in a complex and ever-changing environment. One which takes calculated risks to try new and innovative approaches. One that is not afraid to fail at new tasks, because they know that adds to the learning that can lead to greater future successes.

You are a model of success, not just for other districts to emulate, but for the students and staff who grace the halls of Ephrata Area each day—who see first-hand models of good leadership, collaboration, and innovation.

Dr. Troop, you have achieved greatly and have shown others how to achieve greatly.

Perhaps it's a lesson for us all to consider as we take a few moments this summer to decompress, recharge, and prepare for the next school year.



New Rules For Medicaid In Schools



By Sasha Pudelski

Director, Advocacy, AASA, The School
Superintendents Association



In May, the Biden Administration took action to help schools deliver critical health care services to millions of students through two separate, but related agency actions focused on improving a district's ability to bill Medicaid.

Specifically, the U.S. Dept. of Education is proposing a new rule that would streamline Medicaid billing permissions for students with disabilities. ED predicts of the 500,000 new students who are found eligible under IDEA each year, nearly 300,000 are likely to be eligible for Medicaid and impacted by this rule. This proposed rule change is one that AASA has asked ED to make for more than 15 years and was the subject of a January report we issued outlining the current flaws with the separate Medicaid consent process under IDEA.

Under the proposed rule, districts would merely have to notify parents that they are billing Medicaid for Medicaid-reimbursable services in an IEP rather than receive explicit permission. However, this will not provide as much relief as expected because there is a separate requirement, untouched by this regulation, that requires that parental consent be obtained if any personally identifiable information is shared with the state Medicaid agency or a contractor for the state Medicaid agency.

This means that while the IDEA requirement to obtain consent will be ending, without Congressional action there will still be a separate FERPA requirement on the books



that requires parental permission to bill Medicaid for any Medicaid service delivered to any Medicaid-eligible child from any Medicaid provider. AASA is now turning our attention to ensuring legislation is introduced that would amend FERPA so personal identifiable information shared for the purpose of school-based Medicaid billing is not subject to obtaining parental consent.

Separately, and even more significantly, the Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMS) released a long-awaited new guide on delivering Medicaid reimbursable school-based healthcare services. Throughout the guide,

CMS makes it clear that they both encourage states to expand services to all Medicaid enrolled students and they encourage schools to deliver as many different services as possible. CMS has provided as much flexibility as possible in developing school-based services programs that are responsive to the needs of individual states while also expanding access and services in the program. In addition, they encourage State Medicaid agencies to allow school-based providers that are certified by the State Department of Education (such as school counselors, school psychologists, etc.) to ensure they can bill for Medicaid.

Most importantly, the new guide offers flexible and streamlined options to record who is receiving Medicaid services and how frequently. It encourages states and districts to adopt a new methodology (promoted by AASA in our 2019 report) that would allow for very basic information to be captured by a Medicaid provider in a school and extrapolated over the course of a year to determine the reimbursement.

For example, the new guide allows a provider to simply record (when asked randomly by the state) the number of Medicaid eligible services delivered to the number of Medicaid eligible kids over a particular set of days and then to use that as the basis for the reimbursement over the course of the year. This process means that districts can report much less information to Medicaid and less individual student data would shift hands between the LEA and the State Medicaid agency.

The combination of making it easier to bill Medicaid, expanding the number of providers that can bill Medicaid and expanding the number of kids who are eligible for Medicaid services will have a transformative impact on the school-based Medicaid program. The next step is for every state to align their program with the flexibilities and expansions promoted in the guide, so LEAs can change and expand their program.

We are particularly optimistic that small and rural districts, which have traditionally not participated in the Medicaid program due to the administrative burden will be much more likely to do so with these changes. There are too many districts leaving Medicaid money on the table that they can utilize to increase and sustain critical healthcare services, particularly behavioral health services, for students.

We know the changes to the program won't happen overnight given that it requires states to amend their state Medicaid plans. We feel confident that in a few years we will see a renewed excitement and interest in the school-based Medicaid program and the reimbursement it provides in every corner of the country.

If you have any questions, please contact Sasha Pudelski, AASA director of advocacy, at spudelski@aasa.org.



In the June Issue of School Administrator Magazine:

This month's issue focuses on professional growth. Articles include: Nimble, Resilient, Resonant Leaders for Equity; Elusive Mentoring In The Superintendency; The Other Side Of Professional Growth and more.



Quotes:

"The work that many schools have undertaken over the last few decades to support the 'whole child' is now being questioned when it's called SEL, but the individual components of SEL work are hard to question if you pull them apart and detach the acronym."

–Patrick Larkin, Assistant Superintendent, Burlington Public Schools in "My Learning Journey"

"Empathetic leaders create safe and productive environments built on a shared vision for success and a strong sense of belonging. As Sebastian Junger wrote in his book, *Tribe*, people have a strong instinct to belong. How do leaders build a strong sense of belonging among their students and staff or in their organization? They begin by deciphering competing voices and giving all voices the space to be heard without filtering those voices through a personal lens."

–Allan Mucerino, Superintendent, Alvord Unified School District in "The Moral Imperative of Empathy Leadership"

"Administrators play a vital role in working with their board members to determine the most effective ways a board member may use social media as a representative of the school district."

–Bob Butler, Associate Executive Director and Staff Counsel, Wisconsin Association of School Boards in "Social Media Guidance For Your Board"



By Ann McMullan
Project Director, CoSN



EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel Series

The EmpowerED Superintendents edLeader Panel monthly broadcast series, co-hosted by CoSN, AASA and edWeb.net and sponsored by ClassLink, just wrapped up its fifth season with the May 11 broadcast on Succeeding with Digital Equity: CoSN's 2023 Award Winning District's Leadership Strategies. CoSN annually awards a school district with the association's Community Leadership Award for Digital Equity to honor and recognize those districts that are working to eliminate inequities and narrow the gap when it comes to digital access.

Corpus Christi ISD in Texas was the recipient of CoSN's 2023 Community Leadership Award for Digital Equity.

The May 11 edLeader Panel broadcast featured the Superintendent of Corpus Christi ISD, AASA member, Dr. Roland Hernandez, who was joined by the district's Director of Instructional Technology, Ms. Cary Perales, and the district's Director of Technology Services, Ms. Marilyn Doughty. Dr. Jill Brown, CoSN's Director of Professional Learning, also joined the broadcast panel.

If you were not able to attend the live broadcast you are welcome to view the recording or access the podcast version by visiting The EmpowerED Superintendent edLeader Panel web page at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/> where you can also access recordings of multiple other broadcasts in this series that were featured over the past 18 months.

A few of the titles featured in recent broadcasts include:

- Leading and Implementing Educational Technology

Innovations: Hurdles, Accelerators, and Tech Enablers

- Addressing Technology's Diversity and Equity Through District Policies, Practices, and Personnel
- Leveraging Technology Tools to Provide Equitable Learning Opportunities for ALL Students
- Planning and Sustaining Technology Innovations: Aligning Priorities, Costs, and Outcomes
- Leadership Challenges and Solutions Regarding Data Privacy in Technology-Enriched Learning Environments

Continuing Education Credits

Participants in edWeb.net's edWebinars and edLeader Panels broadcasts may earn continuing education (CE) credits after viewing the live or recorded broadcasts.

The edWeb CE credits also meet the qualifications for several professional associations for license, membership, and certification renewal, including CoSN's CETL re-certification program.

To learn more about earning edWeb.net's CE credits please visit <https://home.edweb.net/edweb-tips/>

CoSN Membership

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

From our Partner:

Launching Leadership

Kickoff – July 26-27, 2023

State College, PA

25 - \$500 Scholarships Available!



Welcome to School Leadership in Pennsylvania!

The purpose of **Launching Leadership** is to provide ongoing and consistent support for the highly influential position of a principal early in his/her career. Participants will engage in meaningful work and just in time learning as they navigate their school year. **40 Act 45 PIL Hours Available!**

Designed for School Leaders (Principals) in their 1st or 2nd Year of Service

Learning Objectives:

- Examine the **School Leader Paradigm** to understand:
 - the **personal, social and systems intelligences** needed to effectively lead a learning organization.
 - the **cultural, systems and learning domains** needed to effectively lead a learning organization.
- Establish a professional learning **network** with principals from across the state for growth and support.
- **Define your context** from the following perspectives: individual, school, community and political.
- Learn strategies for **building authentic relationships** with all stakeholders.
- Understand how to assess local context and culture/climate and work on techniques to **build a positive culture of learning** in your school.
- Explore and **practice organizational strategies, routines and systems** useful in establishing time and task management frameworks.
- Identify their school's **most critical problems of practice** within the **School Leader Paradigm**.
- **Identify and connect** with their *PA Principals Association Regional Service Specialist* and accountability partners.

Year-At-A-Glance:

- Kickoff session - July 26-27, 2023
 - Wyndham Garden State College (310 Elks Club Road, Boalsburg, PA 16827)
- Monthly sessions via Zoom - TBD
- Mid-year session via Zoom - January 11, 2024
- Closing session - March 19-20, 2024
 - Wyndham Garden State College (310 Elks Club Road, Boalsburg, PA 16827)

Registration Cost:

- \$900.00 for PA Principals Association Members. (**\$400 with \$500 Scholarship from PA Educational Leadership Foundation.**)
- \$1,200.00 for Non-Members. (**\$700 with \$500 Scholarship from PA Educational Leadership Foundation.**)
- \$1,500.00 for both *Launching Leadership* and membership. (**\$1,000 with \$500 Scholarship from PA Educational Leadership Foundation.**)

**To Register,
Scan the QR Code:**



**For more information, please contact Dr. Michael Snell
at msnell@paprincipals.org or (717) 732-4999.**

PASA Calendar



June:

June 28: PASA Book Study: Emotional Poverty (11 a.m.–1 p.m.) (Session 1)

July:

July 4: PASA office closed in observance of Independence Day

July 18: PASA Book Study: Emotional Poverty (11 a.m.–1 p.m.) (Session 2)

August:

August 6–8: Pennsylvania Summit for Education Leaders

August 10: PASA Book Study: Emotional Poverty (11 a.m.–1 p.m.) (Session 3)

August 17: Symposium on Mental Health

September:

September 4: PASA office closed in observance of Labor Day

September 7–8: Board of Governors' meetings

September 13: First session of PASA's 2024 Cohort of the AASA Superintendent Certification Program

September 21–22: New Superintendents' Academy Series (Part 1)

October:

October 16–18: PASA/PSBA Fall Conference (Poconos)

October 20: Assistant Superintendents/Supervisors Summit

Thank you to our Diamond Sponsors:

