



## Executive Viewpoint

Kevin S. Casey, Executive Director

## Welcome Back

Welcome back. I know that most of you didn't actually go away, except for perhaps a week or two vacation, but the return of students and staff creates the feeling of a fresh start.

It has been just over six months since the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and its profile in public discourse has begun to fade. In my opinion there has been a lack of a meaningful response, which is truly disappointing. There has been some money

allocated for improved school safety, but in the larger scheme of things it does not amount to much, and it does not make any change to the basic construct of our current gun laws. Instead, our secretary of education is considering allowing states to access Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant money to train and arm school personnel. Both Chancellor Rosa and Commissioner Elia have (appropriately in my opinion) spoken out against this idea. Nevertheless, I expect the United States

will continue to lead the world in gun violence by a large margin.

In June the United States Supreme Court (USSC), by a 5-4 vote, overturned 40 years of settled law and ruled agency fees unconstitutional. The USSC overturned a 1977 Supreme Court case that was decided with a 9-0 vote, and now allows "free-riders." The plaintiff in the June case, Mark Janus, had his legal fees paid by conservative anti-union organizations. Starting the very day of the decision in favor of Janus, teachers around the country, including in New York, started to receive emails from the Michigan based Mackinac Center "educating" them on how to opt out of their unions. The Mackinac Center is funded in part by the DeVos Foundation. I often wonder why many of those who have

so much spend so much time, money, and effort attacking institutions which historically have raised the living standards of the institutions' members. Aren't there more positive causes for their energetic efforts?

With a new school year comes a new focus. Back to far more traditional concerns such as student achievement, new standards, and the development of ESSA state regulations that will operationalize a school accountability system consistent with the ESSA state plan. Also on the horizon is yet another iteration of an APPR system. These are issues that are important, and welcome compared to school shootings and anti-union attacks.

With a focus on educational issues, SAANYS will conduct its Annual Conference on October

14-15 in Lake Placid, NY and I hope you will consider attending. I do not suggest one should become desensitized to the horrors of school shootings, or not remain aware of forces acting against your interests, but students and parents alike need educators to educate, despite what is going on around them.

There will always be challenges and there will always be students who need your efforts. We all need a break once in a while, but after the break it's time to roll up the sleeves and together face head-on the professional challenges that confront us. You do important work and positively impact many. Welcome back, as we are all better off for it. ■

## School Benefits in Implementing Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (ASEL)

Sponsor Opinion Piece by Scott B. Crowder, CEO, Educational Vistas, Inc.

It is not surprising that NYSED is issuing voluntary Social and Emotional Development and Learning (SEDL) Guidelines to give school communities support in addressing child and adolescent development. There is much for schools to gain when school environments are calmer and safer for both teaching and learning. Here is where education addresses teaching the "whole child." While taxonomies have existed

for years, the only one to receive serious regard has been the cognitive. Now, it is time to integrate the cognitive with the affective.

"Social and emotional competence is the ability to understand, manage, and express the social and emotional aspects of one's life in ways that enable the successful management of life tasks such as learning, forming relationships, solving everyday problems, and

adapting to the complex demands of growth and development" (Elias et al., 1997).

The research is clear in supporting ASEL. Both hard and soft sides of learning benefit. In the case of NYSED, it sees SEL as "promoting positive peer relationships; self-directing and collaborating skills; getting along in a pluralistic community; avoiding risky behaviors; and finding help when feeling sad or hopeless." By combining SEL skills and behaviors with content learning, student growth moves into the area of life-long learning.

If you have not already noticed in this article, the key is integrating SEL with the academics. There is no way that education can stand an additional layer of programming on top of

what already exists. To be effective, schools need to think and move on ASEL to promote and support the highest level of learning ever imagined.

While considerable curricular planning will be required to bring the integration of content learning and SEL into place, the fit will be natural and exciting for both teachers and students. Good teaching of content brings the student into its midst to experience it at a deeper, personal level of understanding and application. In fact, the integration ASEL with Next Generation Learning Standards will serve both effectively.

Those schools who choose to volunteer for SEL will enjoy the benefit of being a part of a significant education change with the promise

of supporting equity and higher student achievement. To support the SED's ASEL initiative, EdVistas is hosting a First ASEL Conference at the Fort William Henry Conference Center, Lake George, NY on September 13. Keynote and presenter is Dr. Maurice Elias, one of the leading proponents of ASEL. Those interested in attending should contact Tara O'Neill at 518.805.1113 or toneill@edvistas.com. ■

The statements and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily imply or reflect the opinion or philosophy of the School Administrators Association of New York State.



## News & Notes

School Administrators Association of New York State

Vol. XLVII No. 6

SAANYS News & Notes (USPS 025-346) is published monthly with the exception of June, July, and August, by the School Administrators Association of New York State, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110.

Phone: 518-782-0600  
Fax: 518-782-9552

SAANYS is chartered as a professional association by the New York State Education Department and is affiliated with NASSP and NAESP.

A copy of each issue of News & Notes shall be sent to each SAANYS member. \$7.15 of each member's annual dues shall be for a year's subscription to this publication.

Periodicals Postage Paid Latham, NY and additional post offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to News & Notes, SAANYS, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110

### SAANYS Officers & Staff

President, Joyce Carr\*  
President-Elect, Regina Huffman\*  
Past President, Paul Fanuele\*  
Executive Director, Kevin Casey  
Deputy Executive Director, Don Nickson  
Associate Executive Director for Communications, Michelle Hebert  
Communications Coordinator, Annika Pfluger  
Director of Corporate Services/Advertising, Deborah Taylor

### Board of Directors

Region 1	Stuart Pollak* Susan Bonner	Region 10	Tony Cardamone* Jeanne Brown
Region 2	Emily O'Brien Scott Comis	Region 11	Gary Manuse Joseph Pustulka
Region 4	Hilary Roberto Michael Plotkin	Region 12	Charles Smilich Theron Mong
Region 5	Harry Leonardatos* Christine Arlt	Retiree Representative,	Bruce Gorman
Region 6	Linda Klime Jennifer Drautz	Rochester City,	Timothy Cilby
Region 7	Kevin Hulbert	Syracuse City,	Arthur Grimes
Region 8	Kathleen Carney Brian Coleman	NASSP Coordinator,	Karl Thielking
Region 9	Michelle Feyereabend Robert Bailey	NAESP Representative,	Thomas Payton

\* denotes Executive Committee

## Congratulations Retiring Members

Derek Adams  
Julie Austin-Kormanyos  
Larry Badgley  
Charlene Baker  
Bridgette Barr  
Barbara Bekermus  
Cristobal Benitez  
Pamela G. Black  
Brian K. Bridges  
Hillary Bromberg  
Helen T. Browne  
Patricia Busset  
Debbie Cagliostro  
Michael A. Cancilla, Jr.  
Thomas M. Capone  
Joseph A. Catania  
Jamie F. Cecilia  
Kathy Chapman  
Elizabeth Chappell  
Gina Christel  
Cheryl L. Clark  
Berardino D'Aquila

Paul Davis  
Pamela Davis-Webb  
Joseph DeCaro  
James DeTommaso  
Maureen Dockery  
Karl Dubash  
John Emmons  
Eileen Finnerty  
Mark Frye  
Lynn Gaffney  
John Gallo  
Kimberly Ganley  
Robert J. Geczik  
William Geraci  
Ronald Goodmote  
Carol Greiff Lagstein  
Kimberly Greoner  
Debra Hannan  
Hank Hardy  
Diane Hengen  
Melissa Hoskey

continued on page 6