

**Massena Central School Board of Education Update**  
**August 25, 2017**

**Welcome Back Staff**

On 8/31, we will welcome back our teachers and staff to begin the 2017-18 school year. Our Opening Assembly will begin at 8:30 am in the high school auditorium followed by two days of training and preparation for the return of students on 9/5.

On 8/24, we welcomed 18 of our new staff to an all-day orientation session which included a bus tour of the district and a briefing on Native American culture. I want to thank former MCS administrator John Murray and St. Regis Mohawk Tribe spokesperson Brendan White for leading the tour. Their knowledge about the history of our area provided a great perspective to our newest MCS employees. I also want to thank Stephanie Allen for organizing our mentors who will be guiding many of our new teachers this year and Peter Betrand and his staff for the delicious treats. I am excited about our new hires and the goals we have set for the new year.

**DiNapoli Releases July State Cash Report**

State income tax collections increased \$88.2 million in July from a year earlier, helping lift the state's total tax collections slightly above updated projections this month, according to the state cash [report](#) issued by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

[Here](#) is the July Cash Report.

**New York State School Boards Association News**

The following is information from the NYS School Boards Association in regard to some current educational issues.

**NYSSBA State Aid Databases Available Online**

NYSSBA's state aid databases are now available on our website. Click the link below to access information regarding your district's funding levels, foundation aid owed and historical trends of district wealth, student need and enrollment. If you have any questions regarding the information in the database, do not hesitate to contact Governmental Relations.

- [2017-18 State Aid Summary by District](#)
- [State Aid Factors by District, 10 Year Comparison](#)

**Additional Comments on NYS ESSA Plan**

Progress on the finalization of the NYS ESSA plan continues. Last week, the plan was transmitted to the Governor for his review. Federal law

requires that the plan be sent to him, but his approval is not required for SED to submit to USED. NYSSBA shared comments on the plan with the Governor, as we have with SED throughout the process. Our most recent comments can be viewed below.

- [Letter to Governor Cuomo on the Proposed ESSA Plan](#)

#### **Conference on the Effects of Lead Exposure on Learning**

The Western NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center, part of the University of Rochester Medical Center, is planning a conference on the effects of lead exposure on our students and learning. Additional information about the conference can be viewed below.

- [Save the Date: Effects of Lead Exposure on Learning](#)

#### **2017 Proposed Bylaw Amendments & Resolutions Book**

Below is the link to the 2017 Proposed Bylaw Amendments & Resolutions Book.

- [2017 Proposed Bylaw Amendments & Resolutions Book](#)

This book contains information needed to prepare for the 2017 Annual Business Meeting, including:

- The Order of Business.
- The Report of the Resolutions Committee.
- Rules of Conduct for the Business Meeting.
- Instructions for the Submission of Amendments and Rebuttals.

Members who wish to submit an amendment to a resolution or rebuttal to the Resolutions Committee for inclusion in the 2017 Voting Delegate Guide - Proposed Bylaw Amendments & Resolutions for the Annual Business Meeting may do so by sending an amendment or rebuttal to the NYSSBA offices by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 5th.

For your convenience, an amendment form is included below.

- [Amendment Form](#)

Please note: the proposed amendments to the bylaws and resolutions are proposals. They are not NYSSBA positions. Only the voting delegates can make a change to the bylaws or adopt a formal position statement.

Farm to School Funding

Recently, we received the following information from the Adirondack North Country Association about continued funding for schools to purchase local farm products.

Thanks to Assemblywoman Addie Jenne's efforts to champion this project, we're excited for renewed funding and the chance to work with 19 school districts serving approximately 3,532,248 meals. Welcome and thank you for participating!

We have \$209,034.90 of funds designated directly for schools. Details about eligible expenses can be found in the program description and agreement documents.

The Massena CSD will receive \$21,275.68 of this funding which will be used to purchase local produce for our food service program. Last year some of the monies were also allocated to purchase grow racks to vegetables such as lettuce for the lunch line. It is expected we could use some of the funds to purchase more equipment this year.

### **BOCES Board Vacancy**

Recently, we learned that Nancy Cappellino, a long time BOCES Board of Education member, resigned her position on the BOCES board.

By law the BOCES board has two options:

1. They may leave the position vacant until the election in April.
2. They may fill the vacancy by appointment per Section 1950 of the Education Law. Paragraph f of subdivision 2-a (“In the event of a vacancy in the membership of a board of cooperative educational services, such board of cooperative educational services may fill such vacancy by appointment, provided that notification be provided to all component boards of such vacancy and that the component boards are given ten days to provide any comments and/or objections to fill the vacancy by appointment, and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next annual election of the board of cooperative educational services.”)

The BOCES Board met on 8/17 and decided to leave the position open until the next election in April, 2018.

### **District Upcoming Events**

8/29—MCSEA Negotiations Session—5:00 pm—CAB

8/31-9/1—Superintendents' Days

9/4—Labor Day

9/5—School Opens



