

## JOINT CONFERENCE UPDATE

It's a new school year. That translates to new challenges. More demands. Increased accountability. Decreased dollars.

For school leaders, the enhanced focus on student achievement—and requirements to document and report that achievement—has resulted in new, uncharted requirements for educators and administrators, and for the school committees that must follow through with prescribed, rigorously detailed, administrator evaluations. The early rumblings of protest around Common Core and the proposed PARCC assessment have grown over the past year into a full-scale revolt, as a number of states have withdrawn participation in the exam, and there is increasing support in Massachusetts to defer implementation. (Note: A resolution to defer administration of the PARCC exam will be taken up

by the delegates at the MASC Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 4 during the Joint Conference).

Also of concern to MA school leaders are recent initiatives designed to help every child succeed, marked by a renewed focus on closing not only the achievement gap, but the growing equity gap that indicates nearly 30% of MA children are often homeless, transient and/or living below the poverty line. These initiatives include Innovation Schools, Recovery High Schools, virtual schools, expanded options through educational collaboratives, home-school networks and increased support for wrap-around services.

For many districts, the key to providing these levels of support depends on state funding that has stagnated since the recession and which has been held hostage by a 20-year-old funding

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## Former Holyoke School Committee Member Appointed to Board of Education

**Michael Moriarty**, a former member of the Holyoke School Committee, and Harvard University economics professor **Dr. Roland G. Fryer, Jr.**, are the newest members of the 11-member Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Their appointments were announced by Governor Charlie Baker on September 17.

Mr. Moriarty will replace David Roache, whose term expired in June and Dr. Fryer will replace member Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, Ph.D.

"Massachusetts has a world class public education system, said Moriarty, "and together with the Administration I would like to make a meaningful contribution to closing the achievement gap, especially in the

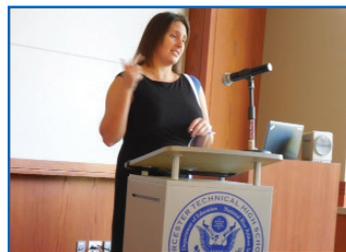
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## MASC NEWS

### OPIATE CRISIS LEADS DISCUSSION AT MASC WORKSHOP

Divisions IV and VIII hosted a workshop on the Opiate Crisis in MA on Saturday, September 12th. Fifty individuals participated in a discussion lead by **Senator Jennifer Flanagan** of Leominster, Worcester County Sheriff **Law Evangelidis** and the **Easton Public School Nursing Team**. Senator Flanagan began the program by clarifying the recommendation her Commission submitted to the Senate the day before. "I am not saying we need to do drug testing in the schools. We need to ask the right questions which will give us the red flags to look further." She noted students are asking for more information about opiates in public school health education programs. Parents can't ignore the conversation because the crisis is here. As a legislator she continuously visits mental health facilities, public health programs in and outside of schools and detention centers around the Com-

Senator Jennifer Flanagan



monwealth to keep informed about this disease. "I've seen your children in places where you wouldn't want to go".

Sheriff Evangelidis actively engaged audience members in his Face2Face drug intervention program. Using technology designed by plastic surgeons to show anticipated results from surgery, Evangelidis tweaked the program to show

the ravages of drug use. He has presented the program to more than 160 thousand middle school students throughout Worcester County.

Lynne LeBlanc, Eileen Gardner, Susan Male: These nursing professionals brought a recommendation which was accepted this past July to the Easton School Committee allowing them to carry Narcan in each of their schools. In their presentation they spoke of wanting to be prepared as seconds count when trying to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. While noting Narcan was one tool in their fight, they stressed the crisis needed to be seen as community-based, impacting students and their families.

*This year's MASC-MASS Joint Conference is themed to address issues of equity and education and how to help all students, regardless of family income, current zip code, or national origin achieve to the standards of excellence we aspire for all students. The New England Food and Dairy Council, longtime sponsor of the Joint Conference, has been committed to helping districts ensure that students arrive at school nourished and ready to learn.*

# Take Advantage of Your School Meal Programs to Help Break the Cycle of Poverty

A daily school breakfast can provide a lifetime of opportunity by Diane Krol, RD, LDN

Whether we are a parent, teacher, school committee member or school administrator, we all want a better life for our children. For administrators and school committee members, this hope is the driving force behind every decision you make for your district. For students to be successful, simply being present in the classroom isn't enough. They must have the energy to be attentive and able to learn when they are there. A simple and proven way to ensure that is to offer school breakfast!

You can put the best teacher with the best tools available in the classroom but if a child is hungry they won't be able to focus on the business at hand.... learning! For many families, being able to depend on the availability of consistent meals can still be a luxury. In 2013, more than 17.5 million (14.3%) of American households, including almost one in five (19.5%) households with children, struggled with hunger. One in six students in Massachusetts suffers from food insecurity, worrying about where their next meal will come from. School meals have helped to fill that critical gap.

School breakfast has the power to break the poverty cycle by opening the door to future opportunity. The cause and effect relationship between success and school breakfast is real. Research demonstrates that students who eat school breakfast have higher test scores. To take it one step further, in many communities school breakfast serves as an incentive for students to attend school in the first place.

But breakfast at school means so much more. Participation in school breakfast doesn't just reduce student hunger; it also has been linked with: improved overall dietary quality; a lower probability of overweight and obesity; fewer incidences of tardiness, absenteeism and disciplinary problems;

and fewer visits to the school nurse.

## How can you open the door to a bright future for you students?

- Maximize the school meal programs that are available to your school district. Support, promote and partner with your School Nutrition Department in any way you can to improve the "educational quality" of students' lives. Participation in school breakfast lags behind that of school lunch. Sadly, Massachusetts is among the bottom 10 performing states in providing breakfast options for students.
- Investigate programs that are available to help your district become a breakfast success story.

Proven school wellness programs such as Fuel Up to Play 60 — a program founded by National Dairy Council and the National Football League (NFL), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) — encourage students to take charge in making small, everyday changes toward a healthy lifestyle at school. **All schools are eligible to receive up to \$4000 to help develop healthy in-school initiatives including breakfast programs.** These small changes can make a big difference.

## Visit [MASchoolBreakfast.org](http://MASchoolBreakfast.org)

In Massachusetts funds and other resources are available to help schools increase student participation in the School Breakfast Program through the MA School Breakfast Challenge. DESE Commissioner Mitchell Chester, in partnership with New England Dairy & Food Council, School Nutrition Association of MA, Project Bread's Child Nutrition Outreach Program and MA Department of Agricultural Resources has challenged school districts to increase school breakfast participation by 35% or more.

You can learn more about these opportunities at the November **MASC/MASS Joint Conference**. Join New England Dairy & Food Council's dietitian, Diane Krol, for a Quick Session on **Thursday, November 6 from 8:10-**

**8:35am** Bring your coffee (muffins will be available) and leave armed with a toolkit to help guide you, your food service director and district to the resources available to help your students succeed in school.

*Diane Krol, RD, LDN is a Nutrition Specialist at New England Dairy & Food Council. To learn more about school breakfast grant opportunities, please contact her at [DKrol@NewEnglandDairy.com](mailto:DKrol@NewEnglandDairy.com).*

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Gateway cities. I have spent my career fighting for early literacy success for all children, and am thrilled that the Governor has taken a leadership role to have every child read proficiently by the end of the third grade."

Moriarty is the Executive Director of Olde Holyoke Development Corporation, a non-profit community development agency focused on affordable home ownership, rehabilitation and community engagement. Previously, he practiced law for 20 years in Holyoke. He served for thirteen years on the Holyoke School Committee, and is the founder and past president of Friends of Holyoke Public Schools, Inc., a local education fund serving his community.

Roland G. Fryer, Jr. is the Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University and faculty director of the Education Innovation Laboratory (EdLabs). His work on education, inequality, and race has been widely cited in media outlets and Congressional testimony. He was awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship and the John Bates Clark Medal -- given by the American Economic Association to the best American Economist under age 40.

## 21st annual PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

### Recognizing young people for outstanding volunteer service

Created in 1995, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards recognize students in grades 5-12 who have made meaningful contributions to their communities through volunteer service.

Young volunteers can apply online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or [www.nassp.org/spirit](http://www.nassp.org/spirit). Applications must be completed by November 3, 2015 and then submitted to a middle or high school principal. Paper versions of the application form are available by calling 877-525-8491 or email [spirit@nassp.org](mailto:spirit@nassp.org).

Local Honorees will be selected in early November. In February, a middle and a high school student from each state will be chosen as State Honorees and will receive \$1,000 awards and an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC with a

parent for four days April 30-May 3, 2016. In Washington, a national selection committee will name 10 of the State Honorees as America's top youth volunteers of 2016. They will receive \$5,000 and \$5,000 grants from The Prudential Foundation for the non-profit charitable organizations of their choice.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Any student who:

- is in grades 5-12 as of November 3, 2015 and is a legal resident of one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia.
- has engaged in a volunteer activity that occurred at least in part after September 1, 2014.
- completes an application and submits it to a school principal or the head of an officially designated local organization by November 3, 2015.

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formula.

But over the past year that formula has been under the scrutiny of a state-wide panel of education, local and legislative leaders. As members of the Foundation Budget Review Commission, more than 30 members have spent the past 15 months analyzing the extent to which the formula established by the 1993 Education Reform Act meets the educational needs of students in 2015. The Commission, which includes MASC President Patrick Francomano and Immediate Past President Ann Marie Cugno, is expected to release its final report in early November. As *this Bulletin goes to press, a special double session is being planned for Wednesday November 4 at the opening of the Joint Conference, led by Francomano, which will preview the Commission's recommendations and discuss the impact of these on future school district budgets.*

And that's just the beginning. In total, more than 75 panel sessions, keynote programs as well as last-year's well-received sponsor-partner informational sessions will be featured at the Conference in Hyanis November 4-7. Special strands will focus on fiscal and cost-savings initiatives as well as how collaboratives are offering new programs and services that can help districts remain cost-effective and competitive. Other highlights on the agenda are leadership (educator, administrator and school committee); programs focusing on student and family health and wellness; labor relations for student achievement; legal and legislative updates; updates on charter schools and PARCC testing, as well as sessions on communication/advocacy; goal-setting and succession planning.

Other conference standards include the expanded Exhibit Hall opening on Wednesday afternoon. Wednesday and Thursday will also feature a strand of shorter informational sessions offered by our sponsor-partners. And don't forget to join

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## Lifetime Achievement and All-State School Committee Award Winners Announced

On Friday, November 6 at the annual joint conference Life Member/Leadership Awards banquet, the following MASC members will be recognized for their contributions to the Association and to their student and school communities.

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

**Brian Moriarty**, Holyoke

**Richard Barnardi**, Northern Berkshire Reg. Voc.Tech.

**Steven Chalke**, Upper Cape Cod Reg. Voc. Tech.

**Lisa Minnick**, Northampton

**Frances Zito**, Attleborough

**Michael Trowbridge**, Mansfield

**Raymond Riddick**, Nashoba Reg. Voc.Tech. (in memoriam)

### ALL-STATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Division I: **Connie Martin**, Lowell

Division II: **Michael O'Neill**, Boston

Division III: **Chris Ghilarducci**, Berkley/Somerset-Berkley

Division IV: **Tyler Keenan**, Leicester

Division V: **Wendy Rua**, Agawam

Division VI: **Shawn Armacost**, Central Berkshire Reg.

Division VII: **Evelyn Bouley**, Old Colony Reg. Voc. Tech.

Division VIII: **Don Erickson**, Southern Worcester Reg. Voc.Tech.

Division IX: **Tracy O'Connell Novick**, Worcester

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in the Exhibitors' Bingo challenge with prizes, prizes, prizes for the lucky winners.

We are very excited about this year's guest speakers. A special featured morning session on Thursday will focus on the unique challenges facing districts who serve students in economic, social and emotional crisis. The session will be moderated by **Margaret McKenna**, a member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, who is also the newly appointed President of Suffolk University. Thursday General Session speaker **Pasi Sahlberg**, currently a visiting professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, will discuss education strategies to serve all students, focusing in particular on aspects of public education in Finland which is among the highest performing countries on multi-national tests.

Following the success last year of the Thursday evening after-dinner presentation, this year's speaker **Jack Gallagher** will make you both laugh at life's unpredictability and reflect on the challenges it presents. Gallagher is a nationally known media

entertainer and humorist who has appeared on many major programs and venues.

Friday General Session speaker **Yong Zhao**, an internationally author and speaker, will discuss the current vogue that holds the Chinese educational system in such high regard, and at the same time, puncture some of the myths surrounding the touted successes of these students. Friday evening, the MASC Board of Directors will host the traditional Life Member/Leadership Awards banquet at which new and returning Life Members will be recognized. In addition, awards to the 2015 All-State School Committee members, Lifetime Achievement winners and the Association's Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. award will be presented for a lifetime of outstanding service to children, families and education. (See box on page 3 for the list of this year's honorees.)

### EXPANDED FRIDAY-SATURDAY PROGRAM

In a conscious effort to make it possible for as many members as possible to participate in the conference, the planning committee once again opted to expand the special Friday-Saturday reduced rate registration program to

a full day and a half of key sessions focused on leadership, advocacy and student-related topics. A full slate of important sessions will be offered on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, concluding with the Saturday **Student Voices Lunch**. This hugely popular event first held last year will feature current and former MA student leaders who will engage members in a discussion about their educational experience and how it has served them beyond the classroom. This is an important opportunity to hear from these thoughtful students (several of whom are currently your colleagues on school committees) and how they believe school leaders can improve the school and learning environment.

### upcoming events

October 14, 6:00pm

Division III Meeting

The Charlie Horse

West Bridgewater

October 15, 6:30pm

Division V, VIII, IX Meeting

Lower Pioneer Education

Collaborative, West Springfield

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**masc**