

# NEWSLETTER

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**Patrick Manuel**, *President-Elect, (RSU 1)*  
**Scott Porter**, *Vice President, (AOS 96)*  
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*“Better Schools for Maine Students”*

Volume 50, Number 1, September 2017

## President’s Message



Although the weather still feels like summer, fall is upon us. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve as the President of MSSA and to work with Maine superintendents during the 2017-2018 school year. As Maine’s educational leaders, it is imperative that we advocate for public education

in order to ensure every Maine student has a high quality education and a pathway to success. My hope is to help strengthen our collective voice and impact on defining how this is best accomplished.

Although our school systems’ needs vary to some extent and we have different opinions about our schools, we have more in common than differences. We must find common ground and position ourselves to be the state’s educational leaders with solutions for what is in the best interest of all Maine students. The first step is building a structure for a proactive approach through MSSA resolutions, similar to the process MSBA uses. MSSA leadership plans to have resolution(s) to vote on at our Fall Meeting. I am not sure why we haven’t used this process in the past as a way to take position statements, but now is the time to start!

In addition, our national association AASA is a great resource for us to make our MSSA voice heard. AASA promotes an advocacy challenge in which all superintendents pledge to communicate all year with their elected officials. AASA encourages each Tuesday, superintendents pledge to call, email, or write to elected officials. They suggest alternating Tuesdays for communicating with our state and congressional delegates. When elected officials hear from many constituents with the same concern, it matters. Equally important is having superintendents attend legislative sessions and testifying. The numbers of superintendents communicating matter.

I learned a lesson at 10 years old, which I rely upon today. I received a unicycle as a birthday present, and it took me a while to find my point of balance. After numerous scrapes and bruises, I became even more determined to ride that unicycle! I grabbed the cycle and I picked up my head looking to my destination and off I went! What I had been missing was wherever I focused, I went. If I focused my eyes down towards the pavement, I fell. When I learned to focus on where I wanted to be, I found balance. With the barrage of issues coming our way, it is easy in this position to be caught

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## MSSA Annual Fall Meeting October 25



Dan Domenech

The Annual Fall Meeting of the Maine School Superintendents Association will be held in the **Augusta/Capital/Pine Tree Rooms** at the Augusta Civic Center on Wednesday, October 25, 2017.

The Professional Development Committee has structured the 2017 Annual Fall Meeting to address federal and state legislative issues impacting Maine schools. The day will begin with a federal education update from Dan Domenech, Executive Director of AASA.

The remainder of the day will provide an opportunity to learn and to discuss with colleagues about the impact of the proficiency-based diploma law, Title 20-A, §4722-A, on our schools. Panelists will discuss: What works?; What needs to change?; and How are schools impacted? Focused discussions following the panel will provide MSSA leadership guidance, if legislative and/or rule making changes need to be introduced on behalf of our membership.

Due to the relevant subject matter we would like to extend this opportunity for you to invite other members of your staff to attend this program. Please feel free to register your principals, curriculum coordinators and any others who may benefit from this program.

Registration materials have been forwarded to you and are also available by clicking [here](#).

## MSMA Annual Fall Conference October 26 & 27



David Schuler

The theme for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual MSMA Fall Conference is “Public Schools: Learning for Life.” Scheduled for Thursday and Friday, October 26-27, 2017 at the Augusta Civic Center, this conference will provide an unprecedented number of professional development clinics and top-notch keynote speakers focusing on the role of public education in shaping the futures of our students.

Thursday’s keynote speaker, Dr. David Schuler, Past-President of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) will address the concept of “redefining ready” – what it means to

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## 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*

### 2014 SCHOOL BUS FOR SALE



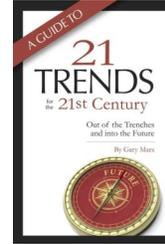
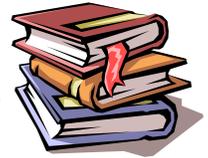
Due to a recent school closure, the Town of Robbinston has a relatively new school bus that they would like to sell.

If you would like more information click [here](#) or contact Ron Jenkins at Calais School Department—(207) 454-7561 or by email at [ronaldjenkins@calaischools.org](mailto:ronaldjenkins@calaischools.org).

## On the Bookshelf

### 21 Trends for the 21st Century

By Gary Marx



*Twenty-One Trends* speaks of “Creating a Future is the Essence of Leadership”. It involves Aspirational Leadership. Most of us admit that, without aspiration, circumstances will drive our future. The desk will always be full. We need to see a complex, fast-moving, sometimes chaotic world as part of a new normal. Some think of these massive, ongoing forces as attacks. Others see them as opportunities. Our challenge is to step atop the fray, join hands with everyone around us, declare our success, and reshape what we do and how we do it to meet the needs of a world that is being transformed before our very eyes. As said by Nelson Mandela, “Courage is not the absence of fear—it’s inspiring others to move beyond it.” Learn more from *Twenty-One Trends: Implications for education, communities, and the whole of society*.

From *Education Week*: This groundbreaking book has implications for education, communities, and the whole of society. For all of us and our organizations, the work we do each day in our personal “trenches” defines our individual lives and shapes our future.

But, what happens if we never look up, if we fail to understand the larger world and appreciate our place in it? We become *too entrenched* and trapped in yesterday’s ways of thinking, and we get stuck in a mindset that isn’t ready for the challenges of today, much less those we will face – individually and as a society – tomorrow.

In this go-to guide for thinking and planning, futurist Gary Marx lays out an array of trends with seismic shifts that have real implications for organizations, nations, and each of us.

[Read more](#)

## WELCOME TO OUR COLLEAGUES

As the new school year opens we are pleased to welcome the following new superintendents and assistant superintendents:

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>
Deborah Alden, Supt	RSU 10	Gary Gonyar, Supt	Hermon
Lisa Bernier, Supt	MSAD 33	Kathy Harris-Smedberg, Asst. Supt	Bangor
Christine Boone, Supt	Glenburn	Meredith Higgins, Supt	RSU 26
Andrew Carlton, Supt	RSU 04	Katie Joseph, Asst. Supt	RSU 01
Shawn Chabot, Asst. Supt	Lewiston	Debra McIntyre, Asst. Supt	MSAD 28-Five Town CSD
Melanie Chasse, Supt	Monhegan	Jodi Mezzanotte, Asst. Supt	Westbrook
Roy Crawford, Supt	RSU 08/MSAD 08	Keith Morin, Asst. Supt	RSU 18
Matthew Cyr, Supt	Veazie	Regan Nickels, Asst. Supt	RSU 22
Pamela Doyen, Supt	RSU 56	Eric Waddell, Supt	Kittery
Carl Gartley, Supt	RSU 18	Kelley Weiss, Asst. Supt	AOS 43
Theresa Gillis, Asst. Supt	MSAD 52		

## 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Commissioner's Conference

The 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Commissioner's Conference for Superintendents was hosted by the Maine Department of Education June 26 -27 at the Atlantic Oceanside Hotel and Event Center in Bar Harbor. 62 Superintendents and 17 Assistant Superintendents registered for this two-day event. With sessions provided by MDOE staff, the key-note for the event was a presentation by Dr. Janet Zadina that included her work in the area of brain research and impact on learning. A highlight of the two-day conference was the Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet where many colleagues were recognized upon their retirement and years of service. Senator Brian Langley and Representative Tori Kornfield were given the Distinguished Service to Education Award from the MSSA for their work to support public education in Maine schools. Other award recipients are noted below:



### AWARDS:

#### Superintendent's Service Award Honorees

Fernande M.Y. Desjardins, MSAD 33  
Patricia A. Duran, Hermon  
Emil P. Genest, RSU 22  
Doug Smith, Glenburn  
Gary N. Smith, RSU 18

#### Longevity Award Honorees

##### 15 Years

Eileen King  
David W. Murphy

##### 25 Years

Ronald Jenkins

#### 2017 Outstanding Leadership Award Honorees

Andrew R. Dolloff  
Kevin T. Jordan  
Susan A. Pratt  
Roger S. Shaw

#### 2017 Distinguished Service to Education Award

Senator Brian D. Langley  
Representative Victoria P. Kornfield

#### 2017 President's Award Recipient

Steven W. Bailey

### Fall Conference

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be college ready, career ready and life ready for our students. This important message will be shared with School Board members, invited guests including Maine Department of Education officials, and other business and educational organizations invited to the Fall Conference. "Standardized test scores, often used as the primary readiness indicator, don't always provide an accurate representation of our students' potential, and students should not be defined by a single test score... Our schools provide students with rigorous academic programs, personalized and career-specific learning experiences, along with social and emotional skills that prepare them to be informed citizens in an ever-changing world. Students learn in a variety of ways and should be able to demonstrate readiness for college, career and life in a variety of ways." *-from [redefiningready.org](http://redefiningready.org)*. Dr. Schuler is the superintendent of the second largest high school district in Illinois, overseeing six high schools and four specialized programs.



Laurie Lachance

On Friday, the keynote speaker is former State Economist and Thomas College President Laurie Lachance, who served as director of the Maine Development Foundation. She firmly believes in the power of education to transform lives, communities and the economy of Maine and is a strong advocate for early learning. "I have come to believe that in a knowledge-based, technology-driven economy, the single most important

economic development investment we can make is to bring each person in Maine to his or her highest educational potential," she told a group of incoming legislators earlier this year.

In between the keynotes will be clinics dealing with proficiency-based diplomas, voluntary regionalization of services, school law, court rulings that impact special education law, the schools and marijuana, two "meet the Commissioner" sessions, a variety of clinics being offered by local school districts, and much, much more.

Registration for the Annual MSMA Fall Conference should be done through the superintendent's office. Superintendents, please note, School Board delegates to Delegate Assembly must be registered as delegates and also registered for the Fall Conference. Click [here](#) for more information.

### President's Message

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looking down. We must focus on where we want to be. Let's find our point of balance by focusing on where we want Maine public education to be!

If you have ideas about strengthening our voice, where you want Maine public education to be, or if I may be of assistance, please call me at 992-4153 or email me at [bwebb@bangorschools.net](mailto:bwebb@bangorschools.net).

Have a great fall and I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Meeting. You will hear more about the resolution(s) at that time.

-Betsy Webb

# Mark Your Calendar



EVENT	VENUE	DATE	
<b>2017 Annual MSSA Fall Meeting</b>	Augusta Civic Center Augusta, Maine	10/25/17	<a href="#">More info</a>
<b>44<sup>th</sup> Annual MSMA Fall Conference</b>	Augusta Civic Center Augusta, Maine	10/26-10/27/17	<a href="#">More info</a>
<b>Drummond Woodsum Annual Special Education Summit</b>	Augusta Civic Center Augusta, Maine	12/1/17	<a href="#">More info</a>
<b>MSSA 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Convocation</b>	Marriott at Sable Oaks South Portland, Maine	1/18-1/19/18	Save the date
<b>2018 AASA National Conference on Education</b>	Nashville Convention Center Nashville, Tennessee	2/15-2/17/18	<a href="#">More info</a>

## 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](http://www.SchoolSpring.com)

## New Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Meetings

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

## Boothbay Region High School Student wins Redefining Ready! scholarship



Congratulations to Noah Sherburne, Boothbay Region High School, Redefining Ready! 2017 Scholarship Competition Winner! Announced in March at AASA's National Conference on Education, the Twitter-based competition was

created to provide students with opportunities to share how high school shaped their post-secondary plans and, more accurately, determined college and career readiness. Students were asked to post their videos to Twitter using the [#RedefiningReady](#) hashtag and tagging [@AASAHQ](#) and [@Hobsons](#) in their scholarship entry tweets. Students used phones, iPads or video cameras to film the videos and were judged on compelling content. Noah, a student of Superintendent Eileen King's district (AOS 98), received a \$2,000 scholarship.

## 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](#).



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](mailto:sbailey@msmaweb.com).