

A digest for busy
Administrators!



Think
Spring!

Catholic School Administrators Association
Of New York State

406 Fulton Street, Suite 512, Troy, NY 12180
(518) 273-1205 Fax: (518) 273-1206

Web site: <http://csaanys.org> E-Mail: nysadm@aol.com

April 2002

Volume 32 / Issue 3

MATTERS OF PRINCIPAL

By Sister Carol Cimino, Executive Director

PLUS ÇA CHANGE, PLUS ÇA MEME

With this issue of the CSAANYYS newsletter, we mark our 30th year. In order to prepare to write this column, I went back to Volume I, Number 1 of the CSAANYYS newsletter, dated April, 1972. I wondered, what were they dealing with 30 years ago?

First of all, we have to remember why CSAANYYS was started. Having been present at its birth, if you will, I can tell at least some of the story. Back in 1972, when there was no CSAANYYS, there was SAANYYS, the School Administrators Association of New York State. Many of us belonged to SAANYYS and made it our duty to attend the annual meeting held, most years, at the Concord Hotel in Kiamasha.

The year in question, we were all working hard for the passage of the legislation that was to be known as Mandated Services. Listed on the conference program was a discussion on this new legislation, but when we Catholic school administrators tried to get into the session, we were denied entrance because the session was on how to DEFEAT the proposed legislation. You can imagine our reaction; in response, Brother Peter Pontolillo, SM, principal of a high school in Brooklyn, invited us all to his hotel room. There, we discussed the possibility of starting our own organization, and Brother Peter agreed to implement our suggestions.

Of course, the struggle over Mandated Services resulted, eventually, in a form which satisfied the Constitutional question, and the attention shifted to certification for nonpublic school teachers, allowing student teachers to teach in our schools, flood relief for the Catholic schools in the Southern Tier, textbook allocations, and busing.

As you check out the above list, you may note that these are still topics over which we get mightily exercised. Currently, we are trying to get an added \$10 million to \$20 million to cover the new attendance policy. We wonder if our students who suffered the tragedy of September 11th received equitable services to help them cope. From time to time there are attempts made to bar student teachers from our schools. Textbook allocations remain a problem, and the perennial all-time favorite: increasing mileage for busing of our students.

Jesus said, "The poor you will always have with you." He could have said the same thing about the issues around which we struggle in order to obtain justice for our children and their parents. But just as we know that we will not bring about the Kingdom on our own, we must believe in the struggle to do so. CSAANYYS has been in the thick of it for 30 years, and we plan to be in the thick of it in 2032. Thanks for being with us for the past three decades; we look forward to the work ahead.

SAVE THE DATE!

Those of you who came to hear Sister Clare Fitzgerald last October know how much fun it was to gather with all your colleagues from all over New York State.

Sunday, October 27, 2002 marks the second annual Catholic School Administrators' gathering, here in Albany at the Marriott Hotel.

Our speaker is Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ, NGO representative to the United Nations. Her topic will be "Leadership in a Global Age". Sister Carol is a nationally known speaker and facilitator. She's dynamic and informative. Come and be informed, connected and nourished.

JOB OPENING!

St. Michael's Elementary School in Newark, NY is looking for a principal. This Pre-K through 8th grade school has an enrollment of over 300 students.

For more information, contact Sr. Elaine Englert at (585)-328-3210 or e-mail: Englert@dor.org. For more job openings, check our website: <http://www.csaanys.org>



TAX BREAK FOR EDUCATORS

The economic stimulus package that President Bush signed on Saturday, March 9th includes a significant tax break for educators in public and private schools.

Starting with the current tax year, teachers and other eligible educators in elementary and secondary schools can take an above-the-line tax deduction of up to \$250 for out-of-pocket classroom expenses. Government officials estimate the new provision will mean \$409 million in tax savings for educators over the next two years. Private school teachers, who constitute 12 percent of the nation's teachers, could collectively save \$49 million. The President's statement appears at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020309-2.html>



1972

CSAANYYS - 30th Anniversary

2002

MANDATED SERVICES

Due to Section 104.1 of the regulations of the Commissioner of Education, schools must have in place by June 30, 2002, a "Comprehensive Attendance Policy". They are mandated and formal and may have enough impact that schools will have to reconsider and modify some of their current attendance practices.

Steve Partisano is a member of the "Mandated Services Workgroup". What they are proposing is that for 2001-2002, a flat fee claim be added to the forms for the creation of the school's policy and that a new mandate "CA-Classroom Attendance" be created for future years. Any input you could provide as to what and how you would like the State to address Section 104.1 in Mandated Services would be appreciated. Once the regulations and parameters are set, they tend not to change, so it is very important that they be proposed and implemented now.

In addition to his Mandated Services service, Steve also does school administrative software for nonpublic schools. He has just completed initial modifications of the attendance module to accommodate Section 104.1. If schools are looking for an electronic means to comply with the Attendance Regulations, please consider using his software, TEA. His web site: www.teahelp.com now has a draft "Comprehensive Attendance Policy" and links to several State resources and information about TEA.

Tip of the CSAANYS Coif.....

St. Casimir Regional School in Albany, NY proves that a school does not have to be large or wealthy to bring technological resources to its teachers and students. Five years ago, St. Casimir's had no computers, let alone Internet access and since then, they have used the E-Rate and Title fund programs to acquire hardware and software to bring its students and teachers into the new millennium.

As a result, St. Casimir's has been named a 2002 Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Innovations in Technology school.

Congratulations

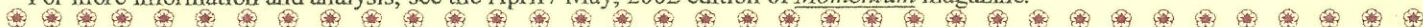
NCLB

The former ESEA is now part of NCLB (No Child Left Behind), authorized in February. The accountability provisions require states to set high standards and provide annual testing and reporting of progress. Although private schools are not required to participate in the testing program and their schools will not be ranked, it will be important for them to articulate clearly to parents and those interested in the schools the alternative ways in which student progress is measured and accountability is accomplished.

The increased flexibility will allow districts to consolidate some programs and funds outside of Title I to assist reform efforts. However, this cannot be done in ways that would exclude private school students from equitable participation in programs for which they are eligible. Although the law is focused primarily on public schools there are provisions that continue or expand opportunities for the equitable participation of private school students and teachers. Twelve programs authorized under NCLB provide benefits. Many of them are a continuation of programs from the past but some of these are combined under a different title. The enclosure with this newsletter will point this out.

A very important point in the new law is the specific inclusion of statutory language which requires meaningful consultation between public and private school officials regarding how the private sector students and teachers can be served more effectively. Private school officials must insist upon consultation as programs are being set up to protect their interests. The federal government is gradually suggesting guidelines for implementing the provisions of NCLB and the New York State Education Department is developing a plan to meet the requirements of the new law. The commissioner has assured the private sector that he will make certain it is included as directives emerge.

For more information and analysis, see the April / May, 2002 edition of *Momentum* magazine.



IDEA

This is the year for the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). At the present time discussion is centered on the reasons why the previous act was ineffective in providing services needed. USCC is advocating for statutory language that: ➡ federally funds this program at the 40% level originally promised by Congress; ➡ requires the maximum provision of services to eligible private and religious school students, and that such services, where possible, be provided on site, consistent with the *Agostini* decision; ➡ strengthens child find language to ensure adequate and timely evaluation and identification of eligible children in private and religious schools and as appropriate, makes effective use of private evaluators; ➡ strengthens existing complaint and bypass language so that it is similar to ESEA's Title I; ➡ provides appropriate due process rights to parents of eligible students in private and religious schools; ➡ requires the annual federal report to provide separate data on all referred, identified, and served children in public, private, and religious schools; ➡ requires federal monitors who evaluate the implementation of IDEA programs to include representatives of private and religious schools in this process; ➡ includes language that would prevent the amount of state and local dollars available for services to private and religious school students from counting against their fair share of federal dollars available under IDEA.

If this reauthorization does not take place in this session of Congress, the process will have to start over, as there will be a new Congress after the fall elections. This happened with the ESEA last year.

As we wait for the outcome of the Supreme Court case on vouchers, the issue of parental rights in education is being actively pursued. The Education Achievement and Opportunity Act (H.R.3685) has been introduced in the House. The bill calls for significant refundable tax credits per year, per child, for educational expenses incurred by parents. In elementary school, the tax relief would be \$2500 and in secondary schools the assistance would be \$3500. This would be a good time to call this bill to the attention of your representatives and ask them to co-sponsor and support this type of legislation.