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Board Establishes '77-'78 Priorities

—CSAANYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1977-78—

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At its first meeting of the 1977-78 school year, the Executive Board of CSAANYS established five major priorities for the Association as CSAANYS begins its sixth year of service to Catholic administrators throughout New York State.

As in the past, the main thrust of CSAANYS is that of a service organization. Areas pinpointed by the Board as being of particular importance in the coming year are: (1) CSAANYS' advocacy role for members with the SED; (2) CSAANYS' continuing defense of parental rights in education in the public forum and legislature; (3) CSAANYS' promotion of understanding of new legislation beneficial to the Catholic schools; (4) CSAANYS' distribution of up-to-date information on issues to Catholic administrators; and (5) CSAANYS' continuing to communicate to the Board of Regents the concerns of Catholic administrators in New York State.

Legislative Program

As well as setting directions for the Association in these areas, the Board discussed other areas of concern to principals, such as textbooks and transportation. Problems still exist in many districts in obtaining equitable treatment for non-public students. CSAANYS' legislative program for this year will concentrate in these areas, as well as

obtaining equitable health services for all students in a district. The Board is considering a study into discrimination in textbook distribution and adaptable models of distribution used in neighboring states.

Convocation

In a break with tradition, the Board decided that this year's annual workshops will depart from their regional nature. Spring of 1978 will see a convocation of the entire membership of CSAANYS in Albany. As well as being an opportunity for personal and professional growth for the principals, this convocation will concentrate on creating an awareness in the minds of the officials of New York State of the strength of the Catholic administrators who make up the membership of CSAANYS.

The Executive Board approved an amended version of the Association's Constitutions. The Constitutions will soon be mailed to members for their approval.

A restructuring of CSAANYS' dues system was also approved by the Board. Over the next few years, the Association will move towards once-a-year dues collection in September. An intermediary step in 1977-78 will be to collect dues in September for those renewable July-

E.D. Testifies To Regents

On Sept. 9th, Br. Bernard G. Flood, FMS, executive Director of CSAANYS, presented testimony on behalf of the Catholic school administrators before the New York State Board of Regents at their annual legislative hearings in Albany.

Brother Flood noted that the Regents' program for last year lacked any specific recommendations with regards to the nonpublic schools of the state. He further stated, "...that decisions made for the public schools will have reciprocating, but not identical effects, upon the nonpublic systems. Hence, both systems cannot be treated inclusively."

Specific recommendations to the Regents centered upon three areas of concern to Catholic educators, students and parents. The Executive Director expressed the need Catholic administrators felt for the SED and Board of Regents to issue strong, clear guidelines for the implementation of the NYS Textbook Loan Law. Many nonpublic schools throughout the state experienced difficulties, if not outright discrimination, in obtaining the total amount of money allotted for textbooks from the lottery monies this year.

Brother Bernard then made several recommendations in the area of transportation. Among these were to extend the 15-mile limit on transportation to allow students who live beyond the limit to be brought to a pickup point within the 15 miles. He also noted that city districts were no longer transporting students who live a few miles beyond the city limits. A change in the law to eliminate the concept of the "nearest available parochial school" when a student requests transportation was also recommended.

The third area of recommendation was a reproposal of the voucher system of funding education.

CSAANYS' testimony was reinforced by the presentations of both the Parents' Federation and the Superintendents' Council. The Board of Regents' were urged to increase their awareness of the non-public school system in the state and its needs, as well as its contributions to education in New York State.

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Have We Gained Under Wolman?

On June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the constitutionality of various provisions of an Ohio statute which authorized various forms of state assistance to non-public school students.

Although viewed by some as a "step in the right" direction, others see it as "crumbs" for the 5.5 million children attending the nation's non-public schools. Despite the contrary opinions, *Wolman vs. Walter* is the most liberal decision to come from the Court in many years.

Briefly, the Court upheld: the loan of textbooks and workbooks; testing and scoring services; and on-site diagnostic speech and hearing services and psychological services. The vote was 6-3, 6-3, and 8-1 respectively. The Court struck down: the loan of instructional material (3-6), and field trip transportation (4-5).

Although diagnostic services may be provided on the premises of the non-public school itself, the treatment provided for such defects must be performed on a neutral site, said the Court.

Attorneys are speculating to what extent these diagnostic vs. remedial services distinctions may affect lower court decisions in cases presently before them. Such is the case dealing with health services in the Port Washington school district.

Interim Decision

On Sept. 16, 1977, a U.S. District Court issued an interim decision affecting the health services provided the non-public school students in New York State. (*Filler et. al. vs. Port Washington*).

The Court approved the rendering of the following services to non-public students by a district, on the site of the non-public school: services of a physician, dentist, dental hygienist or nurse; dental prophylaxis, vision and hearing tests; the taking of medical histories and giving of health screening tests; the maintenance of cumulative health records; and emergency care services for ill or injured students.

A school psychologist or speech therapist may render only diagnostic services on the premises of the non-public school. Services which are therapeutic or remedial must be rendered on "neutral premises." The services of a teacher of the

deaf may be provided only on "neutral premises" also.

Bear in mind that this is an interim decision, that the case will be further argued before a definitive decision is made.

Name and Code Number, Please

A new regulation regarding the 1977 New York State Income Tax forms requires that parents who send their children to parochial schools should file the school district name and code of the district in which they reside, rather than the district in which their children attend school. This district of residence is the basis for calculating such student benefits as textbooks and transportation.

The administrators, through their parent groups, might render a valuable service if they provided the parents of the school children with a listing of the names and three-digit code numbers of the school district from which they draw their clientele. This information will be needed by December 31, 1977.

We have shared this information with your diocesan superintendent who has a complete listing of the three-digit code numbers of the local school districts.

been imposed on several districts in Missouri. Other districts in Virginia, as well as in Wisconsin, are being investigated by USEO for inequities in administering Title I services to nps students.

CERTIFICATION

Effective January 31, 1978, new candidates for permanent certification must obtain a masters' degree in an area functionally related to the certification area.

Persons who have completed an approved program during the summer of 1977 will be issued a certificate of qualification dated September 1977. Anyone turning in the certificate of qualification before February 1, 1978, is eligible for certification under the old regulations.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

The Board of Regents has recently enacted three amendments to Section

OFFICE DOWNGRADED, SAYS CSAANYS

In early July CSAANYS took action to stop attempts to reorganize the Office of Nonpublic School Services in Washington, D.C.

Letters of protest were sent to Secretary Joseph Califano, the senators and representatives from NYS in Congress, and Commissioner of Education Boyer.

In our opinion, Commissioner Boyer's intention to "create a broad educational forum" known as the Education Community Liaison into which Nonpublic School Services would be merged, is "downgrading" and would eventually lead to its demise.

The establishment of this office several years ago enabled nonpublic school administrators with grievances on the implementation of federal programs to complain directly to the Director, Dwight Crum, who had immediate access to the Commissioner. This reorganization could stifle his effectiveness in the future.

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December, and in January for those due January-June. This restructuring will be more efficient for all involved, and will ease the financial burden of renewal late in the school year when funds are depleted.

Elections

Also during its first meeting, the Board elected its officers for 1977-78. Re-elected as Board president was Rev. George Sheehan, supervisory principal of Bishop Grimes-Bishop Ludden High Schools in Syracuse. Elected as vice president of the Association was Joseph McTighe, principal of St. Catherine of Siena School in Albany. The Board gave a vote of thanks to out-going vice president Michael Kraemer for his many services to CSAANYS as officer and Board member.

Honorary membership in the Association was bestowed upon Fr. L. William Gordon, former Board member and president, and Br. Thomas Draney.

156.13 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

The amendments provide for a more flexible schedule for physical examinations; eliminate the training requirements for certified teachers who drive school busses on an occasional basis; and expand the school bus emergency drill requirements to all pupils.

REQUIRED SERVICES

The district federal court ordered that the checks be drawn by the SED Finance Department. If a favorable decision is rendered they will be mailed.

NEWSBRIEFS

IMMUNIZATION

All are urged to support the national immunization campaign initiated by HEW. It is hoped that the campaign will raise the level of children immunized against childhood diseases to over 90% by Oct. '79 and establish a permanent system to ensure that all babies born each year are fully immunized at the earliest appropriate time.

BYPASS INVOKED

U.S. Commissioner Ernest Boyer invoked the bypass in 5 public school districts in Virginia because of failure to provide 'equitable and comparable' participation in Title I to nonpublic school children. Bypass permits the nps to administer independently its portion of federal funding. The bypass has already