

# MASC Bulletin

October 2011 v.45 n.4

www.masc.org

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES

## Joint Conference Update

WITH THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR WELL underway, and school leaders hunkering down to the challenges posed by new requirements and the continuing economic stalemate, MASC and MASS are finalizing the upcoming Joint Conference Program where over 60 panel sessions, keynotes and targeted workshops have been designed to help address the issues you are most concerned about.

The extensive program, which has been expanded this year at members' request and begins full throttle on Wednesday, November 9 at noon, features special strands focused on fiscal and cost-savings issues, as well as a look at how collaboratives can help your district remain cost-effective and

competitive. Recent legislative and regulatory changes, including the impact of health insurance reforms on collective bargaining, changes to the open meeting and public records law, the new educator and administrator evaluations, a rollout of the District Governance Support Project—a new MASC/MASS/DESE joint initiative to help school leaders and administrators collaborate effectively to promote student achievement—as well as many other sessions that will explore student health and wellness, legislative initiatives, and a special Friday, November 11 Veterans Day tribute to military families and how school districts can help those students and families cope with the stresses of absence and deployment.

In addition to the full line-up of panels beginning on Wednesday afternoon the ever-popular Exhibit Hall will be open with a record number of vendors this year, as well as the Keynote Dinner which will feature the state's three Education Commissioners (Early Ed; Elementary and Secondary; and Higher Ed) who will address new collaborative initiatives between their offices.

**(PLEASE NOTE:** the Delegate Assembly which has traditionally been held on Wednesday afternoon at the Conference will instead take place on Friday, November 11 at 3:00pm).

In addition on Wednesday night, the Department of Public Health will present their annual School Wellness awards to the six MA schools that are being honored for their efforts to develop exceptional policies and programs

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## MASC Legislator of the Year and Tip O'Neill Awards Announced

IN RECOGNITION OF ALMOST 40 YEARS working to improve public education and the educational prospects for the school children of the Commonwealth, the MASC Board of Directors will honor **Dr. Karla Brooks Baehr**, who retired earlier this year as Deputy Commissioner of Education, with its 2011 Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. award. The presentation will be made at the Awards Banquet on Thursday evening November 10 at the Joint Conference in Hyannis.

In announcing the award, MASC President Dorothy Presser applauded Dr. Baehr's commitment to public education, the students of the commonwealth and her unwavering support of a strong role and voice for locally elected school leaders in overseeing public education.

"As a teacher, superintendent and state administrator for the Commonwealth, Karla Brooks Baehr has been recognized and respected as a role model for her enlightened, inclusive and focused work, setting the highest standard of diligence, excellence and integrity in service to children and families."

A graduate of Middlebury College (B.A.), Harvard School of Education (M.Ed.) and Boston University (Ph.D.), Dr. Baehr began her teaching career in Arlington and Methuen, and held central office positions in personnel as well as curriculum and instruction. She subsequently served as Superintendent of Schools in Wellesley and Lowell, as Interim Superintendent in both Lexington and Franklin and as a mem-

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## MASC Collaborates on District Governance Support Project

MASC, in collaboration with the MA Association of School Superintendents and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, announces its ground-breaking partnership program developed to help school leaders understand their unique roles and responsibilities and build positive, effective relationships and adopt gov-

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# National News

## US Educational Edge Shrinking

The US still leads the world in having a college-educated workforce, but it is the only country among the world's leading economies whose incoming workers are less educated than those retiring, according to a new study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

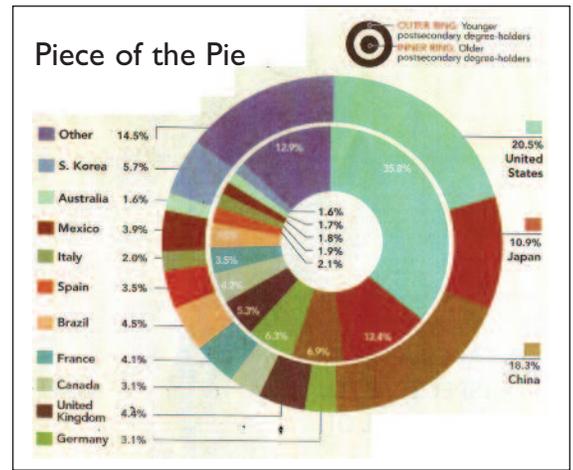
Released last month, the OECD's "Education at a Glance 2011" report compares education systems in the G-20 group, which is comprised of 19 countries in addition to the European Union members.

It finds that in 2009, Americans accounted for more than one in every

four of the 225 million people with postsecondary degrees in the G-20 countries. However, while Americans make up more than 1/3 of all those degree holders ages 55-64, comprise only 1/5 of those ages 25-34.

According to a spokesman from the OECD, the shift is not due to fewer American students pursuing postsecondary education, but to a tidal wave of foreign students catching up to US academic achievement, with China mentioned in particular.

Because of its well-educated older workers, the US still ranks in the top five most educated countries among the G-20, but it drops to 15th among



those ages 25-34—a decline that could deeply affect the nation's economic well-being. The full study is available on the OECD website at [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

## AWARDS

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ber of the faculty at Lesley University Graduate School of Education, where in addition to instructing aspiring teachers and administrators, she sought to build stronger partnerships between higher education institutions and K-12 districts. In July 2008, Dr. Baehr joined DESE as Deputy Commissioner for Accountability, Assistance and Partnerships. In this role she has worked closely with districts in transition and has led the effort to redesign the state's accountability and assistance system. Most recently, she has worked in collaboration with MASC and MASS to conceive and develop the District Governance Support Project to help school leaders build positive, effective relationships and implement governance practices that support student achievement.

In addition, the Board also voted to present its 2011 Legislator of the Year awards to **Senator Katherine Clark** and **Representative Paul Donato**, praising the support these legislators gave to MASC initiatives during last year's Education Reform debate and their efforts to ensure a continued strong role for school committees in education oversight.

A former school committee member (and chair) in Melrose, Senator Clark is currently serving her first term in the Senate having previously served in the Massachusetts House. She currently serves as Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service, and Vice Chair of the Committee on Community Development and Small Business.



Senator Clark



Representative Donato



Dr. Baehr

Senator Clark also serves on the Committees on Education, Public Health, Public Safety and Homeland Security, Veterans and Federal Affairs and Post Audit and Oversight. In addition, she is a member of the Advisory Council for the Department of Early Education and Care. Earlier this year, she was appointed to the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy Advisory Board at UMass.-Boston.

Representative Paul Donato of Medford is currently serving his sixth term in the House. Prior to entering the Legislature, he served on the Medford School Committee, and on the City

Council, including several terms as Mayor and City Council President.

Representative Donato currently serves as Division Leader having previously served as Chair of the Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government; as Chair of the House Steering Committee and Vice Chair of the Committee on Personnel and

Administration. In addition, he has been appointed to the MA Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren; is a member of the MA Network of Foster Care Alumni Board and an ex-officio member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee and recently served on the Governor's Municipal Task

Force for Federal Economic Stimulus Funds, Regionalization Advisory Commission and the Special Committee on Child Care and Neglect.

A strong supporter of MASC's legislative agenda over many years, Representative Donato has been particularly effective in helping to advance Association positions with the legislative leadership and has made himself available to MASC as a resource and guide. On several occasions he has been a featured presenter at MASC programs and workshops, sharing his insider's perspective on education and municipal issues of concern to members.

# MASC/MASS JOINT CONFERENCE

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in the various areas of health education (see box below for winning schools).

Thursday's General Session will explore one of the most discussed issues in recent months—the Future of Collective Bargaining in an era where the rules and regulations are rapidly changing in light of new pressures. Presenting evolving perspectives will be MTA President **Paul Toner**; MIT Professor of Management **Thomas Kochan**; and **Alan MacDonald**, President Emeritus of the MA Business Roundtable. The session will be introduced by State Auditor **Suzanne Bump** who will highlight the fiduciary role of school leaders and the importance of maintaining vigilant fiscal oversight. In addition to a morning round of panels, attendees will have plenty of time to again visit the Exhibit Hall, meet the exhibitors at the post-buffet "Ice Cream Social" and maybe even win one of the many prizes offered in the Exhibitors Bingo game. The evening program will feature MASC's Awards Banquet, followed by a special screening of the Friday General Session speaker **Tony Wagner's** groundbreaking film and research *The Finland Phenomenon: Inside the World's Most Surprising School System*. Wagner, a professor at the Harvard

Graduate School of Education, will introduce the film and answer questions at the end.

Popcorn will be available.

On Friday, Wagner will elaborate on his research on the global achievement gap at the General Session (followed by a book signing opportunity to meet and talk with him at greater length). The Friday featured health and wellness track, sponsored by **The New England Dairy Council**, will be followed by a special Veterans Day Tribute luncheon program at which **Dr. Paula Rauch** Chief of Child Psychiatry Liaison Services at MGH, will discuss the impact of military service on students and their families and how districts can implement programs to help them cope.

Also at the Friday lunch, MASC will recognize the outstanding vocational technical school students who won gold medals in their specialties at the 2011 National USA Skills award competition earlier this summer. These awards are highly competitive and Massachusetts traditionally takes many of the golds—this year, a record-breaking 17. Come and applaud these fantastic kids.

Following lunch, members are invited to attend their Division meetings, which will be followed by additional work-

shops and the Annual Delegate Assembly at which time officers for the 2012 year will be elected and resolutions relative to teacher evaluation, charter school funding NCLB and more will be voted on. These resolutions, sponsored by member districts, will form the basis of the Association's 2012 advocacy efforts. (The full text of resolutions are printed in the *Delegate Manual* which has been sent to all members and is posted on the MASC website: [www.masc.org](http://www.masc.org)). Districts are urged to designate a representative to attend the Delegate Assembly (MASC hopes that this year, because of the Veterans Day holiday, more members than ever will be able to attend the Friday sessions and Assembly. Your kids off that day? Bring the family and enjoy a long fall weekend on Cape Cod. The hotel will extend the special low conference room rate for the entire weekend.)

Friday evening will once again celebrate the best in school leadership including the introduction of MASC's 2012 Board of Directors and newly elected Life Members.

Obviously, something for everyone! If you haven't already registered, you can do so online at [www.masc.org](http://www.masc.org) or call (800)392-6023. And if you have registered—congratulations, and we look forward to seeing you in Hyannis.

## Governance

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ernance practices that support student achievement.

The District Governance Support Project, which is being underwritten by the US Department of Education, has been designed to focus on continuous improvement and promote new strategies for teamwork and collaboration between the school committee and the superintendent. The training program has been developed as a companion piece to the New Superintendent Induction Program for newly appointed superintendents.

Approximately 20 districts will be invited to participate in the first year's training. MASC coaches will work closely from the start with the local

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## School Wellness Awards announced

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in partnership with the MA Department of Public Health, initiated several years ago an annual School Wellness Award that is presented to schools that have demonstrated exceptional policies and programs in the areas of health education, physical education, physical activity, nutrition, staff wellness and tobacco prevention.

**This year's top-scoring schools—who will be presented the awards during the Joint Conference at the Keynote Dinner on Wednesday, November 9—are the:**

**Bridge Elementary School** (Lexington)  
**Foxborough Regional Charter School** (Foxborough)  
**Kennedy Elementary School** (Brockton)  
**North Intermediate School** (Wilmington)  
**West Intermediate School** (Wilmington)  
**Everett High School** (Everett)

Congratulations to these districts and their school leaders for their efforts to promote a healthy learning environment and support the importance of personal health and wellness in ensuring student success.

# MASC Lifetime Achievement and All-State School Committee Honorees Named

On Thursday, November 10 at the featured Awards Dinner Banquet during the Joint Conference in Hyannis, the recipients of MASC's 2011 **Lifetime Achievement** and **All-State School Committee** awards will be honored. The awards will be presented to the following MASC members. Incoming **Life Members** will be honored at the Friday night banquet

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT 2011

**William Brady**, Medford

**Patricia Chisholm**, Woburn

**Beverley Ann Griffin Dunne**, Peabody

**Linda Fobes**, South Middlesex Reg. Voc. Tech.

**Ellen Furtado**, Swansea

**James Gazzaniga, Sr.**, Northern Berkshire Reg. Voc. Tech.

**Nelson Goldin**, South Middlesex Reg. Voc. Tech.

**Robert Halla**, Whately/Frontier Reg.

**Edward Hill**, Greater Fall River Reg. Voc. Tech.

**Sherry Marshall**, Sandwich

**Paul McDonald**, Old Colony Reg. Voc. Tech.

**Robert Skerry, Jr.**, Medford

**Angela Taranto**, Chelmsford

**Paulette Van der Kloot**, Medford

## ALL-STATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE 2011

Division I

**Mayor Thatcher Kezer**, Amesbury

Division II

**Lisa Limonciello**, Waltham

Division III

**Michael Mullen, Jr.**, Rockland

Division IV

**Clifford Fountain**, Quaboag Reg.

Division V

**Dr. Farshid Hajir**, Leverett

Division VI

**Catherine Miller**, Southern Berkshire Reg.

Division VII

**Jeffrey Dykens**, Monomoy Reg.

Division VIII

**Maurice St. Amand**, Old Colony Reg. Voc. Tech.

Division IX

**Denis Birks**, Holyoke

# Governance

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school committee to assess the district's needs and goals.

According to MASC President Dorothy Presser, who was a leading member of the curriculum design committee, each participating school district cohort (school committee and superintendent) will be coached over the next six to sixteen months by a highly skilled and trained team of MASC consultants and former superintendents and the curriculum will be presented and customized to meet each district's particular needs. "Participants will not only learn how to focus their efforts for the benefit of all students, but also learn to avoid the various traps and pitfalls of governance that can derail even the best intentions.)

The District Governance Support Project will be introduced in greater detail in a session on Wednesday afternoon at the Joint Conference. Come and learn more about this valuable professional development opportunity.

## MASC/MASS Joint Conference

November 9-12  
Resort & Conference Center, Hyannis

**Register now! [www.masc.org](http://www.masc.org)**

## Massachusetts Association of School Committees

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