

NSSBA Notes: September 23, 2021

Executive Director. Lorraine Deller reported

- Executive Director, Lorraine Deller reported a full meeting calendar right up until May 20th, and attended in-person NYSSBA conferences over the summer.
- Lorraine and NSSBA legislation committee members participated in a series of virtual regional meetings with 3 congressional representatives over the summer -- Congressman Garbarino, Suozzi, and Meeks.
 - Key issues discussed included full funding of IDEA; funding of schools in infrastructure plan; digital divide, teacher pipeline, state and local tax deduction (SALT_D). SALT-D is a NSSBA priority issue – at this time the House Ways and Means tax proposal does not include repeal of the cap on SALT-D.
 - Anticipated surge of unaccompanied minors; NSSBA seeks “same year” funding and advance notice for districts.
- N-SSBA Resolutions Dinner will be a virtual meeting Sept. 29th
 - Legislation Committee Chair, Matthew Claren led a discussion of the 17 proposed recommended resolutions; and, 8 resolutions not recommended for adoption. Each was reviewed and voted on by the executive committee with general support of the state committee’s recommendations, and two possible amendments.
- The NYSSBA Convention will a virtual member event, held on October 25th (originally was scheduled over multiple days at Hilton Midtown NYC, however due to resurgence of pandemic numbers could not commit to a definite open date). Sessions will include:
 - **A Message of Cohesion and Hope** – Juju Chang, Co-anchor of ABC News’ “Nightline”
 - **Toward Wellness: Emerging from a Pandemic** – Scott LoMurray, Executive Director, Sources of Strength
 - **Academic Learning Loss** – Susanna Loeb, Director of the Annenberg Institute and Professor of Education, Brown University
 - **A Conversation with the State Education Department**
 - **Government in the Sunshine** – Kristin O’Neill, Assistant Director, NYS Committee on Open Government
- As of September 7th, Deputy Executive Director, Bob Vecchio
 - is now at the NSSBA office, attending meetings/events with Lorraine
 - participated in virtual regent’s meeting with the focus on separating DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) from CRT (Critical Race Theory)
 - plans to resurrect NSSBA newsletter ONLINE – he will be soliciting articles and is hoping to generate sponsorships; and a new service for NSSBA via the 103.9 radio station program, Spotlight on LI Schools, with interviews of students and staff; will offer an opportunity for districts to promote what is unique about the

district and obtain electronic copies of the interviews to post to their web site or share thru electronic newsletters, etc.)

- Cybersecurity webinar/workshop is a project in the works
- Superintendents
 - Dr. Maria Rianna (Glen Cove)
 - Reported a generally smooth opening, however the GC high school was unable to open on time due to \$3.5m in storm damage. Several other Nassau districts suffered damages as well.
 - Encouraged administrators to submit survey information re: use of foundation aide and stimulus funds; eb helpful with supporting underfunded districts; and facilitate 3 senate hearings scheduled to begin on Sept. 30th.
 - Dr. Yeindy Farrelly (West Babylon)
 - Reported great start for students and staff
 - Expressed general concerns over public civility at school board meetings
 - Suffolk admins are working on grants for learning loss and mental health programs
 - Working to establish school district vaccination sites for employees – currently there are 2, will increase to 5, possibly more; might include optional student testing and offer testing to families in underserved areas
 - Suffolk Sups Council met for first time on Sept. 22nd – received legal updates and discussed how to address common issues.
- Area Directors; Catherine Romano
 - NSBA and AASA released a joint statement on safe school openings and tense public meetings over criticism of decisions and practices as related to Covid19. www.nsba.org/News/2021/end-threats-violence-joint-statement
Reminder for meeting management: a school board meeting is “held in public”, it is not a public meeting.
 - Member survey concludes that the average turnover for board member is 6 yrs.
 - An online virtual webinar is available for new school board members (to be completed by June 30th); 58 “custom” board retreats held over the summer
 - NYSSBA is sensitive to conversations around DEI; check out Tilles statement in Newsday
- New members to the board were welcomed/introduced; round table discussion on school openings; very mixed from great to challenging
- Next meeting: 7:00pm October 21, 2021