

# NEWSLETTER

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 Betsy Webb, *Vice President, (Bangor)*  
 Suzanne T. Godin, *Past President, (South Portland)*  
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*“Better Schools for Maine Students”*

Volume 48, Number 5, January 2016

## President’s Message

Dear Colleagues,

I cannot say enough about the great work the professional development team did in planning this year’s Convocation. The entire two days was full of opportunities to learn and share ideas. It was wonderful to see so many of our colleagues take part in the event.



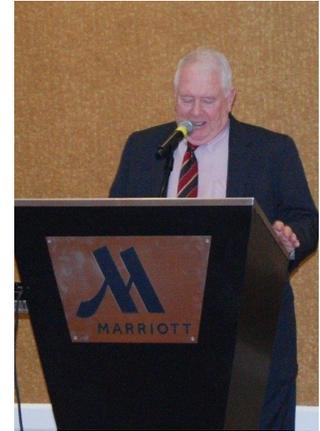
Dr. George Manning shared some very interesting research from his book: *The Art of Leadership*. Each region has a copy of this book to share with its members. He presented material that focused on how leadership impacts change in our systems and the impact our leadership has on that change. We had the opportunity to work in small groups to also talk about several of the components of leadership. Friday was filled with our business meeting and presentation and congratulations to Maine’s Superintendent of the Year, Richard Colpitts for this much-deserved award. We then heard from Acting Commissioner Dr. William Beardsley about his priorities for the DOE. He shared what he feels is the work of the Department of Education and how they can support systems around the state. He encouraged Superintendents to reach out to the DOE for support with the many educational initiatives. It is his hope to make the Department support easier to access and responsive to the field. Our day concluded by hearing about legislative updates, both from Dr. Connie Brown, Executive Director of MSMA and Vicki Wallack, MSMA’s Director of Government Relations and Communications, as well as Representative Victoria Kornfield, House Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and Senator Brian Langley, Chair for the second time of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. Although there is a short session this year, we all still need to pay attention to some of the bills coming forward. I want to thank each regional president for providing a drawing award item at the end of our program this year. It was a fun way to end the full event. With much support from MSSA’s Acting Executive Director, Elaine Tomaszewski and Debra Swift, MSSA Administrative Assistant, Steve Bailey and our professional development committee should be congratulated for creating a great program for Convocation.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Convocation Speakers



Dr. George Manning



Acting Commissioner of Education  
William Beardsley



Education Committee Chairs Sen. Langley and Rep. Kornfield



MSMA Executive Director Dr. Connie Brown and Victoria Wallack,  
Director of Government Relations and Communications

*(continued on page 3)*

## 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*

## For a Leader...

*When placed in command, take charge.*

~Norman Schwarzkopf (1934-2012), General, United States Army

*The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.*

~ Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), American Baptist minister, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement



### Verizon Grant Opportunity

There is a great grant opportunity for qualifying middle schools that are 70% free and reduced lunch to receive \$20,000 to support the implementation of two PLTW Gateway units—Introduction to Computer Science 1 (ICS 1) and Introduction to Computer Science 2 (ICS 2) for the 2016-17 school year.

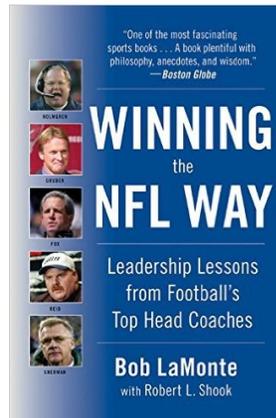
Click [here](#) for more information.

## On Our Bookshelf...

### Winning the NFL Way Leadership Lessons from Football's Top Head Coaches



By Bob LaMonte with Robert L. Shook



As many of us look to Super Bowl Sunday, our On The Bookshelf recommendation is timely.

With chapter titles that include:

Vision and a Strong Game Plan, The Trust Factor, Communication, Teamwork, Facing Adversity, Adapting to Change and Check your Ego at the Door; we couldn't help but notice parallels to being a Superintendent.

From the review:

*Being an NFL coach is the ultimate high-pressure job. Every Sunday a coach makes split-second decisions that will not only decide the fate of a game, but also his team's season and, ultimately, his own job.*

*Meet Mike Holmgren, Jon Gruden, John Fox, Andy Reid, and Mike Sherman -- top NFL head coaches whose careers rest on their ability to lead other men to win in the fiercely competitive world of professional football.*

*In this extraordinary collaboration with their agent Bob LaMonte, each of these five coaches shares his leadership principles. LaMonte takes you behind the scenes, where you'll be a fly on the wall as these men reveal how to win beyond the X's and O's. You will see how these successful leaders communicate with different personalities, develop vision, build trust in their people, and win loyalty, as well as overcome adversity and adapt to change.*

*Through their colorful and motivational anecdotes, you'll gain unprecedented insights into the minds of some of the best coaches today and valuable lessons on what it means to be a leader and a champion.*

### President's Message

*(continued from page 1)*

I hope to see several of my colleagues at the AASA's National Conference on Education: Leading for Excellence that is occurring in February. I will share the highlights in next month's newsletter.

In closing, "stay warm, drive safely, be healthy, and take care of yourself".

Sincerely,

Susan A. Pratt, MSSA President

## MSSA's Superintendent of the Year Speaks with State Board of Education



Rick Colpitts

MSSA's Superintendent of the Year, Richard "Rick" Colpitts was a guest of the State Board of Education at their January 13, 2016, meeting in Augusta. As member Peter Geiger introduced Rick he asked him to have a conversation rather than a formal presentation. Rick did that and did it very well.

He shared his MSAD 17 district statistics: miles driven by buses (4,000 per day and annually enough miles to reach the moon, return, and make another trip), budget (\$37 million) and accomplishments (many).

Accomplishments students are able to achieve through the education program were highlighted. These included everything from designing and completing precision machined cribbage boards, designing a race car, racing it and supporting a professional driver, to working with a local bank to provide micro loans to students.

He addressed his view regarding standards and the importance of student aspirations and a student support system.

Throughout the conversation he emphasized – and it came through – the personal message that he loves his job. Well done Rick, and a fine representative of Maine's public school superintendents.



State Board of Education members Peter Geiger and Heidi Sampson examine a precision machined cribbage board designed and crafted by MSAD 17 students provided by Superintendent Rick Colpitts



## Tomaszewski Named to Leadership Standing Committee



MSSA Acting Executive Director Elaine Tomaszewski has been appointed to the Educational Leadership Standing Committee for Educational Testing Service (ETS).

According to ETS, members of the committee review and keep current the test specifications

framework and questions for Educational Leadership tests. Current work will include reviewing knowledge and skill statements for the Superintendent exam.

Tomaszewski said she is pleased to serve on the committee. "In view of the updated (formerly known) ISLLC standards now known as the **Professional Standards for Educational Leaders** it is vitally important we review the test with the updates in mind. This test is designed to be administered to entry level Superintendents, so in addition to giving back to the profession, the review of current trends directly assists with my work with new superintendents."

This is a two year appointment.

### Convocation Speakers (continued from page 1)



Dr. Glenn Cummings

To view a slideshow of all pictures from Winter Convocation, click [here](#).

### 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](#).

## Below is a list of the major bills affecting public K-12 education this session and their latest status before the Education Committee.

- **An Act to Improve Teaching Assignments in Maine's Public Schools**, L.D. 1544, sponsored by Sen. Linda Baker, R-Sagadahoc. This bill would infringe on the school board's legal right to set educational policy by amending labor relations law to allow teacher assignments to be negotiable. This is the latest attempt over the years to chip away at the school board's legal right to determine education policy. The bill had its public hearing on Jan. 25.
- **An Act to Protect All Students in Elementary and Secondary Schools from Sexual Assault by School Officials**, L.D. 1540, sponsored by Sen. Scott Cyrway, R-Kennebec, whose district includes Waterville. This bill is being heard before the Criminal Justice Committee. While many people assume it is a crime for a teacher or other adult authority figure at school to have sexual contact with a student regardless of his or her age, the law only extends that protection to students under the age of 18. This bill recognizes there is a power differential between an authority figure and a student, and would make it a crime to have sexual contact with a student regardless of age. This bill is scheduled to have its public hearing on Feb. 1.
- **An Act to Delay Any New Statewide Assessments Test**, L.D. 1459, sponsored by Rep. Ellie Espling, R-New Gloucester. The bill addresses replacement tests for Smarter Balanced. It already has had a public hearing and one work session. The Education Committee did not support a test delay, but is still considering the issue of how the test should be used when it comes to teacher evaluations. A second work session has been scheduled for Jan 26, with a possible vote on that day. MSSA and MSBA opposed the bill but asked for DOE's commitment to pull the plug on the test for this year, if it determines the test is not ready. As of this writing, the DOE said the tests would be available on the DOE portal in February.
- **An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Education Standards in Maine**, L.D. 1492, sponsored by Rep. William Tuell, R-East Machias. This bill, which proposed replacing the Common Core with new standards, was voted on by the Education Committee on Jan. 20. Instead of getting rid of the Common Core, the committee voted unanimously to adopt a more rigorous and timely review process that allows more public input and includes a wider range of stakeholders.
- **An Act to Facilitate the Use of State Education Subsidies**, L.D. 1475, sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Millett, D-Cumberland, is a bill Maine School Management Association requested. It would enshrine in statute that voters can approve a warrant article giving the School Board the option of using additional GPA in the upcoming school year when the Legislature is late passing the state budget. The committee unanimously supported the bill after an amendment was added that says the warrant article authorizes using the additional funding for school purposes and/or lowering the tax burden.
- **An Act to Enable Alternative Organizational Structures To Purchase Group Health Insurance for All Employees**, L.D. 1517, sponsored by Rep. Brian Hubbell, D-Bar Harbor. This bill would allow AOSs with common employment contracts to purchase a single-group health insurance policy, so all their member towns would pay the same rate. Because the bill could increase health insurance costs, it may not be viable for all AOSs, but allows the local option. The bill had a hearing and vote on Jan. 25 and was unanimously approved with some technical language changes.
- **An Act to Amend Education Law**, with no official number yet, is a DOE requested bill in response to a lawsuit regarding a hard to place student from a district without a high school or a contract with another school. This bill gives the DOE Commissioner the right to place the student in a school district. The home district is responsible for special education costs for the student and will be invited to be part of the IEP process in the receiving district. Rep. Brian Hubbell, D-Bar Harbor, also plans to put an amendment on this bill that says when the Commissioner or DOE overrides a student transfer denial at the local level, the district that receives the student is entitled to the same special education funding for that student as the sending school. This will have particular benefit to minimum receivers, who currently receive 30 percent of special education costs as their state aid.
- **An Act to Allow Trained, Nonmedical Employees in Schools To Administer Emergency Rescue Medications**, L.D. 1491, sponsored by Rep. Justin Chenette, D-Saco. This bill was brought on behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation. The Education Committee voted unanimously against the bill, but did support language requiring better communication and training on what the law already requires in terms of using non-medical employees to administer emergency medication.

### Carry-Over Bills

- **L.D. 1370, An Act to Improve the Quality of Teachers**, sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Millett, D-Cumberland. This bill, in its original form, would raise standards for admission into teacher preparation programs; require teachers to get a master's degree within five years of being employed in the state; and raise minimum teacher salaries to \$40,000.
- **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula**, L.D. 1394, reflecting the work of an EPS study commission. The commission's report focused on the need to provide more educational services to lower-income students; increase teacher professional development; and expand pre-kindergarten programs. The bill's future is uncertain because of its price tag of more than \$50 million.

# Mark Your Calendar



EVENT	VENUE	DATE	
<b>AASA National Conference on Education</b>	Phoenix, AZ	2/11-2/13/16	<a href="#">More Info</a>
<b>New Superintendent Workshop</b> Budget Validation Referendum, Communications and Supt Evaluation	Bangor Savings Bank (Augusta office) 5 Senator Way, Augusta	3/9/16 9:00 am-2:00 pm	Save the date!
<b>New Superintendent Workshop</b> First and Second Year Superintendents Meet	Bangor Savings Bank (Augusta office) 5 Senator Way, Augusta	5/11/16 9:00 am-2:00 pm	Save the date!
<b>2016 Annual MSSA Fall Meeting</b>	Augusta Civic Center Augusta, ME	10/26/16	Save the date!
<b>43<sup>rd</sup> Annual MSMA Fall Conference</b>	Augusta Civic Center Augusta, ME	10/27-10/28/16	Save the date!

## Professional Vacancies

**AOS 91**  
Mt. Desert Island Regional School System  
Superintendent of Schools  
Bar Harbor, Cranberry Isles, Frenchboro, Mount Desert,  
Southwest Harbor, Tremont, Trenton; MSAD 76 (Swans  
Island); Mt. Desert CSD, Maine  
*Application Deadline: February 1, 2016*

**MSAD 20**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Ft. Fairfield, Maine  
*Application Deadline: February 19, 2016*  
*Effective Date: July 1, 2016*

**Portland Public Schools**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Portland, Maine  
*Application Deadline: March 1, 2016*

**RSU 19**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Corinna, Dixmont, Etna, Hartland, Newport, Palmyra,  
Plymouth, St. Albans, Maine  
*Application Deadline: February 29, 2016*  
*Effective Date: July 1, 2016*

**United Technologies Center**  
Maine Vocational Region 4  
CTE Director  
Bangor, Maine  
*Application Deadline: February 8, 2016*  
*Effective Date: July 1, 2016*

For more information on vacancies, please visit  
<http://www.msmaweb.com/>.

## AASA News

JANUARY 13, 2016

[AASA Names 2016 Women in School Leadership Award Finalists](#)

DECEMBER 22, 2015

[AASA Members to Help Build School in the Dominican Republic](#)

DECEMBER 17, 2015

[Media Advisory: 2016 National Superintendent of the Year Finalists to Discuss Education Issues](#)

DECEMBER 15, 2015

[AASA Economic Study Examines Education Budgets on State, Local Levels and the Impact on Nation's Schools](#)

DECEMBER 15, 2015

[AASA Names Finalists for 2016 National Superintendent of the Year](#)

DECEMBER 11, 2015

[Education Groups Applaud 1-year Anniversary of FCC Vote to Modernize E-Rate](#)



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 Elaine Tomaszewski at [etomaszewski@msmaweb.com](mailto:etomaszewski@msmaweb.com).