

THE MAINE APPRISE

A Publication of the Maine Principals' Association

Volume XXV, Number 5

January 2017

From the Executive Director ...

2017 What should we expect?

The elections have come and gone, President-elect Trump has announced his choices for cabinet members including Secretary of Education, the majority margins in the Maine Senate and House have decreased, the cloture date for filing new legislative bills has passed (December 30), and the appointments to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee have been announced. ***What should we expect?***

The nomination of Betsy DeVose as Secretary of Education has been widely questioned based on her background as an activist in Michigan in such areas as school vouchers, school choice, charter schools, common core, and a general lack of support or understanding of the value and purpose of public school education. She is a billionaire with family ties to the Amway Company and made significant financial contributions to the Trump candidacy.

What should we expect? Most sources expect that she will be grilled heavily during Senate confirmation hearings but, as is usually the case, will be confirmed out of deference to the wishes of the incoming president.

With the reauthorization of ESEA (now ESSA), there are questions as to whether Congress will want to get involved to reopen the conversations. One alternative approach the president might take is through executive orders.

What should we expect? With last year's reauthorization handing off more authority to states and local entities, this may be as much a state of Maine conversation as it is federal.

The Republican party has maintained control of the Maine Senate by the slimmest of margins, 18-17. This is a significant decrease from the 20-15 majority enjoyed in the 127th Legislature. On the House side, the Democratic majority has decreased as well with the margin only a couple of votes. The 127th Senate showed an ability, from time to time, to exhibit a bipartisan approach, especially in regards to passing a budget that was veto proof. The 127th House had a greater difficulty in this area but with the Senate leading the way, managed to get the necessary business done.

What should we expect? Once again, in order for the important work to be accomplished, politics will have to be set aside from time to time, especially if the Governor continues to use his power of veto.

Initial bill titles released in mid-December were those submitted by the Department of Education and included public charter schools, certification, defining "surrogate" for student

residency purposes, RSU withdrawal, revolving renovation fund, regional school facilities, CTE funding, and a statewide teacher contract.

What should we expect? There may be an emphasis on revisions to the tax laws as well as means/methods of funding schools. The referendum issue that increases taxes for those earning more than \$200,000 per year will fold into that discussion. Also, ongoing timeline conversations around proficiency based education/diplomas and educator evaluation are expected.

Governor LePage is entering the final two years of his second term in office. The first session of the 128th Legislature will likely be his best opportunity to pass meaningful legislation. The last two years can result in "lame duck" session, particularly the second year.

What should we expect? Members of both parties as well as independents will begin lining up as potential candidates to run for the office of Governor in 2018. The first session of the 128th will be the best opportunity for meaningful legislation because the willingness to cooperate will lessen in the second year, the winter and spring of 2018. These issues will be compounded by the expected 1,500 bills to be proposed this year compared to the limiting aspect of the second session when the number of proposed bills are limited by the Legislative Council. In other words, if anything is going to be accomplished it will likely be this year.

The MPA Legislative Committee will meet shortly after the New Year. Their work will be informed by the announcement of the appointments to the Legislature's Committee on Education and Cultural Services as well as how soon and in what order bills are printed and language is available for our committee to review and take positions on.

What should we expect? A busy year for the MPA Legislative Committee as they meet frequently, both face-to-face and electronically. I will attend almost every public hearing and work session for bills with education implications and will provide you with frequent email updates. I intend to use twitter on a daily basis and if you have not followed me I invite you to do so at @DurostMPA.

In closing I wish you all the best as we approach the second half of the school year! May the coming months bring you success and satisfaction!!

What should we expect? The MPA, its staff, Board and officers stand ready to serve your professional and personal needs in any way that we can. Thank you for all that you do!

~ Dick Durost

Professional Offerings

"Improving Climate and Culture in Maine Schools: How to Retain Your Best Educators"

"Webinar Series"

ALL sessions run from
3:15-4:15 p.m.

January 17—*Facilities and Resources*;
February 15—*School Leadership*;
March 7—*Community Support and Involvement*;
March 21—*Professional Development*;
April 11—*Managing Student Council*;
and May 9—*Instructional Practices*

Click **HERE** to Register.

MPA 2017 Spring Conference

**"THE IF FACTOR:
Why Everything You Know
About Success in Education
Could Be Wrong"**

with *Keynote Speaker*
Dan Waldschmidt

April 27-28, 2017
Samoset Resort

Click **HERE** to Register.

8th Annual New England Secondary School Consortium School Redesign in Action Conference

Over 1,000 participants from across the country are expected. Don't miss the premier gathering of educators committed to personalizing learning and proficiency-based education. About three dozen schools and communities will be sharing best practices.

Early bird registration closes on January 13th.

Click on the link below to register:
<http://newenglandssc.org/conference/conference-details/>

30th Annual Seminar for School and District Secretaries, Special Education Secretaries, and Administrative Assistants

with Stan Davis, *"Dealing with Difficult Situations"*

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 ~ Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor

Thursday, April 6, 2017 ~ Double Tree, South Portland
(Across from the Maine Mall)

Click **HERE** to Register.

~ **Online Book Study** ~

**Engaging Students With
Poverty in Mind:
Practical Strategies for
Raising Achievement**

"Poverty is a growing state wide issue. Many aspects of poverty are out of schools' control; however, there are many things that schools CAN do to engage students who live in poverty. Using Eric Jenson's text, *Engaging Students With Poverty in Mind: Practical Strategies for Raising Achievement*, this professional development opportunity will give you strategies for teaching and working with students and parents who live in extreme poverty.

We will have the opportunity to learn from the text and each other and share information that will help all educators better meet the needs of those living in low- to no-income homes."

Click **HERE** to Register.



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PRincipal Tips

Communication is often focused on parents, but students play a big role in any school's reputation. Here are some tips to engage with kids.

- **Create a student committee** to be involved in planning school assemblies.
- **Try to have at least one positive comment** on every report card. A positive note can increase student morale and parent support.
- **Recognize students publicly.** Send congratulatory letters/e-mails home, feature awards and honors on your website and bulletin boards, and mention them in your daily announcements.

- **Create a peer tutoring program.** It gives older students a chance to take on responsibility, to serve and to be recognized for their efforts. Plus, this usually strengthens the education program for younger students.
- **Assign a "veteran" student to each newcomer.** Adjusting to a new school quickly can become a key factor in a student's success.

—National School Public Relations Association,
PRincipal Communicator,
December 2016.

Recognition Counts

Take advantage of the numerous opportunities for you to nominate an exemplary member of our educational community in Maine. Commit a few moments to shine your light on excellence.

Larry LaBrie Award for Outstanding Contributions to the MPA Interscholastic Division

Do you know an outstanding contributor to the Interscholastic Division of the MPA as a building administrator, athletic administrator, or other person (i.e. site/meet director, coach, official, media, etc.)? Each year the MPA honors up to three recipients to be honored with the Larry LaBrie Award at the Spring Conference Awards Banquet. [Click Here.](#)

Dr. Phyllis Deringis Service to Maine Youth Award

Do you know an outstanding adult volunteer who is making a difference for students in your school, your district, or possibly beyond? Each year the MPA honors up to two awardees with the Dr. Phyllis Deringis Service to Maine Youth Award at the Spring Conference Awards Banquet. [Click Here.](#)

2017 Secretary of the Year Award

We all have them – the incredible people who know every student and parent in the school ~ the people who help keep the districts in order and organized ~ those who greet our students and communities and set the positive tone in our schools and districts - our AMAZING secretaries/administrative assistants. You can recognize their hard work and dedication by nominating them for the 2017 Secretary of the Year! All nominees will be considered for this honorable recognition. The Secretaries will be publically announced at the Secretaries Conferences in April and then they will be honored at the MPA Spring Conference on April 27 at the Samoset Resort. [Click Here.](#)

For more information please contact Tammy McNear at 622-0217, ext. 22 or tmcnear@mpa.cc. Deadline for nominations and completed applications (as required) is January 16, 2017.

National Honor Society

Save the Dates—The annual banquet will take place on Thursday evening, March 9, 2017, at Jeff's Catering in Brewer, and the convention will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at the University of Maine at Orono.

CALL THE MPA HELP LINE
207-622-0217

We are here to help you and answer questions!

Extensions:

24 = Dick Durost	22 = Tammy McNear
25 = Mike Burnham	27 = Diane Patnaude
26 = Holly Couturier	30 = Patty Newman
41 = Gerry Durgin	

The Maine Apprise is published 10 times a year, September to June, by the Maine Principals' Association.

The Apprise welcomes articles from its members and other representatives of the education community. Please submit them to the editor by the first day of the month preceding publication.

The material published in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the opinion or views of the Maine Principals' Association.

For advertising or subscription rates, please write or call the address below.

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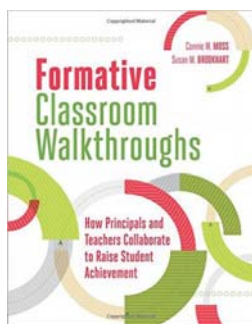
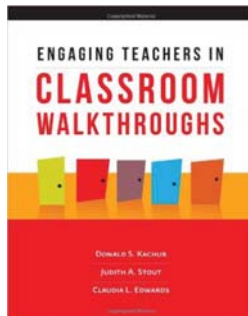
Dick Durost—@DurostMPA

Holly Couturier—@HDCouturier

Professional Reading Suggestions

***Engaging Teachers in Classroom Walkthroughs* (2013).**

By Donald S. Kachur, Judith A. Stout, and Claudia L. Edwards. "*Engaging Teachers in Classroom Walkthroughs* is a practical guide to planning and implementing brief but focused classroom observations that involves teachers in every step of the process. Drawing from their study of 40 schools in the United States and Canada, the authors show how administrators and teacher leaders moved teachers from resisting to embracing the practice."



***Formative Classroom Walkthroughs: How Principals and Teachers Collaborate to Raise Student Achievement* (2015).**

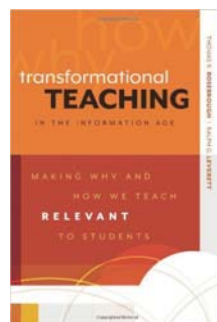
By Connie M. Moss and Susan M. Brookhart. "Revolutionize the walkthrough to focus on the endgame of teaching: student learning. Authors Connie M. Moss and Susan M. Brookhart present the proven practice of formative walkthroughs that ask and answer questions that are specific to what the student is learning and doing. Learn the value of having the observer examine the lesson from the student's point of view and seek evidence of seven key

learning components: 1) A worthwhile lesson; 2) A learning target; 3) A performance of understanding; 4) Look-fors, or success criteria; 5) Formative feedback; 6) Student self-assessment; and 7) Effective questioning"

***Transformational Teaching in the Information Age: Making Why and How We Teach Relevant to Students* (2011).**

By Thomas R. Rosebrough and Ralph G. Levrett. "How can teachers meet the challenges of engaging and educating all students, from those who are gadget-toting and plugged-in to those who are language learners or economically distressed and everyone in between? How can you help students learn what they need to know when the world and all that is in it is changing rapidly? Standards and high-stakes testing haven't answered the call, but you can."

Transformational Teaching in the Information Age explores the power of placing students at the center of teaching and learning. The shift from simply teaching content to focusing on and teaching individual learners allows teachers to inspire students to be independent, imaginative, and responsible learners for life. These teachers are transforming education, lives, and opportunities for their students."



OBSERVANCES

- * **January 1-31**
 - National Mentoring Month
Recognizing the need for every child to have a caring adult in his or her life
- * **January 1**
 - Near Year's Day
- * **January 2-6**
 - Near Year's Resolution Week
- * **January 4**
 - World Braille Day
Celebrating the birthday of Louis Braille (1809)
- * **January 14**
 - Orthodox Christmas Day
- * **January 16**
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - National Day of Service
- * **January 23**
 - National Handwriting Day
Recognizing the art and value of legible handwriting
- * **January 23-27**
 - Clean Out Your Inbox Week
- * **January 24**
 - Compliment Day
Offer sincere compliments to five different people
- * **January 27**
 - Holocaust Memorial Day
- * **January 28**
 - Chinese New Year
 - Christa McAuliffe Day
Commemorating Christa McAuliffe and the other six astronauts killed in the Challenger tragedy (January 28, 1986)

Featured Regions!

Each month, the *Apprise* is going to feature at least three schools from each of the eight regions in Maine. There are many great things going on in our schools that people don't know about, and it's time THEY ARE spotlighted! The January *Apprise* features the Andy Valley Region. Next month we will feature the York Region. If you would like to have your school spotlighted, please send Holly Couturier an e-mail stating your interest and at least one great thing about your school. She will contact you and make arrangements for an hour long visit. During her visit, she will not only speak to you and take a picture of you and the school, she would also like to talk to students in your school and get their perspective of "What makes their school and principal great?" Enjoy!

Spruce Mountain Primary School



Spruce Mountain Primary School is a pre-K to grade 2 school in Livermore. The 453 students are taught by 31 teachers and 16 educational technicians. Additionally, the Headstart Program operates within the building in cooperation with the school and employs one teacher and two educational technicians. The district has a 64% free/reduced lunch rate and a 16% special education population.

Last year, RSU 73 reconfigured two elementary schools and created the Spruce Mountain Primary and Spruce Mountain Elementary Schools. Combining all of the pre-K to grade 2 students has allowed for targeted professional development for teachers, as well as increased learning opportunities for students. Together, the staff is improving curriculum and has implemented the PEPG evaluation system for teachers. School members are on numerous teams that meet on a regular basis: Evaluation team, Curriculum Team, RTI Team, as well as Professional Learning Communities for each of the grade levels. In addition to this, teachers also meet in vertically aligned curriculum teams at the District level. Weekly, one hour late arrivals, help to maximize personal/professional growth and is a testament to this dedicated professional development time.



In addition to meeting the students' academic needs, Principal Kevin Harrington states, "that in order for the students to learn well, their basic needs must be met." There is a school-based food pantry that is open from 6 a.m. -10 p.m. daily with modified hours during vacation. The primary and elementary schools raise funds for the pantry in cooperation with the Good Shepherd Food Bank and are able to keep the shelves in the Phoenix Pantry full. All staff may gather snacks for their classes as needed and family members are welcome to access the pantry. On the second Tuesday each month, Mr. Harrington drives his truck to the Good Shepherd Food Bank and his truck is loaded with 1200 pounds of fresh produce for local families. In cooperation with Mr. Harrington, SMPS Art teacher, Farrah Poirier has been instrumental in ensuring the success of the pantry.



Families and community members are very supportive of the school and it's staff. They volunteer daily in the classrooms, assist in unloading produce and pantry items, stock shelves in the pantry, and when the school had a need to clear out brush to build a sledding hill, brought out the chainsaws and tractors to make this happen.

An "Evening on the Hill" is a winter evening activity that brings the community together," says Mr. Harrington, "The Jay Rental Tool Company donates outside flood lights, awesome music is played by Music Teacher, Jan Gill, hot chocolate, nachos, popcorn, and a variety snacks are provided by staff members, and families have the opportunity to enjoy Maine winter activities such as sledding and ice skating while warming themselves near a bonfire. "It's a great time for kids to just be kids."

If you want to experience an educational setting that truly takes care of the whole child in order to best educate them, I highly encourage you to visit Spruce Mountain Primary.

Contact Information:

Spruce Mountain Primary School, 107 Gibbs Mill Road, Livermore Falls, ME 04253 • 207-897-3355
Principal Kevin Harrington ~ E-Mail: kharrington@rsu73.com

Lewiston Regional Technical Center

The Lewiston Regional Technical Center is a grades 9-12 school located within the Lewiston High School building in Lewiston. Twenty-four teachers and four educational technicians teach 754 program students and an additional 275 students in the pre-vocational program. They have a 64% free/reduced lunch rate and 12% special education population.

When asked what makes his school amazing, Center Director Rob Callahan states, "Our faculty is incredible. All of them were very successful in their own trade prior to coming to LRTC. Teaching is a passion for all of them. They are knowledgeable, kid-centered, and approach the students from the viewpoint of 'all students have an untapped curiosity if given the right opportunity.'"



Mr. Callahan also stated that it's the students of LRTC that make the school incredible. "The students are proud to learn here. They have ownership and an investment in the school. This is their place and they value what they do because they have the opportunity to not only learn in the classroom, but they also get to experience the different trades in the real world via internships, externships, and mentorships."

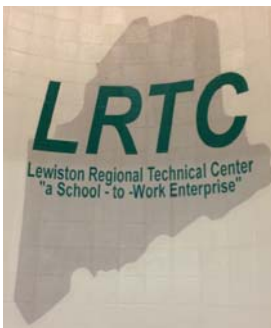
According to Assistant Center Director, Pete Gagnon, "We are training the workplace of tomorrow. The energy here is amazing!" This was evident in every room I entered. All of the students were engaged in their learning: from students working with

4-year olds in the preschool program to students designing a movie using cameras and technology. Students were using science, math, and problem-solving skills to design and build robots to enter into a national competition (which they won two years ago). Designs like the ones they were creating are being used in the real world to enter unsafe homes and diffuse bombs.



Students in the electrical class researched and developed a plan which was presented to the school board, approved, and now the students are installing high energy-efficient lights throughout the school. All the while there were students working on – and creating – their own businesses.

Thomas Jumper, a senior at LRTC is the owner and operator of PhoBoCo, a photo booth rental company that he created in his business class last year. He has been publically recognized for his entrepreneurial endeavor by Patrick Dempsey and Governor Paul LePage. "I have my own company that is getting recognized by a lot of people and it's because of the business class."



Another student, Monique, is a senior in the Bridge Program. "When I graduate from high school, I'll be entering college as a sophomore."

Lewiston Regional Technical Center is a school that I highly encourage you to visit if you want to see students truly using their knowledge in real world settings~ these kids are making a positive difference in their community and it's because of the learning experience at LRTC.

Contact Information:

Lewiston Regional Technical Center, 156 East Ave, Lewiston, ME 04240 ~ 207-795-4144

Center Director: Rob Callahan and Assistant Center Director: Pete Gagnon

E-mail: rcallahan@lewistonpublicschools.org

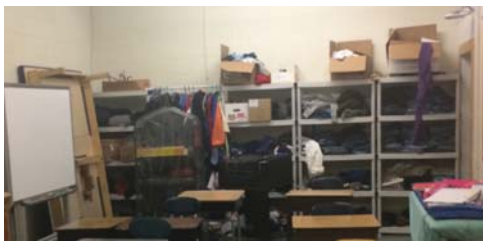
T. W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School



T.W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School (TWKDMS) is a grades 6-8 school in Dixfield. 167 students are taught by 11 teachers and 6.5 educational technicians. They also have a nurse, technology specialist, art, music, physical education, industrial arts, special education, and gifted & talented teachers that they share with at least one, if not two, other buildings in the district. T.W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School also shares the principal and assistant principal with the high school. They have a 60% free/reduced lunch rate and a 29% special education population.



“The people here are amazing,” states the very proud principal Mike Poulin when asked what makes his school great. “They saw a need for our students who did not have warm or clean clothes. They created a closet full of clean clothes. These items are either donated or bought by the staff who maintain the order of the closet and students know they have full access to all clothes. The staff doesn’t have to, nor are they expected to take care of the closet ~ they do it for the kids.”



“The kids’ energy is infectious and the staff who are here WANT to be here. The teachers love this age group and go above and beyond to help them succeed,” says Mr. Poulin. When walking through the Industrial Arts Class to the tour around the hub of the school~ the library~ you can feel it. The walls are brightly colored and full of student murals. The teachers hang banners on their doors to promote

higher education possibilities for students.

T.W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School is a Gear-Up school. All students begin and end each day in an advisory group of no more than ten. During this time the staff has the opportunity to check in on students, help them with their homework, or work with students for intervention. Earlier this year, the entire school read and discussed the book “Wonder.” Mr. Poulin noted a significant change in how students approach each other and accept differences in each other because of the schoolwide discussion on the book. The students had an opportunity to create a poster based off of the book and the school voted for their favorite. The winner will paint a mural of the poster on the wall in the cafeteria. Although the student had the opportunity to paint the mural alone, they have opted to have any student who created a poster help them with the mural. “This is just another example of how “Wonder” positively impacted the culture of the school.



The staff uses data when looking at where students are with their academics as well as behaviors. “Being a Positive Behavior Support School (PBIS), the staff looks at data and makes better decisions on how to best meet students’ needs. The students have the opportunity to test out of an intervention if they demonstrate growth in a three-week period of time. The students can see that hard work really does pay off.”



If you’d like to visit a school who has a dedicated staff who work together to overcome obstacles for the benefit of the students, you need to visit T.W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School.

Contact Information:

T.W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School, 45 Middle School Drive, Dixfield, ME 04224 • 207-562-7552

Principal: Michael Poulin ~ Assistant Principal: Jason Long

E-Mail: mpoulin@rsu10.org

MPA PHOTO ALBUM

Mentor/Coaches and Protege's

December 8, 2016

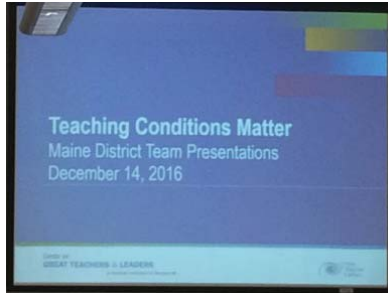


Rethinking Teacher Supervision and Evaluation

with Kim Marshall

December 7, 2016





*Working Conditions Matter:
Cultivating Stability and Growth
in Our Educator Workforce*

Session II

with Melissa Irby-Marshall

December 14, 2016

