

# SCSSA HOSTS FIRST SUPERINTENDENTS/ BOE PRESIDENTS DINNER/WORKSHOP



The Suffolk County School Superintendents Association (SCSSA) hosted the first Superintendents and Board of Education Presidents Dinner/Workshop.

“The purpose of this evening is to solidify the relationship between Superintendents and their Board Presidents,” stated SCSSA President Dr. Rosemary F. Jones. “The theme of SCSSA this year is ‘Challenge of Leadership,’ and, as Superintendents, we recognize that it takes a team approach to providing the best quality education for the students within our districts and across Suffolk County.”

At the dinner, retired Northport School District Superintendent Dr. William Brosnan and Patrice Beach, a past Board of Education President and current teacher with BOCES, spoke to the Superintendents and Board Presidents about the importance of the

Superintendent/Board of Education relationship and their interdependent roles.

“We know how hard and how much dedication it takes to be a Board of Education member,” stated Ms. Beach. “You have the power to motivate those around you to do the right thing for the right reasons.”

Added Dr. Brosnan, “The outside world sees our district as one entity – we must work together and support each other. The work that we do, the conversations that we have are so very important. Bottom line, we have to be here and work together for the students.”

In addition to sharing ideas in a relaxed environment, attendees also participated in group discussions on the challenges of leadership. In response to the success of the dinner/workshop, the SCSSA hopes to make this an annual event.

## PLAN TO ATTEND

As a member of the SCSSA, it is important to show your support of the Association’s initiatives by participating in SCSSA-sponsored activities. The upcoming events listed below will recognize retiring Suffolk County School Superintendents and those who have also played an integral role in creating the outstanding reputation Suffolk County school districts have achieved. Both are deserving of the Association’s appreciation and recognition. Please plan to attend.

**Monday, June 23, 2008**

Annual Convocation, Bellport Country Club

**Wednesday, July 2, 2008**

SCOPE Annual Golf Outing

## SPECIAL THANKS TO CORPORATE PARTNERS

The Association wishes to thank the following corporate partners for their continued support:

### GOLD LEVEL PARTNERS:

**ARS Financial Services, Inc.**  
Jericho, New York

**J.J. Stanis and Company, Inc.**  
Jericho, New York

**Ashley McGraw Architects**  
Long Island, New York

**Mutual, Inc.**  
Ronkonkoma, New York

**BBS Architects & Engineers**  
Patchogue, New York

**SYNTAX Communication**  
West Sayville, New York

**ECG Engineering, LLC.**  
Smithtown, New York

**The Thomas Group**  
Farmingdale, New York

### SILVER LEVEL PARTNERS:

**Lamb & Barnosky, LLP**  
Melville, New York

**Triton Construction**  
Garden City, New York

**For more information on the Corporate Partner Program, please contact the Association’s Executive Director, Dr. Candee Swenson, at (516) 524-0613.**



# SUFFOLK COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2008

## *A Message from* **Rosemary F. Jones, Ed.D., President**



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### *President*

**Dr. Rosemary F. Jones**  
Sayville UFSD

#### *President-Elect*

**Dr. Thomas Shea**  
South Huntington UFSD

#### *Vice President*

**Mr. Wendell Chu**  
Fire Island UFSD

#### *Treasurer*

**Dr. Anthony Annunziato**  
Bayport-Blue Point UFSD

#### *Secretary*

**Mr. Gary D. Bixhorn**  
Eastern Suffolk BOCES

#### *Past President*

**Mr. Neil Lederer**  
Lindenhurst UFSD

### CLUSTER LEADERS

#### Babylon:

**Dr. Ellen Best-Laimit**  
Babylon UFSD

#### Brookhaven:

**Dr. Roberta Gerold**  
Middle Country CSD

#### East End:

**Dr. Charles Kozora**  
Greenport UFSD  
**Ms. Linda J. Rozzi**  
Tuckahoe CSD

#### Islip:

**Dr. Alan Groveman**  
Connetquot CSD

#### Smithtown/Huntington:

**Dr. Janet Ceparano Wilson**  
Harborfields CSD

#### Executive Director:

**Dr. Candee Swenson**

### *What does courage have to do with leadership? Everything.*

Throughout my year as president of our Association, I have learned from and been inspired by the acts of courage and purpose our members demonstrate every day. At a time when the most publicized conversations about education often deteriorate into recriminations, blame, and the tendency to paint all with the broad stroke of the most rare and least common denominator, I had a year to focus on and celebrate the dreams and hopes of our children, the support and determination of their parents, the imagination and work ethic of their schools, and the clear vision and values of their school leaders, in particular.

More than any other time in my career, I was privy to the many things you do each day to fight a culture of divisive and polarizing gridlock; to support a culture of purpose, collaboration, and love for and responsibility to the children we serve. As the only people in our respective districts fulfilling the role of superintendent, we are understandably inclined to seek each other's counsel and support about the things that frustrate us the most. Chief among these are the increasingly politicized intrusions into local control, the conflict our community members experience as they express concern and doubts about education in general, and strong satisfaction with and support for education in our respective communities.

Sometimes we need to be reminded that Long Islanders support and are happy with the public education we all plan, lead, and deliver on a daily basis. We need to remind ourselves and each other of the Rauch Foundation 'Caring for Long Island's Children' poll that indicates Long Islanders are typically more successful and highly educated than in other parts of the country, and that the overwhelming majority of those Long Islanders were educated here. We need to remind each other and ourselves that "local schools are the pride of Long Island, and Long Islanders are hopeful about the future of their children growing up here."

We need to remind ourselves and each other that we are defined by the things we do and say each day, not by the headlines and rumors that may dominate water cooler conversation but do not represent the experience and reality of our communities. The proof of the pudding is in the tasting. In one of the few ways our community members can resoundingly communicate their support, they went to the polls this month and voted their approval for our record of excellence and transparency, accountability and continuity.

At the same time, we need to remind ourselves that it takes courage to keep moving from 'Good to Great,' as that terrific book guides us to do. It can take more courage to institute change when people are satisfied; when our communities do support us; when it would be more comfortable to develop a bunker mentality against the recriminations and inaccuracies that can dominate discussion about public education. Rudyard Kipling was right. Taking my own poetic license here, "If we can keep our heads when all about us are losing them and blaming it on us; if we can trust ourselves when many doubt us, but make allowance for their doubting, too; if we can wait and not be tired by waiting, or – being lied about, not deal in lies; if we can watch the things we give our life to be broken, and stoop and build them up with worn out tools, then we are superintendents, my friend!"

In closing this year, and moving forward, I know I will continue to derive much of my own courage from each of your individual examples as a superintendent, a community leader, a colleague, and a friend.

Looking forward,

Rosemary F. Jones, Ed.D.

# Partnerships FOR A

## WORKING TOGETHER AS ADVOCATES FOR



The Suffolk County School Superintendents Association (SCSSA) Board of Directors spearheaded the first Suffolk County Children's Health and Safety Summit, which brought together the academic, political, social and health service leaders of Suffolk County. The focus of the summit was to initiate a dialogue and collaborative effort, with the goal of moving forward to improve the health and safety of all children residing in Suffolk County.

SCSSA President and Sayville School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rosemary F. Jones welcomed those in attendance, including Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy and Dr. Humayun J. Chaudhry, Commissioner of Health Services. Dr. Jones discussed the need to establish a working partnership between Suffolk County educators, government leaders, and health care providers, with the common goal of improving children's health in Suffolk County and across Long Island. The goals to raise awareness and create programs that support and educate parents, caregivers and children about the value of healthy decision-making and the need to provide improved social and health care services were also addressed during this workshop.

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy spoke of the significant impact technology has had on children's health and how, in some ways, it has negatively altered their lifestyles. Levy described how computers, television and video games have created a passive environment where a virtual world consumes the days, decreasing the vital physical activity children gain on ball fields, parks and playgrounds.

Prevention and early intervention were cited as major factors for substantial health improvements. District-run events including health fairs, guest health professionals and disseminating hotline

information to various venues for life discussed. Levy SCSSA, as well as the Department of Health Services, worked together to share information in order to improve the health and safety of the children of Suffolk County.

Dr. Chaudhry discussed the importance of early intervention and the need for increased access to screening services. These topics were all discussed during the summit.

Following the summit, a working group was formed to continue the work together to improve the health and safety of children in Suffolk County.

The following organizations were represented at the summit: Brook University, Suffolk University, Nassau-Suffolk Community College, Parenthood of Long Island, Nassau County Library/INTEGRO, SNAP, South Suffolk Cancer Care Coalition, Nassau County Community Violence Prevention Program/SCDH, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk County Executive's Office, and SCSSA.

# A BETTER FUTURE

## TOGETHER FOR HEALTHIER CHILDREN

Programs that connects students to specific health and lifestyle improvement, were also highly commended the work of the staff as well as the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, for their efforts in coming together to share their knowledge and resources in order to improve the health and enhance the lives of the children of Suffolk County.

Dr. Jones pointed out the connectivity between healthy children and healthy adults and the importance of educating children and early on about health challenges, including the obesity epidemic, health literacy, and access to preventive care, and public health services that are needed.

During the general presentations, attendees were divided into small discussion groups to share ways to achieve the goal of creating healthier children and turn the goal of creating healthier children in Suffolk County into a reality.

Participating exhibitors also participated: Stony Brook University Medical Center, Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine, Bias Help, Brook Hospital Council, Planned Parenthood of Hudson Peconic, Boys & Girls Club of Suffolk County, Children with Special Health Care Needs, FECS, Health and Welfare Council of Suffolk County, Middle Country

Health Network/ELEC, Long Island Head Start, St. Joseph's Hospital, LIPA REAP, YES, Suffolk County Office of Long Island, Suffolk County Office of Domestic Violence, Response, Worker Program/SCDH, Childhood Injury Prevention and Neighborhood Aide Program, Family Service League, Child Care and Family Support, Suffolk County Children (Fingerprint), and the Suffolk County Office of Public Health.



## SCSSA Hosts ANNUAL LONG ISLAND SUPERINTENDENTS WORKSHOP

This year it was the SCSSA's turn to host their colleagues from Nassau County for the annual Long Island School Superintendents Workshop held at Dowling College. SCSSA President and Superintendent of the Sayville School District Dr. Rosemary F. Jones welcomed those in attendance and spoke about the universal challenges educators are facing across Long Island.

This year's Keynote Speaker was New York State Council of School Superintendents Executive Director Dr. Thomas Rogers. Dr. Rogers presented "The Albany Update," providing an overview on the status of special education across the state, in-depth information on Value Added Testing, and his opinions on the potential impact the new Governor will have on Long Island education.

Following his informative presentation there was time allotted for questions and comments.

