

MASC Bulletin

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MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES

Resolutions committee recommends passage of seven resolutions

MASC'S RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE met last month to consider proposals submitted by member school committees as well as the MASC Board of Directors. The recommended resolutions will be presented for vote at the 2010 Delegate Assembly, which will be held on Wednesday, November 3 in Hyannis.

The seven resolutions that will be forwarded to the Delegate Assembly would direct MASC to seek legislation to:

- modify the Special Education Circuit Breaker law so as to encourage school districts to create programs to keep students in district by increasing the state's reimbursement rate for expenses for students in a collaborative or in-district program.
- establish a charter school authorization and funding system such that charter schools which are approved by the local or regional school committee and/or voters of the district/region will utilize the funding formula as approved by the legislature, but that charter schools

approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education without approval of either the school committee or the voters of the district/region shall be funded through the budget of the DESE without usage of Chapter 70 or any other local funds.

- require 766-approved schools, including non-public institutions that serve MA students, to report publicly their aggregate MCAS scores and growth information.
- change the charter school funding formula so as to provide funding based on the Base Rate Components of student enrollment from the sending district.
- ensure that local school governance and district structure remain with the discretion of cities and towns and their voters and prevent granting authority to any appointed state official, appointed board or receiver from coercing the restructuring of any school district without the expressed approval of the school committee, local governing body and

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Massachusetts Selected as Finalist in Second Phase of RTTT Competition

On July 27, Governor Patrick and state education officials received word from the U.S. Department of Education that Massachusetts had been selected as one of 19 finalists in the second phase of the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) competition.

A team of five people from Massachusetts will go to Washington, D.C. during the week of August 9 for an in-person interview with federal officials, and final award notifications are expected to be made before Labor Day. If selected, Massachusetts could be eligible to receive as much as \$250 million in federal funding to implement the education reform efforts detailed in the proposal over the next four years.

Massachusetts was selected as a finalist in Phase 1 of the competition, but did not receive an award when only two states out of the 41 who applied, Tennessee and Delaware,

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Board adopts Common Core standards

At its July meeting the MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education unanimously approved replacing the state's current academic standards with national guidelines.

The 8-0 vote makes Massachusetts the 27th state to adopt the Common Core Standards.

Launched in June 2009, the Common Core State Standards Initiative was designed to develop

and implement a single set of national standards in ELA and math to define what every student should know and be able to do in order to be fully ready for post-secondary education or a successful career. Massachusetts played a leading role in the development and review of the standards over the past 13 months. Curriculum experts and educators from across the Commonwealth

reviewed and submitted comments on drafts that were incorporated throughout the development process to ensure that the expectations set in the final versions met or exceeded the state's strong standards for students.

The Common Core standards were developed using the most effective academic standards from across the country and around the world. These standards are designed to provide teachers and parents with a common

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School district administrative personnel council established

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS/SCHOOL Committee Secretaries of Massachusetts—Unite! And welcome to COSCAP—the Massachusetts Council of School Committee Administrative Personnel!

Over the past year, school district administrative assistants and school committee secretaries across the state have been working, in conjunction with MASC staff, to launch a formal work-alike group.

Karen Johnson, administrative assistant in Ashland who will serve as COSCAP chair 2010-2011, explains that she and a development team drafted Council bylaws, which were adopted by members at their training program during the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in Hyannis last November. At the same time, an Executive Committee was elected.

Executive Committee members are: Karen Johnson, Ashland, Chair; Michelle Kelley, Whitman-Hanson, Vice Chair; Beverly Cassano, Haverhill, Secretary; Robin Hamlett, Gill Montague, At-large; and Patricia Walsh, Springfield, At-large.

According to Johnson, the Council was established for the following

purposes:

1. To provide support and assistance to administrative personnel who work with school committees and their related work.
2. To provide a state forum for consideration of the practical and professional issues faced by school committee administrative personnel incident to their providing support and service to school committees.
3. To provide professional development and technical assistance to school committee administrative personnel as needed.

Information about membership in COSCAP is being mailed out to all districts, or look for it on the secretaries/administrative assistants "members only" section on the MASC website located under the Member Resources section in the left-hand column on the home page (<http://www.masc.org/for-administrative-assistants/coscap>). If you have any questions about registering or logging on to the site, call or email Jennyfer Cabral in the MASC office (phone: 617-523-8454; email: jcabral@masc.org).

People in the News

Sharon School Committee member **Laura Salomons** has been chosen to represent the Association on a special commission under the auspices of the Attorney General. The commission will study and produce a report on issues relative to bullying and cyberbullying in schools.

Ms. Salomons holds a B.A. in sociology and economics from Brandeis University and an M.S.W. from Boston University. She is a long-time member of the Sharon Parent-Teacher Association, served as Executive Director of the Children's League of Massachusetts; as a member of the Board of Directors of the Sharon Teen Center; and as Chair of Advocates for Children in Education in Sharon.

The commission was established as part (section 18) of the bullying legislation that was passed earlier this spring. Led by the attorney general, it consists of seven members, including representatives from MASC, MASS, the Police Association, the Sheriffs Association and the Association of Independent Schools in New England. The commission will review the General Laws to determine if they need to be amended in order to address bullying and cyber-bullying. The commission will also investigate parental responsibility and liability for bullying and cyber-bullying. A report on their findings, including recommendations, is due on or before June 30, 2011.



Governor signs school nutrition bill

Governor Deval Patrick has signed legislation that will change the way Massachusetts public school students eat, by banning the use of fryolators and requiring the sale of fresh fruits and non-fried vegetables wherever food is sold. The bill also requires school districts to create student wellness policies.

The bill aims to curb childhood obesity by calling on the state Department of Public Health to

establish statewide school nutrition standards for foods sold in vending machines (the bill bans the sale of "junk food") and at other locations on school property. It also requires several state agencies to establish guidelines for training school nurses on how to recognize obesity, type 2 diabetes, and eating disorders.

A commission will be created to guide nutrition and recreation programs for the schools. The

Department of Public Health is required to reevaluate nutritional standards every five years.

About 29 percent of Massachusetts middle school students are overweight or obese, according to the Rep. Peter Koutoujian, the legislative sponsor of the measure. In addition, one of every three children born in 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

RTTT Competition

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were selected for funding earlier this year. Prior to submitting the Phase 2 proposal, state officials worked closely with teams of educators, administrators, business leaders and other stakeholders to evaluate, strengthen and sharpen the focus of the state's application. According to the Department of Education, the Phase 2 proposal focused on results over process, clarified how students and teachers will benefit from the initiatives and strategies, and defined how the state's public school system will be improved over the next four years.

In all, 276 school districts and charter schools signed Memorandums of Understanding that they would commit to implement the initiatives in the application—20 more districts than signed on to participate in Phase 1. Those districts include large, small, urban, suburban and rural communities, representing 88 percent of the state's low-income students and 74 percent of K-12 students statewide. Of the 276 participating districts, 159 are traditional school districts, 60 are charter schools, 36 are regional school districts and 21 are vocational schools. The proposal was also endorsed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the state's largest teacher's union.

Each participating district has committed to participating in efforts to:

- 1) Attract, develop, and retain an effective, academically capable, diverse and culturally competent educator workforce to ensure every student is taught by a great teacher and every school and district is led by a great leader;
- 2) Provide curricular and instructional resources to provide every educator with the tools necessary to promote and support student achievement;
- 3) Concentrate great instruction and

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Tools for Schools

New website provides important safety information

Click, Check and Protect, a campaign that provides up-to-date information on safety recalls to parents has recently launched a website that features updated safety alerts and information on products that have been recalled.

The National School Boards Association and the National PTA are founding partners in the National School Safety Coalition, which is spear-heading the campaign with Consumers Union, the publisher of Consumer Reports.

For each recall, the Click, Check and Protect website provides a description of the product, how many units are on the market, the number of incidents and injuries that have been reported, where it is sold, a proposed remedy and contact information for the consumer.

For more information, go to www.clickcheckandprotect.org

2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data now available

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has just released the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data. The YRBS is conducted every two years at the national, state and local levels

and monitors the following risk behaviors: unintentional injuries and violence; tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use, including prescription drug abuse; sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection; unhealthy dietary behaviors; and physical inactivity, as well as the prevalence of obesity and asthma among high school students. To access the survey, as well as fact sheets that detail national trends, compare groups by race/ethnicity and by sex, and offer state and large urban district profiles, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs>.

Know Your Concussion ABCs

A new CDC initiative, "Heads Up to Schools: Know Your Concussion ABCs," provides schools with essential information for developing effective methods to prevent and respond to concussions – a type of traumatic brain injury. Using the ABC approach, the CDC recommends the following: (1) A—Assess the situation; (2) B—Be alert for signs and symptoms; and (3) C—Contact a health care professional. To access an array of resources and tools to better manage school health policies and practices regarding concussions, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/Concussion/>.

Resolutions

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voters of each community.

- end the practice of educator retirements during the school year.
- ensure that all changes to Chapter 70, including mid-year adjustments, be approved by the General Court and encourage the Governor and the legislature to refrain from enacting mid-year, including 9C, cuts to appropriations for public schools in FY11.

The Resolutions Committee also voted to recommend several amendments to the MASC by-laws that would clarify the dates of terms of office for MASC officers as well as a

change regarding electronic participation at meetings of the MASC Board of Directors.

In addition to consideration of these proposed resolutions and by-laws amendments, delegates will also elect the 2011 slate of officers and newly proposed life members.

The 2010 Resolutions Committee is chaired by **Dorothy Presser** of Lynnfield, who currently serves as MASC President-Elect. The committee's full report will be included in the 2010 Delegate Manual, which will be mailed to all members in early September. It will also be posted on MASC's website at www.masc.org.

Subcommittee members appointed for 2010-2011

Listed below are school committee members who have been appointed to serve on MASC Subcommittees for the 2010-2011 year. The Board of Directors extends its thanks to all those members who expressed interest in serving and look forward to working with you on these issues of importance to our Association.

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Paul Carroll, Life Member
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Steven Ultrino, Malden

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Roberta Newman, Athol-Royalston Reg.
Devin Sheehan, Holyoke
Jo-Ann Testaverde, Whittier Reg.Voc. Tech.

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Clifford Fountain, Quaboag Reg.
Janet Crane, Salem
Geoffrey W. Swett, Wareham

Common Core standards

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understanding of what all elementary and secondary school students are expected to learn. The standards are aligned with expectations that define the knowledge and skills needed for success in college and and/or workforce training programs and, according to DESE officials, include rigorous content and build on strengths and lessons of the state's current standards. Over the course of the past year the Board of Education sought public comment while engaging department staff, outside experts, district curriculum leaders and teachers in a process involving analysis and feedback.

The standards were also fully vetted, reviewed and approved by national organizations including Achieve, Inc., which called them "a significant advance over current state standards," and the Fordham Foundation. The Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE), in a side-by-side analysis comparing the state's current standards to the Common Core, deemed that Common Core "meets the business community's objective of enhancing the college and career readiness of our students."

Among the strengths officials highlighted as distinguishing factors within the Common Core:

- The focus on reading and writing across the curriculum
- The attention to speaking, listening and vocabulary
- The consideration of emerging new literacies (such as digital and print sources) for research and communication
- The treatment of varying student needs and achievement levels in the delivery of the math curriculum

Two former commissioners of education, Robert Antonucci and David Driscoll, who were responsible for the design and implementation of the Education Reform Act of 1993 and

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO NEW MEMBERS TO EDUCATION BOARD

Last week, the Governor announced the appointment of two new members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education who will replace outgoing members Sandra Stotsky and Thomas Fortmann whose terms expired this year.

The newly appointed members are **Dr. James McDermott** of Clark University and **Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado**, Chief Executive Officer of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción.

Dr. McDermott has a nearly 40-year teaching career focused exclusively on improving public education for urban students. A classroom teacher for over 30 years, Dr. McDermott was the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year in 1988. He worked for five years as an English teacher at the University Park Campus School in Worcester.

Dr. McDermott served on the Massachusetts State Framework Committee beginning in 1993 where he helped develop the state's first standards in English Language Arts. Beginning in 1995, he served on the Assessment Development Committee charged with designing the state's first assessment to measure student achievement toward those standards. Dr. McDermott has remained active in developing, sharpening, implementing and measuring English standards through his work as a teacher, instructor, curriculum developer and

advisor at the local and state level while also helping to advise other states on their English standards.

He is Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Central Massachusetts Writing Project, and for seven years served as the English Language Arts Liaison for the City of Worcester during which time he led the task force for developing an articulated K-12, portfolio-driven curriculum.

Dr. McDermott continues his clinical work as an Assistant Professor at Clark University. His work focuses on school improvement strategies in the Hiatt-Main South Secondary School Collaborative between University Park Campus School, South High Community School and the new secondary Claremont Academy.

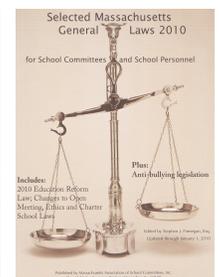
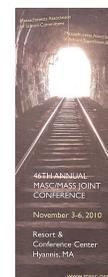
Dr. Calderón-Rosado has focused her entire career on improving the lives of the Commonwealth's burgeoning Latino population as a researcher and educator and as the leader of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA). The IBA is a Boston-based community building nonprofit organization founded in 1968 to develop low- and moderate-income housing, provide support services to families and promote and sustain the achievements of the Commonwealth's Latino residents. Under Dr. Calderón-Rosado's leadership, the IBA has expanded the Pathway Technology Campus, a joint

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RECENT MASC MAILINGS

Copies of the **2010 Selected General Laws** have been mailed to all member districts. Shipments included copies for each school committee member and superintendent. If you have not received your copy, please check with the superintendent's office. Additional copies may be ordered online (www.masc.org) or by fax: 617-742-4125

Joint Conference Early Bird Registration brochures are in the mail. **Are you registered for early bird savings?** You can also register online (www.masc.org).



NEW MEMBERS

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venture with Bunker Hill Community College that created a technology-infused satellite campus in Villa Victoria (IBA's affordable housing community), and has increased IBA's arts and culture programs to anchor it as New England's prime Latino arts hub.

Dr. Calderón-Rosado has deep roots in education having served as a member of the Turnaround Leadership Stakeholder Group of the Blackstone Elementary School in Boston and taught third grade in her native Puerto Rico after earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education. She completed extensive research and written on areas impacting the lives of underserved children and families. Her work has endeavored to explore, identify and disseminate proven strategies for empowering and

enabling African American and Latino residents—especially women—to become better advocates for themselves and access vital services.

She is a trained gerontologist having earned her Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts-Boston where she worked on comparing the support for elderly residents from different ethnic backgrounds. Dr. Calderón-Rosado's scientific work has been published in many letters and professional journals. Additionally, she has lectured courses on social work and at area institutions of higher education.

Dr. Calderón-Rosado is a 2009 Barr Foundation Fellow and has been named as one of the 100 most influential people in the Latino Community by El Planeta Newspaper in 2006, 2007 and 2008. She serves on many professional boards and advisory groups across the city of Boston and the entire state.

RTTT

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supports for educators, students, and families in our lowest performing schools and districts to create the conditions needed for improved student achievement; and

4) Increase dramatically the number of students who graduate from high school ready for college and career.

The other states selected as finalists

are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and South Carolina, as well as the District of Columbia.

The final awards are expected to be announced in time for the new school year in September. Massachusetts' full Race to the Top application is posted at www.doe.mass.edu/arra/?section=2.

Common Core standards

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the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) also voiced support for Common Core based on the academic rigor set forth in the standards.

Later this summer the ELA and mathematics curriculum framework review panels will be reconvened and charged with identifying unique Massachusetts standards to augment and strengthen the Common Core. This will be brought to the Board this fall for final approval.

Once fully adopted, the new frameworks will be posted on the ESE website, and widely publicized. Regional statewide professional development sessions on the new standards will be offered over the next year, through the District and School Assistance Centers, the Readiness Centers and other venues. All districts will be expected to align their curricula to the new standards by the start of the 2012-2013 school year.

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