

MASC Legislators of the Year announced

The MASC Board of Directors is delighted to honor **Representative Paul Mark** and **Senator Joan Lovely** as the Association's 2019 Legislators of the Year. The awards will be presented in Hyannis during the upcoming Joint Conference.

Mark, who represents 16 cities and towns across Franklin and Berkshire Counties, has been a driving advocate for elementary and secondary public education, and in particular a passionate spokesperson on behalf of regional and rural schools. He has also been an active participant and advisor to the Berkshire County Roundtable which has been exploring options for growing the economy and improving the outcomes for students and families in the Berkshire community. An attorney by profession, he began serving in the MA legislature in January, 2011.



Rep. Paul Mark



Sen. Joan Lovely

Senator Joan Lovely is in her fourth term as State Senator for the Second Essex District, comprised of Beverly, Danvers, Peabody, Salem and Topsfield. She has been serving in the Massachusetts Senate since January 2013. Senator Lovely serves as Assistant Majority Leader; as Co-Chair of the Joint Committees on Rules; and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Personnel and Administration. In honoring her, the Board

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Renewing our Commitment to Public Education

by Representative Alice Peisch and Senator Jason Lewis

Note: Today, as this issue of the MASC Bulletin goes to press, the House begins its deliberations of the Student Opportunity Act education reform legislation, which passed the Senate earlier this month. Below we reprint the statement issued by Education Committee Co-Chairs Peisch and Lewis when the bill was released from Education Committee in late September. In addition, Peisch and Lewis have been invited to join MASC Legislative Counsel Stephen Finnegan on a legislative update panel on Thursday, November 7 at the Joint Conference.

Are you registered?

Massachusetts has a long and proud commitment to public education. John Adams, the author of our state constitution, saw public education as the spark that would set democracy alight. Horace Mann championed the once radical idea of a free public education for all children.

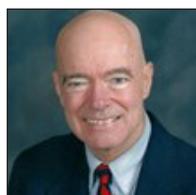
The Commonwealth's strong commitment to high quality public schools has provided us with a highly educated workforce and a dynamic 21st century economy. The passage of the 1193 Education Reform Act has been credited with putting MA students at the top of national and international lists of student achievement. That legislation set high academic standards, along with assessments to measure student performance, and established a first-in-the-nation funding formula to ensure that all districts had the resources

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IN MEMORIAM: BRIAN O'CONNELL

MASC sorrowfully announces the sudden and unexpected passing on October 18 of Past President and 36-year Worcester School Committee member Brian O'Connell.

At MASC, Brian was first nominated to the Board of Directors in 1994 as Acting Chair of Division IV. The following year he was nominated to serve as Secretary-Treasurer on the Executive Committee, on which he also served as President-Elect (1997) and as President in 1998.



Brian O'Connell

An attorney and school business manager by profession, Brian was a thoughtful and committed member of the MASC Legislative Committee for more than two decades and served multiple terms on the Needs Assessment and Resolutions Committees. During the debate on and subsequent implementation of the 1993 Education Reform Act, Brian was a champion of reform to benefit all students regardless of zip code and a passionate advocate for bilingual

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School Committee assistance sought in supporting healthy relationships public awareness campaign

LED BY LT. GOVERNOR KAREN POLITO, the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence—in partnership with the Office of Health and Human Services—has recommended increased support for awareness and prevention efforts to help reduce the number of individuals who experience sexual and domestic violence in their lives. This initiative includes the launch of "RESPECTfully" a public awareness and prevention campaign that promotes healthy relationships (friendships and intimate partner relationships) for MA youth aged 12-18.

To share the key message the everyone deserves respect, honesty, and open communication, *RESPECTfully* uses short, animated videos that illustrate problematic behaviors, provide a resolution and include a call to action to treat everyone *RESPECTfully*. The

videos will be share on social media platforms and additional ads will be placed in major public transportation areas and convenience stores across the state.

School districts are an important partner in awareness efforts. As a way to share messaging, the Lt. Gov. is asking School Committees to support and promote *RESPECTfully* by adopting a resolution designating your district as a *RESPECTful School District*." Your district will be highlighted on the RESPECTful Map (www.mass.gov/RESPECTfully) and you'll receive a shout-out on the *RESPECTfully* Instagram account (@RESPECTfullyMA).

The resolution can be downloaded from the homepage on the MASC website (www.masc.org). Please send a copy of your adopted resolution to alexis.dellaquilla@MassMail.State.MA.US. ♦

Equity, Homeless Students and Other Policies: New and Updated

Members take note: Several new and updated policies have been recently posted in the MASC online reference manual. These include the newly developed **Equal Education Opportunities Policy** (JB), as well as updated policies on homeless students (JFABD); educational opportunities for military children (JFABE)

and guidelines for children in foster care (JFABP). The revised policies also include a summary of the changes.

MASC is currently finalizing a much-anticipated policy on Public Comment and is looking into additional policy updates. Check your mailbox for more details in our upcoming *Policy Newsletter*. ♦

LEG OF THE YEAR

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recognizes her longstanding interest in and advocacy for elementary and secondary public education and in particular, her commitment to protecting school children from sexual abuse. She began her activism at the local-level when she collaborated with neighbors and volunteers to rebuild a local playground for neighborhood children and families in Salem. ♦

BRIAN O'CONNELL

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students and students at risk. He was a frequent presenter at MASC Conferences and Day on the Hill programs, and was a member of the Association's Urban Council (the predecessor to Division IX) and the National School Boards Association's Federal Relations Network. He also served with distinction and diligence on the first MA Education Reform Review Commission.

A native of Worcester, Brian was committed to the students and families of the community. He worked successfully and cooperatively with five dif-

ferent school superintendents and nine different mayors. Colleagues note that his achievements on the committee have shaped public education in the city for the benefit of thousands of students and teachers. School committee members and others in the school and city community recall his intelligence, humor and passion for education. Described as an example of dignity and integrity, "his legacy will continue for many years to come."

A graduate of Holy Cross College and Harvard Law School, Brian retired earlier this year as business manager of the Haverhill Public School District.

Godspeed on your journey home. ♦

MASC/MASS JOINT CONFERENCE

LEADING IN TIMES OF CHANGE

Are YOU registered?

www.masc.org

Conference Program

Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis

November 6-9, 2019

The **NEW, IMPROVED, STREAMLINED** Superintendent Evaluation Process

Earlier this year, DESE released revised guidelines for the superintendent evaluation process (MASC was represented on the team that designed the revised, streamlined tool). To introduce the new process, MASC, MASS and DESE are offering a nuts and bolts training session **AT NO CHARGE** with the goal of helping school committee members and administrators acquire a better understanding of the new process that is aligned with the DESE model system guidance and the regulations.

The presentation will include an overview of the process including the evaluation requirements, the principles of best practice, an introduction to the recently revised training and guidance tools, as well as an introduction to the pilot Indicator Level Rubric. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

PRESENTERS: Glenn Koocher, MASC Executive Director; Dorothy Presser, MASC Field Representative; Claire Abbott, Manager, PK-12 Educator Effectiveness, DESE; Thomas Scott, Executive Director, MASS

DATE: Monday, November 25, 2019

TIME: 9:30-11:00am

LOCATION: Assabet Valley Regional School, Marlboro

FEE: There is no charge to attend, but registration is required to confirm numbers

REGISTER: www.masc.org under events and conferences/latest events

Renewing our Commitment to Public Education

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necessary to provide the education needed to meet the standards.

While the standards and assessments have been periodically updated, and the funding amounts annually increased to reflect cost increases, concern that some elements of the formula were not keeping up with inflation led the Legislature to reinstate the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC). In 2015, the FBRC identified four areas within the formula that needed to be updated: employee and retiree health insurance costs; special education costs; and the additional amounts provided to serve the needs of English learners and low-income students. The Legislature and the Governor began implementing those recommendations in FY2018.

The Student Opportunity Act, released recently by the Joint Committee on Education, ensures full implementation of the FBRC's recommendation over a seven year schedule, giving school districts the additional resources needed to educate students and the predictability needed to build an effective school budget. This unprecedented \$1.5

billion pre-inflation investment will go a long way towards closing opportunity gaps facing students, especially our minority and low-income students.

The Act also recognized that more needs to be done to support our schools, and it contains a number of additional funding provisions, including: updating foundation budget rates for guidance and psychological services to better meet the social, emotional and mental health needs of students; fully funding charter school transitional tuition reimbursement; expanding the special education "circuit breaker" to reimburse districts for out-of-district transportation costs in addition to instructional costs; and lifting the annual spending cap on the MA School Building Authority so that more school construction and renovation project can move forward.

Further, the Act recognizes that additional steps are necessary to maximize the impact of this new funding in improving student outcomes and closing opportunity gaps. The bill establishes a new 21st century Education Trust Fund that will support districts and schools pursuing creative approaches to closing opportunity and achievement gaps. This fund

will also support efforts to achieve greater efficiencies in districts facing low and declining student enrollment, particularly in rural areas of the state.

In addition, the bill requires school districts to develop public plans with clear goals and metrics for improving student outcomes; directs the secretary of education to collect and publish data on student preparedness in each district and high school for post-graduate success in college and the workforce; and creates a new Data Advisory Commission to improve the use of data at the state, district, and school levels in strengthening instruction and learning.

This consensus legislation is the result of work shaped by ongoing and vital inputs provided by education stakeholders from across the state, including teachers, administrators, students, parents, state and local officials, business leaders, academic experts and community organizations. We believe this legislation reaffirms the Commonwealth's commitment to providing high quality public education for all students and will set a course for greater academic and life success for current and future generation of students. ♦

Attorney General to Address MASC/MASS Conference Attendees on Student Health/Wellness Issues

MA Attorney General **Maura Healey** will be the featured speaker at the Leadership Luncheon on Friday, November 8 during the MASC/MASS Joint Conference.

Currently serving her second term, she has been focusing her energies on issues that most directly impact the commonwealth's citizens and their well-being, most recently confronting the devastating opioid epidemic, including suing Purdue Pharma and its executives for their role in creating this crisis. She and her team have also led efforts to pass common sense reforms to prevent gun violence, reduce health care and energy costs, and advance women's reproductive rights and economic freedom. In her address to conference attendees, Healy will discuss her office's student health and wellness initiatives (Project Here and the office's partnership with Sandy Hook Promise, both of which organizations will also be presenting during the conference). She will also touch on vaping and how to support schools moving forward.



Maura Healey

Lunch tickets are still available at www.masc.org

Freetown-Lakeville School Committee member to be honored

Robert Clark, a 31-year member of the Freetown-Lakeville School Committee, has been nominated to receive a **Lifetime Achievement Award** from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. During his years of service, Mr. Clark has held leadership positions and served on numerous subcommittees and

school-related advocacy groups. In his professional life, he was a public school teacher and administrator for 25 years, before joining the faculties of Bridgewater State, Fisher College, Bristol Community College and the Brockton Hospital School of Nursing. His colleagues praise him as a recognized community leader and an advocate for students and older residents of the Freetown-Lakeville community.

The award will be presented to

Mr. Clark and other Lifetime Achievement and All-State School Committee recipients on Thursday, November 7 at the Awards Banquet during the annual conference in Hyannis. There is still time to register for the conference and/or to attend the dinner.

Note: In the September issue of the MASC Bulletin, a list of the 2019 Lifetime Achievement winners inadvertently omitted Mr. Clark's name. The editor apologizes to Mr. Clark and the colleagues who nominated him.

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