

NEWSLETTER

Betsy Webb, *President, (Bangor)*

Patrick Manuel, *President-Elect, (RSU 1)*

Scott Porter, *Vice President, (AOS 96)*

Richard Colpitts, *Secretary/Treasurer, (MSAD 17)*

Steven W. Bailey, *Acting Executive Director*



49 Community Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330

Tel: 622-3473; Toll Free: 1-800-660-8484

Fax: 626-2968

Email: mssa@msmaweb.com

Website: www.msmaweb.com

“Better Schools for Maine Students”

Volume 50, Number 2, October 2017

President’s Message



For my opening of school message this year, I adapted a passage from *Gone for Good* by Harlan Coben to highlight why our work in public schools is so important and why we must focus on students at all times. In *Gone for Good* the character is describing his work in a shelter for homeless teens and yet, his

words are spot on when working with all children. Here is a MSSA version:

The Maine School Superintendents and I were silent now, because when we are in the schoolhouses, all our focus, all our concentration is aimed at the students. They deserve nothing less. For when school is in session, they are what matters most. Always. We greet each student like – pardon the way I phrase this – a loving parent should. We listen. We never hurry. We shake hands and hug. We look them in the eye. We never look over their shoulder. We stop and face them full. If you try to fake it, students will pick it up in a second. They have excellent “fake-o-meters”. We love them hard in here, totally and without conditions. Every day we do that. It doesn’t mean we are always successful. There are factors that sometimes take them back down into the streets. But while here, in our schools, they will be supported. While here, they will be loved.

MSSA passed three resolutions at the Fall Meeting: Support of public education, Redefining Ready, and a position for the rewrite of Chapter 134 regarding proficiency-based diplomas. These efforts are focused on all Maine students and as we work to provide them with a high quality education with multiple pathways so they will be college, career, and life ready.

Please inform your school boards of these resolutions, as well as the Redefining Ready Framework, in order to spread the word and gain support. If anyone needs assistance presenting the Redefining Ready framework, I would be happy to assist and/or answer any questions.

Additionally, AASA is requesting all school units adopt the resolution in support of public education as part of the #LovePublicEducation campaign. It would be powerful to have all Maine school units on board with this effort. If your school unit does adopt this resolution, please let MSSA know so we may keep track and report our numbers to our national

(continued on page 2)

King named MSMA Deputy Director



AOS 98 Superintendent Eileen King of Boothbay has been named Deputy Executive Director of the Maine School Management Association bringing her passion for students, public education and strong school leaders to a statewide audience.

King, who in her new role also will serve as executive director of the Maine School

Superintendents Association, will move into her new position on Jan. 2, 2018.

“Eileen King brings tremendous energy, advocacy skills and knowledge to the organization,” said MSMA Executive Director Steve Bailey. “She has always been there for incoming administrators on the Mid-Coast and now can share her knowledge with superintendents and school boards across the state.”

A former president of MSSA, prior chair of its Professional Development Committee, and current member of the Executive Committee, King has helped mentor new superintendents; testified at the Legislature on behalf of public schools; and, unabashedly admits she is an educator “who truly loves being a Superintendent of Schools.”

As the superintendent of AOS 98, she not only worked with more than 82 school board members, but was actively engaged with town officials in her communities to make sure there was strong support for public education in the district.

King also is a proponent of civic and community involvement by school leaders, having served on the boards of the regional Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Lincoln County Healthcare, and Boothbay Region Education Foundation.

She started her career in public education as a Spanish teacher and is an advocate of teaching foreign language in public schools. She served as principal in Skowhegan and at Boothbay Region Elementary School before being named superintendent in AOS 98.

King was honored as the National Distinguished Principal in 2000 and Superintendent of Year in 2009.

“Maine Superintendents and public education are facing significant challenges as political, financial and legislative influences affect how we serve children. I look forward to working with my fellow superintendents and school board

(continued on page 3)

Fall Meeting deals with diploma bills, gets federal update

Superintendents attending the MSSA Annual Fall Meeting on Oct. 25 worked together to help shape a new rule that will guide the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas after the Department of Education withdrew its first proposal and decided to start the rulemaking process over.

The round-table discussions followed a panel presentation on what was working and what needed to be changed regarding the proficiency-based diploma law. Ideas from each table were reported out to the entire group and table notes will be compared and compiled to help determine next steps.



Superintendents Kelly MacFadyen, Brent Colbry & Kevin Jordan

Superintendents also heard from AASA Executive Director Dan Domenech who alerted members of initiatives going on in Washington that could affect school operations here.

Two chief concerns included the reauthorization of the federal CHIP or Children's Health Insurance Program. CHIP expired on Sept. 30 and if Congress does not act quickly to extend it then school districts could lose funding for health service for low-income children.

Domenech also warned the Federal Communications Commission could make changes to the E-Rate program that provides billions of dollars nationally to schools and libraries for broadband connections and internal Wi-Fi. The funding comes from surcharges on telecommunication carriers.

Domenech praised MSSA for adopting a resolution in support of Redefining Ready -- a national initiative launched by AASA to introduce new, research-based standards to assess whether students are ready for college, career and life.

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook!

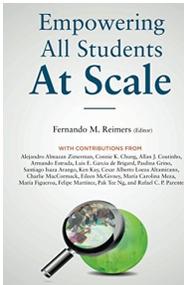
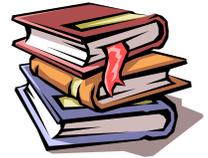
Twitter: @msma207

Facebook: "Like" our [Maine School Management Association page](#) and send us a "friend request" on our [MSMA page](#).

On the Bookshelf

[Empowering All Students At Scale](#)

Fernando M. Reimers (Editor)



Reviews from the back cover:

"This timely book addresses why, what and how education can become relevant for children around the world." **Rukmini Banerji, CEO, Pratham**

"An invaluable guide to policy makers, educational leaders, practitioners and researchers concerned with scaling up 21st century education." **Professor Tan Oon Seng, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**

"A treasure trove of invaluable insights that can help us all succeed reimagining education at scale so that the children growing up today gain the competencies, mindsets, values, awareness, and agency to shape a better future for themselves and all of us." **Wendy Kopp, CEO & Co-founder, Teach For All**

"A timely compilation of the lessons learned by a group of educators from various countries leading efforts to bring to scale approaches to educate the whole child." **James E. Ryan, Dean of the Faculty and Charles William Eliot, Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education**

"A valuable resource offering inspiration and insights for policy-makers and other leaders looking to bring such advances to scale for the benefit of all learners." **Gwayng-Jo Kim, Director, UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education**

"An incredibly useful resource for all of us that are struggling to ensure quality and relevant education for all, especially for the most vulnerable kids in our countries." **Claudia Costin, Director of CEIPE- Center for Excellence and Innovation in Education Policies**

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

organization, AASA. We have included a link to the South Portland Schools Resolution in Support of Public Education [here](#).

On behalf of MSSA, I would like to thank Steve Bailey, Terry McCabe, Vicki Wallack, and all MSMA staff for organizing the Fall Conference as well as Susan Pratt and the Professional Development Committee for planning the Superintendents' Fall Meeting. It was exciting to come together, prioritize our focus on students, and leave with a sense of action. Let's not lose the momentum...stay the course!

-Betsy Webb



Timothy Doak named Superintendent of the Year



Supt. Timothy Doak who heads both RSU 39 and RSU 86/MSAD 20 in Central Aroostook County has been named the Maine School Superintendent of the Year for 2018 for his educational leadership and focus on students.

Doak believes community schools play an essential role in rural Maine by offering students opportunities they would otherwise

not have. He also believes those same schools equally enrich a community.

“Lacking much needed resources in rural areas, schools become places of innovation for small communities,” Doak said. “We want our students to be leaders in tomorrow’s world.”

Doak has served as superintendent of RSU 39, covering Caribou, Limestone and Stockholm, since 2015, and MSAD 20 in Fort Fairfield since 2016. Prior to that he was superintendent of MSAD 27 (Fort Kent), MSAD 10 (Allagash) and the Madawaska and Grand Isle School Department.

Doak was nominated for the honor by MSAD 20 School Board Chair Paula Perkins, who said after 25 years as a teacher and nine as a board member, “I have yet to come across a more dedicated, open and knowledgeable man in his field.”

The award was announced by the Maine School Superintendents Association (MSSA) on Oct. 25. Doak was selected by a committee of his peers, including former Superintendent of the Year recipients, MSSA officers and presidents of Maine’s superintendent regions.

His many accomplishments in his career include Instituting a Transition Center at Caribou High School to reduce the achievement gap with male and female students in math and English and promoting Pleasant Street Academy in Fort Kent – Maine’s first early college high school model established as a partnership between the University of Maine at Fort Kent and Fort Kent Community High School.

He also has brought teachers and business leaders together to talk about ways to keep youth in Aroostook County and invited community business leaders to meet with him and discuss ways schools can better prepare students for their jobs.

Asked what he was most proud of in his career, Doak said it is hearing from former students.

“Various times in my travels, former students will come up to me to thank me for being their teacher, coach, or administrator. I have taken great pride in these exchanges with my past students, and it is nice to know that I have had a lasting impact on their education” he said.

The greatest challenge of the job?

“Maine is facing some tough economic times, and the financial burden that is being placed on communities can challenge a superintendent to find ways to provide a quality educational experience for our youth. Working through the political

climate that Mainers are facing today forces superintendents to focus on what is great about public education and to promote public education when it is a very challenging climate to ask for additional tax dollars.”

The best advice he can give to new superintendents is to listen.

“I have always held true to being an active listener. Listening is the most important skill because it allows a superintendent to have a clear picture of what the issues are and provides the foundation to help solve the problem at hand.”

Doak is a former principal and president of the Maine Principals’ Association and was named Channel 1 Teacher of the Year while at Madawaska High School. He will travel to the AASA National Conference, held in February in Nashville, TN, where all state Superintendents of the Year will be honored on stage.

Sizemore named Assistant Superintendent of the Year



Scarborough’s Jo Anne Sizemore has been named the Assistant Superintendent of the Year for her leadership and dedication to excellence in the Scarborough School System where she has worked for 38 years.

She been a teacher, principal, interim superintendent and now assistant superintendent – a position she has held for eight years.

Her many accomplishments include leading the district through the adoption and implementation of a new teacher and administrator evaluation system; helping plan and manage the construction of a 900-student elementary school; and, successfully negotiating with all the district’s bargaining units.

She also has focused on professional development for teachers throughout her career and embraced the belief that all students can learn and succeed. One of her early accomplishments was creating a mentoring program for girls to encourage them to enter the fields of math and science.

In nominating Sizemore for the honor, Special Services Director Alison Marchese said:

“Ms. Sizemore is an innovative educator with a proven record of finding solutions to unique challenges in education, a strong educational leader and mentor to top teachers and professionals, and, an exceptional communicator and collaborator who motivates and supports change.”

King named

(continued from page 1)

members from across Maine to make sure whatever action we take at the state level is in the best interest of all our students,” King said.

King holds a master’s degree in education and has done advanced graduate work in Education Leadership at the University of Maine in Orono.

Mark Your Calendar



EVENT	VENUE	DATE	
Drummond Woodsum Annual Special Education Summit	Augusta Civic Center Augusta, Maine	12/1/17	More info
MSSA 24th Annual Winter Convocation	Marriott at Sable Oaks South Portland, Maine	1/18-1/19/18	Save the date
2018 AASA National Conference on Education— Education in the Digital Age	Nashville Convention Center Nashville, Tennessee	2/15-2/17/18	More info

Superintendent of Schools York School Department – York, Maine

As one of Maine's oldest and most distinguished school systems, the York Public Schools seeks a transformative leader to guide and support the work of the York School Committee and district administration to educate 1,800 students in four schools, K-12.

The successful candidate will have ten years of teaching and administrative experience, Maine certification as a Superintendent, and relevant experience working within the structure of local town government.

An excellent benefits package will be added to a salary ranging between \$140,000-\$160,000.

Application Deadline: November 15, 2017

Starting Date: July 1, 2018

Interested candidates should apply online at: www.SchoolSpring.com

New Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Meetings

- ◆ **November 17th** (Friday) Topics: School Board Relations; Evaluation of Superintendent by the Board; Social Media and Public Relations Training
- ◆ **March 13th** (Tuesday) Topics: Contract Negotiations and Superintendent Agreements

MSSA Mission Statement

The Maine School Superintendents Association (MSSA) is an organization that is committed to leadership:

- *Leadership to provide equity, create opportunities for and promote the success of every student;*
- *Leadership to develop ethical, visionary and competent leaders by*
 - *Offering professional learning opportunities for leaders*
 - *Promoting community and legislative support for education*
 - *Providing member services*

Core Values and Beliefs

We believe members shall:

- *Maintain high expectations for all students, staff and ourselves*
- *Advocate for resources essential to student learning*
- *Act with integrity and model professional behavior*
- *Champion the advancement of public education*



If you have questions about any articles in this newsletter or suggestions for improving this publication, please let us know.

You can contact me, MSSA Acting Executive Director Steven Bailey at sbailey@msmaweb.com.