

A Publication of the Broome Tioga School Boards Association  
Office of the Executive Director



# DOT-DASH

## Newsletter

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## JOINT DINNER

January  
2010

The Joint Dinner was held on January 21, 2010 at the Terra Cotta in Binghamton, New York. This event is a collaboration of the Broome-Tioga Association of Chief School Administrators, Broome-Tioga Principals' Center, Broome-Tioga School Boards Association and The Organization of Instructional Representatives. Over 140 members of these four groups attended the dinner. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Michael Meath, Founder and President of Strategic Communications, LLC of Syracuse New York. Mr. Meath, who spoke at the 2009 CSO Summer Retreat, made the audience aware of the techniques to use when speaking with the media on education issues. Occasionally districts have crises to deal with and Mr. Meath shared some key phrases and unique comments that could help alleviate the situation. The evening and his remarks was well received by all participants.

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John Paske, Executive Director of both the Association of Chief School Administrators and School Boards Association introduced the current members of the Southern Tier Leadership Academy, their mentors, and graduates of the Academy. It was very inspiring to see how many of our colleagues take part in this very worthwhile program.

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## Legislative Committee Meeting

The next Legislative Committee Meeting will be held:

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Broome-Tioga BOCES

Instructional Support Center, Room A

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:00 p.m. Meeting

## Letter from our Area IV Supervisor: Douglas Ann Land

2010 has been a year of significant change for NYSSBA. The change from Republican to Democratic control in the Senate provided wonderful opportunities for several of our Governmental Relations staff who are now working as education advisors for the Senate Education Committee and Senator Oppenheimer. Although hampered by the dysfunction of the Senate in the first few months of the year, the staff, many of whom were newly hired, was able to make significant progress on both state and federal issues. Through their efforts and in collaboration with Senator Schumer, they influenced the mechanism of providing funding through both IDEA and Title I to maximize the greatest funding level and broadest distribution of funds without any monies being siphoned off for administrative expenses. Multiple efforts to instate midyear state aid cuts to education were successfully avoided, and efforts to pass on some pre-school special education costs were rejected by the Senate. Perhaps the most significant change is that the state now operates under executive order which requires that NYSSBA be consulted on every proposal that includes a new mandate on schools.

Based on comments and evaluations of last year's newly designed State Issues Conference, further modifications to this year's conference have been made. The event will be held at one hotel, the Crown Plaza from March 14-15. Starting late Sunday afternoon will allow attendees more travel time and an opportunity to check in at their leisure before the event begins Sunday afternoon. The presentation period of the conference will end after lunch Monday afternoon allowing the afternoon for meetings with representatives and the trip home, allowing those who cannot miss two days of work to participate.

If you have visited the NYSSBA Website lately, you've no doubt noticed some changes there as well. Our new two minute Mailbag educational videos have been quite popular. We now have 22 of them available, the last two of which are particularly timely: one describes what school districts can expect in changes in regulations from SED should the state qualify for the State Race to the Top funds; the second outlining the New Tier V benefits. This year also ushered in a highly popular series of Webinars which afford wonderful training for boards at a very reasonable cost. *Education in a Globalized World* on January 22 was very well received and is being followed on January 27<sup>th</sup> by *Teaching for the Future*. Watch for announcements of upcoming Webinars – as several board members can watch at once, many schools are arranging to have them broadcast in a board conference room where the board can hold a discussion following the presentation. Once enrolled for a Webinar, if the timing is not convenient, it can be downloaded and watched at any time. For those of you who prefer to communicate on Facebook, NYSSBA is now offering a Facebook Fan Page as well. Perhaps the latest news in the communications area is our new video, *Be the Change for Kids* which was officially launched on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The video highlights the effects of diminished funding for schools, and explores what we as schools, legislators and communities can do to support educational opportunities for our children. Many of our Central New York School Boards Associations are showing “*Be the Change*” to open their Legislative Breakfasts and to spark discussion with legislators on cost saving measures we have already taken and the possibility of increased staff reductions, class size increases and program cuts in the immediate future.

The year 2010 promises to be a challenging one for those of us in primary and secondary education. Our goal at NYSSBA is to assist all of our schools in successfully meeting these challenges. At our board retreat in October, we set forth two new objectives: 1) NYSSBA will empower school boards to overcome the effects of the financial crisis; 2) NYSSBA will inspire school boards to embrace methodologies that increase success for each student in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We do intend to be successful in meeting both of these objectives and look forward to working with all of our school boards in meeting these two challenges.

## 2009-2010 Programs and Workshops

### September 21-22

#### Fiscal Oversight

6:00 p.m. BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A

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### September 23

Legislative Committee Meeting

5:30 p.m. BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A

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### October 14

SBA Annual Business Meeting

Owego Treadway Inn & Conference Center

6:00 p.m., BOCES

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### October 15-18

#### NYSSBA Convention

NYC, NY

### October 19-23

NYS School Board Recognition Week

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### November 19

President/Vice President Workshop

6:00 p.m. BOCES ISC Room A

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### January 21, 2010

Joint Dinner Meeting with Superintendents and School Administrators

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### February 4, 2010

Legislative Committee Meeting

5:30 p.m. BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A

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### March 15, 2010

State Legislative Conference/Lobby Day

### April 14, 2010

Prospective Board Member Workshop

7:00 p.m. BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A

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### April 22, 2010

President/VP Workshop

5:30 p.m. BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A

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### June 9, 2010

New School Board Member Workshop

6:30 p.m. BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A

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### June 17, 2010

Scholastic Recognition Dinner

Recognizing district's valedictorians and salutatorians

### Summary Notes from January 21, 2010 SBA Meeting

- The January business meeting was called to order at 7:28 pm by Dan Griffith, President of Broome-Tioga School Boards Association.
- The minutes from the October 14, 2009 meeting were approved with a motion from Sandy Ruffo (BT-BOCES) and seconded by Dick Testa (Union-Endicott).
- Douglas Ann Land, NYSSBA Area IV was introduced
- There was no new business
- Reminders:
  - Dan reminded members to that the Legislative Committee Meeting will take place on February 4, 2010.
  - Dan reminded all in attendance of the importance of being aware of the budget issues being proposed by the Governor. He noted that now is the time to speak out and up about the cuts and restraints.
- Motion to adjourn made by Dave Hawley (Binghamton) and seconded by Gerald Abbey (Chenango Valley) . Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.



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