

# Broome Tioga School Boards Association



## DOT-DASH Newsletter

435 Glenwood Rd  
Binghamton, NY  
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[www.btboeces.org/sba](http://www.btbooces.org/sba)

### Joint Dinner Meeting

Broome-Tioga Area Principals' Center  
*in conjunction with the*  
Broome-Tioga Association of Chief School Administrators  
Broome-Tioga School Boards Association  
The Organization of Instructional Representatives  
Cordially Invites you to a dinner meeting and program:

**Wednesday evening, January 10, 2007**  
**6:00 Registration**  
Binghamton Regency Hotel  
225 Water Street, Binghamton  
**RSVP with your Superintendent's Office by 01/03/2007**

### From Your Area IV Director

As Area 4 Director, I welcome the opportunity to occasionally communicate to you through the Broome - Tioga School Board's Association Newsletter. An item of concern at present to many of us in education is the upcoming reauthorization of NCLB. NYSSBA and the National School Boards Association are planning their annual Federal Relations Network conference in Washington D.C. the 28<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> of January. (David Hawley from Binghamton will be your area representative.) On the 30<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting with our various Federal legislators and I suspect the reauthorization of NCLB will be the key issue in many of our discussions. As policy makers, the legislators are always most interested in how a particular piece of legislation impacts their own districts. Before heading down to Washington, I always try to collect a number of examples of how current Federal Policies are affecting our districts. This is a great opportunity for us to provide input and hopefully improve an educational policy which effects all of our schools.

Of late, NCLB has received considerable negative press. Some concerns expressed have been:

The lack of available tutors for students who are entitled to tutoring. Most entitled students are not receiving any tutoring. This has also led to the development of private tutoring companies with questionable credentials.

The lack of locally available state approved alternative schools for students in schools who do not meet the state standards.

An overemphasis on standardized testing and subsequent narrowing of curriculum and instruction focused on preparing for the tests rather than broader academic learning.

The use of sanctions which in no way help the failing schools.

Failure to adequately fund the NCLB program.

How has NCLB impacted your schools? I know in schools in

the Tompkins County area, we've seen both positives and negatives. We are educating many children with disabilities to higher levels of achievement than we have in the past. However many of our teachers feel that they are educating in an environment of constant stress to teach to the escalating standards.

I plan on attending your dinner on January 10th. I look forward to meeting many of you there and hope that you might have some time to give some thought to the effects NCLB has had in your schools and bring some examples that we in turn can share with our legislators in Washington. You can Email me at: [daland@fttg.net](mailto:daland@fttg.net) or call 607-387-5426.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you soon,

Douglas Ann Land  
NYSSBA Area 4 Director



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## Prospective Board Member Workshop

**March 14, 2007, 7:30 p.m.**

**BOCES ISC room A**

A free workshop is offered to the public to assist prospective board members in gaining information regarding the roles and responsibilities of a school board member. Topics of discussion include:

Expectations of colleagues and administrators.

Challenges in dealing with special interest groups.

Legal responsibilities and Election procedures.

A new school board member's perspective.

Question and Answer session.

If you are aware of any interested potential board members, please let them know of this workshop. No registration is required.

For further information contact John Paske at 766-3807 or check the website at:

[www.btboces.org/sba](http://www.btboces.org/sba)



## NYSSBA Convention: Local member quotes

"It is very exciting to meet other board members from outside our immediate Broome-Tioga area, and to exchange ideas with board members from around all of New York State. The educational sessions were very informative and helped to make me a better educated board member. Just as we provide in-service training for school staff, a board member can also benefit from the "in-service" training provided at the NYSSBA convention. If you can go - I say GO!"

Michon Stuart—Vestal

"One of the best things about additional education, seminar, and conference activities is the chance to hear from other districts about what is working and what is not. That happens in the sessions but just as importantly it also happens in discussions before, during, and after the sessions. Meeting other school board members from around the state greatly expands my ability to understand and deal with issues in my own district. Even if the item

being discussed isn't directly relevant to what is going on in my district, the way my peers are dealing with it is."

Randy Kerr—Newark Valley

"I found two particular workshops to be informative. The first was presented by the Rush-Henrietta Board on "School Governance". They clearly outlined what makes a board efficient and effective. They also provided helpful information for new board member orientation including a district specific manual for new board members. At BOCES, we plan to implement a manual to improve our new member orientation process. The second excellent presentation was given by Brenda Myers, Superintendent at Groton and Ellen O'Donnell, District Superintendent from TST BOCES. Their presentation involved steps that can be taken both by the candidate and the board to assist in a smooth and successful transition for the new superintendent once that candidate

has been hired. I thoroughly enjoyed the NYC conference and look forward to the opportunity to return in 2007."

Sandy Ruffo - BT BOCES



## Calendar of Events

### January 10, 2007

Joint dinner meeting  
Binghamton Regency  
6:00 p.m.

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### January 31, 2007

BTSBA Legislative Committee Meeting : Prepare for the Legislative Lobbying Initiatives

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

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### March 4-6, 2007

NYSSBA State Legislative Issues Conference, Albany

### March 14, 2007

Prospective board member workshop

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### March 28, 2007

Board Pres/ VP Workshop  
6:00 p.m. BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A

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### June 13, 2007

Scholastic Dinner  
Binghamton Regency



## What Makes a Good Board Member?

The legal requirements for board members are few, but qualifications for effective service are many. The most effective board members possess most or all of these attributes:

**Effective Communicator** – Can describe what he or she wants and describe what others want; a good listener.

**Consensus Builder** – Capable of working toward decisions that all can support and willing to compromise to achieve that goal.

**Community Participant** – Enjoys meeting a variety of people, can identify the community's key communicators and reaches out to fellow citizens.

**Decision-Maker** – Knows his or her own as well as other's decision-making styles, can support group decision-making.

**Information Processor** – Can organize priorities and schedules

to handle large quantities of verbal and written information.

**Leader** – Willing to take risks, be supportive of board colleagues, district staff, and community.

**Team Player** – Helps promote the board's vision and goals.

**Advocate** – for public education and an educated public.

**Critical Thinker** – weighs facts, relevance, and effects and focuses on outcomes, future and governance.

**Life-Long-Learner** – continuously keeps informed and keeps up on educational trends.

**Tolerant and Free of Prejudice** – Responsive to the diverse needs of individuals and groups.

Reference:

[www.nyssba.org](http://www.nyssba.org)



*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."  
—William Butler Yeats*





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