

SPECIAL MASC/MASS CONFERENCE UPDATE

November 4-7, 2015

Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis

RECENT CHANGES/ADDITIONS

MASC has built a smartphone/tablet app for the Joint Conference!

Our new app has all of the information you need – schedule/agenda, maps (hotel conference room map and get directions to the conference center), hotel website, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and handouts that will help you navigate the conference and make it a more productive and user-friendly learning event for you and your district.

You can also use the app to follow twitter conversations (hashtag #MASCconf2015)!

Begin taking advantage of this conference tool now. Download the app for your iphone, android, or blackberry (the iphone app is designed for the iphone but will also work on ipads too!) then watch for special notifications and alerts throughout the conference!

Not sure how to access the app? Bring your phone to the conference and we'll help answer your questions and get you up and running. And delegates: bring your phone to the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 4 where we may try a test using the app for voting purposes.



MASC WILL ORGANIZE A MINORITY CAUCUS AT THE CONFERENCE

The MASC Board of Directors is moving to organize a Minority Caucus to address the special concerns of our members representing recognized racial, linguistic and ethnic minority constituencies. We estimate that we have as many as 75 such members in Massachusetts at this time.

In order to organize the caucus, we are holding a special meeting of interested members at the state convention in Hyannis on Friday, November 6, 2015 from 7:45 – 8:45am. You do not need to register for the convention to attend the Caucus organizational meeting or to participate once it is organized.

Accordingly, there is a proposal for an MASC bylaw change to expand the MASC Board of Directors by formally creating a Minority Caucus and providing the Chair of the Caucus a seat on the MASC Board of Directors. In the event that this change is approved by the Delegate Assembly on November 4th we want to be able to launch the caucus immediately.

To that end it we will appoint an interim chair shortly following an affirmative vote by the Delegate Assembly and have reserved November 6 at 7:45-8:45 a.m. in the Osterville B Room for the first meeting. The interim chair will serve until the caucus approves its own by-laws and elects its own officers and may be considered for election as chair or other officer. If you are interested in being considered for interim chair please forward an email of interest to me at pefrancomano@gmail.com no later than November 1st.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference.

Patrick Francomano, MASC President

MASC Past Presidents: *Join us at the conference Friday, November 6, (5:00pm): Past Presidents Council Meeting*

NEW: *Saturday, November 7 (8:00am): Past Presidents Breakfast*

Not registered yet
for the
conference?
Register on-site
in Hyannis.

MASC DELEGATE ASSEMBLY UPDATE:

In addition to the 7 resolutions that will be considered by the delegates relative to (1) high school start times; (2) poverty and children; (3) tying test scores to Chapter 70 funding; (4) support for equitable/sustainable placement programs for students under McKinney-Vento Homeless Act; (5) tax reform ballot question; (6) school committee representation on the BESE; (7) teaching strategies GOLD assessments delegates will also consider the following proposed amendments to the MASC bylaws.

Proposed Changes to MASC By-Laws

Referred by the Board of Directors

I. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VIII, Section 1

Addition of the following paragraph to Section 1:

Any member of the MASC Board of Directors serving on the Board of Directors for the National School Board Association (NSBA) shall continue to serve as a voting member of the MASC Board until such time as his/her term on the MASC Board expires in accordance with these by-laws. Any member of MASC serving on the NSBA Board of Directors shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the MASC Board of Directors for the duration of his/her term on the NSBA Board.

Explanation: This would permit any MASC member elected to the NSBA Board of Directors to remain as a voting or non-voting member of the MASC Board of Directors. An individual who is entitled to vote on the MASC Board because of his/her status as a state association officer or division chair may continue to do so if elected concurrently to the NSBA Board. Once the individual concludes service as an officer or division chair, that member may sit as a non-voting member of the MASC Board of Directors.

II. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VIII, Section 1 and Section 4

The first sentence of Article VIII, Section 1 shall be amended by revising the first sentence as follows: The Officers, the Immediate Past President, the Division Chairmen and the Chair of the Minority Caucus, shall constitute the Board of Directors except that no employee of the Association may serve on the Board of Directors.

Further, Article VIII, Section IV shall be amended by deleting the word "fourteen" and substituting the word "fifteen".

Explanation: This adds a member to the Board (Chair of Minority Caucus). The Board, through administrative policy, has created a "Minority Caucus." The Caucus was created to address issues of racial and linguistic concern to members, similar to the minority caucuses established by the National School Boards Association.

MASC members may self-identify and join the Caucus, A Chair will be voted later in the year by the caucus members.

Because of the appointment of an additional member to the Board of Directors, the quorum changes from eight out of fourteen to eight out of fifteen, a simple majority.

UPDATED SPEAKER INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY KEYNOTE DINNER

Featured Speaker:

John D'Auria, President Teachers21

Topic: *"The Heart of Learning"*

THURSDAY GENERAL SESSION

Keynote Speakers:

• **Dr. William Pollack**, Director, Center for Young Men & Boys, McLean Hospital

• **Ron Walker**, Executive Director, Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COSEBOC)

Topic: *"The Boy Crisis: In the Classroom and on the Streets—An Emphasis on Boys of Color and Boys at Risk"*

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Thomas P. ("Tip") O'Neill, Jr. Award will be presented at the **MASC LIFE MEMBER/AWARDS BANQUET** to

Mayor Michael McGlynn (Medford) and **Superintendent Roy Belson** (Medford)

UPDATED PANEL INFORMATION

- (Revised session description)

Developing Future Technology Leaders in a Student-Run Help Desk

Saturday, November 7

9:00-10:15am (Hyannisport West)

Student-run Help Desk programs provide students with real-world experiences in the use, management, and integration of digital tools and devices. This internship approach enables students to develop valuable skills beyond the traditional classroom structure and environment. Join three area schools to learn different ways in which Help Desk programs can be structured. Hear directly from students, teacher-mentors and IT staff as they share their successes and challenges with districts looking to develop their own student-run Help Desk.

Attending by District:

- **Lynnfield Public Schools**

Jennifer Judkins, District Technology Integration Specialist

Kathleen Dario, IT Coordinator

Janice Alpert, Media Specialist

Dana Landry, Help Desk Student (accompanied by her Mom, Lauren Landry)

- **Mashpee Public Schools**

Colleen Terrill, District Technology Integration Specialist

CJ Cliff, Help Desk Student, Hamilton-Wenham

- **Hamilton-Wenham**

Johanna Wilson, Technology Integration Specialist

- **STUDENT VOICES LUNCHEON**

Saturday, November 7

12:00-1:00pm (Bass River Room)

Panelists: Tyler Keenan, Leicester School Committee (moderator); David Judkins, Worcester School Committee Student Representative; Brendan Clark, Barnstable High School/Chairman of the Youth Commission (Town of Barnstable); **Sandwich High**

School Students: Andrew Sivco, Taylor Scheuer, Sarah Butler

THURSDAY FEATURED PRESENTATION ISSUE HIGHLIGHT

Breakfast in the Classroom: Using the Dollars on the Table to put Food on the Desk

By: Andrea Silbert, President, Eos Foundation and Dr. Julie Hackett, Superintendent, Taunton Public Schools

There is growing acknowledgement in Massachusetts that we have widening 'gaps'— an income gap, an education gap, and an achievement gap, resulting in an overall opportunity gap for the next generation.

The Eos Foundation, along with over twenty school districts across the state, has been working on another, related gap that just so happens to rest in the nexus of the problem, the 'nutrition gap,' among our children. While the other gaps are complex and require complex solutions, the nutrition gap lends itself to a straightforward solution.

The simple fact is that educators see thousands of children throughout the Commonwealth - in cities, suburbs and rural towns - who come to school hungry or undernourished. They remain so until lunchtime when they receive a free nutritious meal.

As we start the school year, we are reminded of the value of a starting each day with healthy breakfast. In addition to supporting classroom achievement, school breakfast can have a significant positive financial impact. Sadly, Massachusetts is currently 44th in the nation in school breakfast participation and according to the Mass Budget and Policy Center is leaving over \$25,000,000 in federal reimbursements "on the table."

While most schools in low income districts in Massachusetts are required to provide a free breakfast, student participation is low because breakfast is typically provided in the cafeteria before school, resulting in a 40% participation rate for breakfast while lunch participation averages over 80%. Anyone with children will attest to the difficulty of getting kids to school ON TIME much less EARLY. So the solution is simple – serve universal free breakfast in the classroom (BIC) after the bell.

The consequences of inaction are alarming. The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) reports that children who skip breakfast and experience hunger have lower math scores, are less able to differentiate visual images and are more likely to be hyperactive and exhibit behavioral, emotional and academic problems. They are also more likely to repeat a grade, and receive special education services and mental health counseling. Conversely, FRAC research shows that children who eat breakfast at school demonstrate improved cognitive function, attention and memory and perform better on standardized tests.

Since 2013, through its Nourishing Kids Initiative, the Eos Foundation has provided funding and technical assistance to over 90 low income schools to offer universal free breakfast in the classroom (BIC) after the bell for more than 40,000 children.

These schools are already reporting gains in a number of areas. "With BIC, I know all my students are eating breakfast and starting the day ready to learn. After only a few months serving BIC, we see students engaged and ready to learn, a calmer class environment and a dramatic decrease in nurses visits so students are losing less time for learning" according to Taunton Superintendent, Dr. Julie Hackett. "Our schools also experience reduced disciplinary referrals, improvement in students' attendance, and less tardiness."

Finally, and critically, the Breakfast in the Classroom program is financially sustainable in low income school districts because the majority of the funding is covered by the USDA school meals program. In fact, in the first two years of the initiative alone, Eos' partner districts drew down an additional \$1,500,000 in USDA reimbursements that they otherwise would have forfeited.

Hunger and insufficient nutrition among school children exacerbates and perpetuates the education gap, the achievement gap and, most unfortunately, the opportunity gap.

We understand that issues and complications arise when we serve breakfast in the classroom. It requires the effort of teachers and custodial staff; it requires adjustments to lesson plans. But if we are truly committed to equality of opportunity, we should follow the model of these 90 schools. For once, a lack of available funding is not the issue.