This year we hosted our 79th Annual Conference on Educational Leadership and Business Meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we hosted our conference virtually through our NHSAA VirBela Campus. Members were able to network, meet our business partners, and hear from our wonderful presenters. This year we had guest speakers that covered a variety of topics including; navigating the challenges of the pandemic, protecting students from discrimination, addressing the needs of educators and students, the federal governments response to COVID-19, and fostering a collaborative community for all learners. We even held virtual magic and firework shows! Thank you to all of the presenters and members who attended the conference.
Pierre was born in Lancaster, NH, grew up in a French-Canadian family, and lived and worked on a family farm. He was one of seven children and graduated from White Mountain Regional High School in 1981. He wrestled on two state championship teams and won the individual championship in 1981, before going on to wrestle for Keene State College. He benefited from tremendous coaches in high school which continues to influence him throughout his career. Pierre graduated from Keene State College in 1985 with a BS in Industrial Technology. In 1986, he began teaching Industrial Arts at Milford High School and coached boys’ soccer and wrestling, winning two state championships in 1998 and 1999. At Milford, he developed a successful Precision Machining program at which produced many USA Skills state winners and one national place winner. He completed his master’s degree from Rivier College in School Leadership in 1999.

In 1999, he began work at Groveton High School as the Assistant Principal and served as the school Principal from 2003 to 2013. He coached the boys state championship soccer team at Groveton High School in 2000.

In 2010, Pierre completed his CAGS at Plymouth State University. He took his first Superintendent position at SAU 35 (Lisbon, Bethlehem, Lafayette, Landaff, and Profile) in 2013 and remained there until July 2020. He has now accepted a role as the Superintendent for the Newfound Area School District.

He has two terrific sons Colby (24) and Bailey (23). Bailey is proudly serving our country in the Air Force, stationed at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. Colby is a Plymouth State graduate working in a management position from a mechanical contractor in Andover, MA.

In his free time, he enjoys skiing at Cannon mountain. He also enjoys cycling, having completed the Prouty century ride several times and also road the RAGRIA in Iowa, a ride across the state about 500 miles. He also enjoys handyman projects and gardening.

He believes strongly in equity for all students regardless of social class or race.
Executive Board

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- North Country
  Marion Anastasia
  SAU #36
  (603) 837-9363

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”

~Malcolm X
July is the one month of the year when things typically slow down a bit for school and systems leaders. They can take some time for vacation, work only an eight-hour day, and be at home every evening. Unfortunately, it appears that is not going to happen this summer as planning is frenetically underway for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. July has quickly become the new August in the urgency to prepare for the opening of school.

After finally getting to the end of the exhausting 2019-2020 school year with all the issues related to school closures and remote learning, school and district leaders now find themselves quickly pivoting to the daunting task of how to plan for opening schools in the fall. This exemplifies the phrase, “No rest for the weary.” I can’t remember a more difficult and challenging time to be a school leader.

Every leader wants to do the right thing for their students and staff. They want to keep them safe and healthy when they return to school. The question is how to do that.

Many national, state, and local entities have provided considerations and suggestions. However, few have given concrete recommendations on how to specifically operate school in a safe manner that superintendents and school boards can rely upon to develop a reopening plan. The STRRT Task Force has provided the barest of recommendations for the Commissioner and Governor to flesh out, and that hopefully more detailed guidance should be forthcoming by mid-to-late July.

Ultimately, the School District Health and Safety Plan will be a locally developed document that will be authorized by the local school board and administered by the superintendent in conjunction with the administrative team and staff. I don’t know of a time in the history of public education where so much has been asked of our local school leaders in literally making potential life and death decisions about operating school during a pandemic. This goes well beyond a “damned if you do, damned if you don’t” situation that a snow day decision brings. It is an excruciatingly heavy lift for school leaders that exceeds normal expectations for professional educators and locally elected school board officials.

On top of this unprecedented responsibility, school funding is on the brink of disaster. While we appreciate that New Hampshire’s public schools have been funded for the full 2020-2021 school year without cuts, level-funding will not keep pace with what is needed to reopen our schools during COVID-19 and will not keep up with state and federal mandated expenditures. The State is expecting an approximate $300-500 million budget shortfall over the biennium. In addition, it is likely that there will be a significant loss of property tax revenue in many communities as many families struggle to make ends meet. It is unlikely that the federal stimulus dollars from the CARES Act will be sufficient to make up for those losses. The painful truth is that, without increased federal funding, public schools may have to cut teachers and critical support staff at the very time they need them the most.

The U.S. House of Representatives just passed a fourth COVID-19 relief package called the HEROES Act with approximately $58 billion directed to K-12 education funding. This is four times greater than the $13.5 billion that came to public education through the CARES Act. Unfortunately, it will not be enough to help our public schools this fall. AASA projects that we will need a federal relief package of $200 billion for our public schools before the summer slips away in order to properly staff our schools and operate them safely.

The U.S. Senate needs to act increase the public education relief funds in the HEROES Act passed by the House of Representatives as quickly as possible. I am encouraging all NHSAA members to contact U.S. Senators Shaheen and Hassan to implore them to pass an upgraded version of the HEROES Act immediately. The new school year will be upon us soon, and our schools need the necessary personnel and resources, including Internet connectivity to every student’s home, to provide quality educational programming to our students. If left to local and state revenues, our schools will struggle to open the school year adequately. We need federal assistance – and we need it soon.

Please contact Senators Shaheen and Hassan at your earliest convenience and encourage your school board members, leadership team, staff and school stakeholders to do the same. If school districts are going to be asked to do the improbable, they need the financial backing to make it possible.

Senator Jeanne Shaheen: https://www.shaheen.senate.gov/contact/contact

Senator Maggie Hassan: https://www.hassan.senate.gov/contact/email

I wish you well in your planning process and encourage you to contact our team at NHSAA if we can be of any assistance to you in preparing for the school year ahead.

Be well, Carl
UPDATE INFORMATION & RESOURCES
My AASA Member Portal, or “Where School Leaders Link to Success,” is an informative and accessible online resource that offers insight and reaction to contemporary issues facing our nation’s school administrators. From superintendent success stores to member blogs and the latest expert advice on the most difficult issues, experience this online community by going to www.AASAconnect.com for more information.

2020 Superintendent of the Year
Gustavo Balderas, superintendent of Eugene School District 4J in Eugene, Oregon has been named the 2020 AASA National Superintendent of the Year. The announcement came during a press conference in January of 2020 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

National Conferences
The AASA National Conference schedule through the 2020/21 year is as follows:

AASA National Conference
New Orleans, LA
February 18-20, 2021
For more information, visit www.aasa.org

ASAA DUES 2020-2021
(Membership year is through July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021)

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ENROLLMENT INFORMATION:
To join, call (703) 528-0700, or visit: www.aasa.org/join
NHSAA Membership

(The following member services are provided for free (*unless noted**) to all members)

**Membership Services**

- Professional Development
- Clearning House Information
- Orientation and Support of New Members
- Public Affairs Service and Advocacy
- Leadership Assistance and Problem Solving
- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CIA)
- Network Communication
- Career Counseling and Job Placement
- Recognition Program
- Representation on Behalf of Systems Administrators Coordination for the NH Council of School Attorneys
- Granite State Leadership Academy (Application is required)**
- Student Support Center**
- Consultant Services**

**Online Enrollment Portal**

Our application is now 100% online. You can easily sign up for a membership by visiting our website at [www.nhsaa.org](http://www.nhsaa.org). Once on our website, please follow the below steps to register.

1) Click on the “member portal” icon in the top right corner;
2) At the member page, click on the “person icon” in the top right corner. Then click on “join;”
3) Enter a chosen user name, email, and password
4) Enter the verification code (this will be sent to the email you entered);
5) The next step allows you to edit your profile by clicking on the “pencil” icon;
6) Apply for the NHSAA membership by clicking on the Primex status box;
7) At the next page, click on Membership to get to the enrollment page and then select the NHSAA membership;
8) Complete the membership questions and enrollment process including the invoice contact person;
9) Summary page defines your membership to submit and then create an invoice.

**Contact Us**

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Perhaps no other summer in our careers has brought with it the need for rest, rejuvenation and renewal like this one. Unfortunately, the uncertainty and questions surrounding the return to school continue to grow, while the clock keeps moving towards the return to schooling—whatever form it may take. Indeed, these times for systems leaders are unlike anything that we have ever experienced. With that said, there is no greater group of professionals that I would rather be associated with. Your attention to detail, concern for the safety of students, staff, and others in the greater community, while also meeting the SEL needs of students and families, makes me incredibly proud to be associated with you. Your relentless and tenacious resolve to meet the needs of your students, staff and other stakeholder groups is unprecedented, and second to none. The depth of the regional conversations that focus on perceived students’ needs and calibrating the metrics for the safe return to schooling are indicative of the outstanding leadership qualities of our systems leaders, and the power of true collaboration.

NHSAA’s work with Business Partners is evolving and is very fluid. Our partners are continually developing resources and timely opportunities for our school districts and we encourage you to reach out to them to assist you in your work. We will be publishing a Special Edition Newsletter in August to provide you with Business Partner reopening resources, contact information and summaries of what they are doing to support your efforts for the 2020-21 school year.

Our state legislators have much “pent up” legislation that was tabled at the end of the session. Some bills were combined into Omnibus bills and as of this writing, are awaiting enrollment for the Governors’ action. Should he choose to exercise the veto pen, there is little likelihood that any of his vetoes would be overridden, as the 2/3 majority required to override any veto is unlikely in the educational agenda. We anticipate a very busy legislative session next year with new representatives elected, and incumbents feeling the need to get their names on sponsored legislation!

I am hopeful that each one of you will/has set aside some much needed time this summer to “detox” from digital overload, “Zoomophobia,” and the constant strain and demands of your work. You are all incredibly dedicated individuals, yet none of us is helpful if we become ill.

In the words of Teddy Roosevelt: “Nobody cares about how much you know, until they know about how much you care”. We couldn’t be surrounded by a greater group of caring people in our Professional Association. Thank you for the privilege of serving you!

With deep respect and admiration,

Jerry Frew
2020 NHSAA MARSTON SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Sondra Brake

Sondra has been the Principal at Plainfield Elementary School since 2017 and is a member of Cohort 3 of the Granite State Leadership Academy. She is dedicated to the next generation by providing a quality educational setting as part of a strong community network. She provides a competency-based learning environment and ensure quality performance assessment. She fosters a collaborative educator professional learning model, true collaboration, peer observation, and meaningful feedback. She also ensure that school focuses on play-based, nature-based, place-based learning, and service learning to increase the educational experience.

Congratulations Sondra on this huge accomplishment! Thank you for all you do for our students and educators.

In 2005, NHSAA began offering a $2,500 scholarship in memory of Charles Marston. As you may know, Charlie was a distinguished educational leader, Commissioner of Education in New Hampshire and leader of NHSAA. The scholarship is funded by contributions in his memory.
By Jennifer Pomykato

Spring and summer 2020 have put a spotlight on public education and the determination New Hampshire administrators and teachers share when supporting their students’ academic and social-emotional growth. In spite of the demands to move abruptly to remote learning New Hampshire administrators and teachers rose to the occasion. Resolute creativity became the hallmark when deciding how best to meet the educational and social-emotional needs of their students. As school districts and their communities develop plans for schools in the fall, educators continue these efforts. Hopefully, you have found time to step away and “refuel” in spite of the fact this has not been a typical summer in any way.

At NHSAA there have been some changes as you have seen when visiting our new virtual campus and new website. In addition to those changes, the Special Education Support Center (SESC) has a new name, the Student Services Center (SSC).

In response to the changing roles and responsibilities of our members over the past few years, only the name changed to reflect the duties of student services leaders. While the majority of the members are student service administrators and special education directors, other members include superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals and assistant principals. As an SSC member, each district receives electronic communications that highlight information from the US Department of Education, the NHDOE, the NH Bureau of Special Education and other agencies influencing NH public education. Members also receive brief summaries and links to journal articles and other professional readings. Members are notified of new legislation that could affect districts’ policies and procedures that govern student services. In addition to the email updates, members receive individual district services based on personalized needs as well as participate in a closed on-line discussion board. Surveys conducted by the SSC provide evidence to support program and/or staffing changes, or identify trends and best practices. One survey in particular, the Special Education Cost Survey, is most helpful to school districts, as well as their school boards and budget committees, to compare special education costs across N.H.’s school districts.

NHSAA’s Student Services Center just finished its sixteenth successful year. We know this upcoming school year will bring its own set of challenges. The NHSAA Student Services Center will continue to be there to be of assistance as a member driven resource. While by no means is SSC a substitute for legal counsel, districts report that discussions and information provided through the Center help districts avoid some of the legal pitfalls that can plague the special education and student services processes. Enrollment is on a sliding scale based on student enrollment. Additionally, Primex³ strongly encouraging their school districts to take advantage of the Center’s resources, generously paying 50% of the annual fee for members of the Primex³ Property & Liability Insurance Program. If you would like more information, please contact SSC’s Director, Jennifer Pomykato (jennp@nhsaa.org). In the meantime, thank you for your support of NHSAA, the Center and your many efforts to champion the needs of all children.
EDJOBSNH.COM NEWS

EDjobsNH.com is the official job vacancy site of the New Hampshire School Administrators Association.

It is home of the most complete job listing service for New Hampshire’s Schools.

Unlike other services, this site contains only the official postings of New Hampshire.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We would like to invite you to share any appropriate news about members in order to promote networking, communications, and friendship. If you have any information you would like to share with us for our next newsletter, please feel free to call us at (603) 225-3230 or email Alyssa at alyssa@nhsaa.org for more information.

Thank you for being a member with us and we look forward to continuing to support you in the future.

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