

Board Plans for Workshops & Future Services

At its first meeting of the 1978-79 school year, the Executive Board of CSAANYS outlined the major priorities and directions for the Association in the year ahead. As in the past, CSAANYS' main purpose is that of service to the Catholic school principals of New York State.

During the summer, Board members strove to ascertain the reasons for a school dropping membership in CSAANYS. Two main reasons were the financial predicament of the school and the unfamiliarity of a new principal with the Association. The Board decided that in cases of financial crisis, adjustments will be made in the dues structure if CSAANYS is made aware of the situation. Also, there was such favorable reaction to the changeover in the time of renewals to the beginning of the school year.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Board reviewed the legislation which was successfully passed through the legislature and approved a program for proposals for new legislation for the coming year. Only two bills affecting non-public schools were passed by the legislature: (1) the removal of the restriction of transportation to "the nearest available parochial school;" (2) the removal of the August 1st transportation request deadline.

This year, CSAANYS will continue to sponsor those bills still in committee, as well as two new areas: (1) a state-funded minimum program of health services, and (2) a state-aided program of physical education. The 1978-79 legislative program was developed in conjunction with the Superintendents' Council and the Parents' Federation.

WORKSHOPS

The Board members reported that the consensus of the principals throughout the state was that a state-wide convocation should not be undertaken this year. Therefore, CSAANYS will sponsor three regional workshops this spring. Suggested topics will be (1) the affective and moral development of the child and (2) school financing, budgets and managerial problems. The format will be similar to that used in past years.

The Board also set greater cooperation and collaboration with the diocesan offices, Parents Federation and Superintendents Council as a goal for the coming year. Brother Flood will continue to meet with Mr. William Gallagher of the Parents Federation to develop joint

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 27

Workshop for Metropolitan N.Y.

Wednesday, April 4

Workshop for Central and Northern N.Y.

Thursday, April 26

Workshop for Western N.Y.

strategies to enliven the political power of the parents. The diocesan representatives of CSAANYS will meet with the diocesan superintendents to develop rapport and cooperation on shared goals.

LAP Funds Oppose Voucher

The National Association of Elementary School Principals has appropriated \$10,000 from its Legal Assistance Program fund to help oppose a voucher plan referendum on the November ballot in Michigan.

The voucher plan referendum proposed that parents would receive a voucher (for each child) from the state for a specified amount of money for educational services. The voucher would be presented at any school — public, private or parochial — in which the parents enrolled the child.

Since 1970, NAESP has had a position opposing funds for non-public schools. They affirmed this position in 1978 at the Delegate Assembly. This reaffirmation determined NAESP response to such issues as vouchers, tuition tax credits and federal funds for non-public schools.

According to NAESP president Bill M. Hanbrick, "Our legal assistance program gives us the ability to act rather than react. As a national association, we cannot permit financial erosion of public education in any state. If a voucher plan is initiated in any state, it will encourage proponents to expand their efforts throughout the nation."

Continued on next page

Tax Credits: Where Are They?

The fight for tuition tax credit is over — at least for this session of Congress. Last minute hopes were raised by the House's re-insertion of credit for parents of secondary school students. But a last minute compromise, combined with Congress's desire to adjourn, caused the legislators to quickly agree to send President Carter a tax bill he would be happy with — one without any mention of Tuition Tax Credit.

Many powerful forces had been arrayed against the tuition tax credit concept. The large teachers' unions, national educational organizations and some Protestant and Jewish groups had poured great sums of money into the campaign to defeat tuition tax credits to protect the public school monopoly in education. There were those who opposed it because of anti-Catholic bigotry. Some believed tax credits to be unconstitutional, ignoring the fact that it is the function of the U.S. Supreme Court to decide such matters.

Justice and argumentation were on our side. We lacked the money to exert full impact. Re-election is a potent factor in political decision making.

The House's surprising support and the unexpected withdrawal of the Senate's support must now be politically assessed. Future strategies must now be studied if the time for the passage of Tuition Tax Credit legislation has really come.

CSAANYS Proposes Legislation

On September 8th, Br. Bernard G. Flood, Executive Director of CSAANYS, appeared before the New York State Board of Regents at their annual legislative hearings to make a statement on behalf of the Catholic administrators of the State.

Noting that "the provision of health services to school age children is uneven among districts, declining in scope and type of services under fiscal crisis," Br. Flood urged the Regents to implement a program of minimal health services to be provided to every child in the state. This was suggested as an alternative to the Regents' own program which restricts reimbursement for health services to non-public school children to \$25 per pupil.

The Executive Director brought to the attention of the Regents the difficulties created by the Wolman decision of the Supreme Court which declared that the therapeutic services were not permissible on non-public school premises. Br. Flood urged the Regents to continue their support of legislation which would provide non-public school students with transportation to neutral sites as well as to consider the use of mobile units to save instructional time lost in travel.

A third area of recommendation was the inclusion of a state-aided program of physical education for all children of the state in an over-all health program supported by the Regents. Finally, Br. Flood urged that the Education Law be amended to allow public school districts to make the same field trip opportunities provided for public school children available to students in the non-public schools.

In closing, Br. Flood again made clear to the Regents the hassles, problems and discrimination parents of non-public school students endure in trying to obtain the services to which their children are entitled. He urged the Regents to give consideration to the problem of insuring compliance to the law in their current study for reorganizing Department services to students in non-public schools.

CSAANYS's testimony was supported and broadened by the presentations of the Parents' Federation and Superintendents' Council. Mr. William Gallagher, Executive Director of the Parents' group, urged the Regents to support tuition tax credits and a voucher experiment as means of financing education which do not penalize those in education. In the area of transportation, Mr. Gallagher urged support for two pieces of legislation: A-10884, which would allow students living beyond the 15-mile limit to be picked up at some point within the 15 miles; A-15759, S-9518 which would mandate city school districts to provide transportation outside city limits, up to the 15-mile limit.

Father Vincent Breen, Superintendent of Education for the Brooklyn Diocese and President of the Superintendents' Council urged the Regents to study the participation and services provided the children in the non-public schools of New York State through state and federal programs. He requested that the Regents take specific steps to include non-public schools in any legislation or programs initiated.

NEWSBRIEFS

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Dr. Ernest Boyer, U.S. Commissioner of Education, has issued a policy statement regarding the service of the USOE to non-public schools participating in federal education programs, particularly in the area of invoking the bypass to serve non-public school students when local public school districts either can not or refuse to do so.

Dr. Boyer stated, "Services to children in non-public schools can and must increase." Along with the policy statement, guidelines for handling complaints from non-public schools were issued, including time frames for each step in the resolution process.

REMINDER

Please return to CSAANYS headquarters:

- the Conflict Report
- Congressional, Senatorial and Assembly District numbers.

IRS REGULATIONS

The IRS has proposed new procedures that will be applied in determining whether private schools are racially discriminatory in their enrollment of students. Any school found to discriminate against minority students would lose its tax-exempt status and contributions to the school would no longer be deductible.

Unless a school can show a significant minority student enrollment or that efforts have been made to attract minority students, the IRS, under the new procedures, could assume the school was racially discriminatory. The main problem seen for parochial schools is that their minority status will be determined by the status of the public school district in which they are located.

COMPETENCY TESTING

The Regents have now adopted tentative basic competency standards in reading, writing and mathematics which must be met to receive a New York State high school diploma. The Regents Competency Testing Program is part of a comprehensive plan to ensure that all students acquire certain essential skills

LAP Funds Continued

NAESP were also part of the powerful coalition that enabled the defeat of the Tuition Tax Credit legislation this year.

If you are a member of NAESP -- LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD. Your dues are being used against the parents you serve. Better still, withdraw your membership.

CSAANYS has expressed its dissatisfaction to NAESP over that association's active opposition to aid for non-public school parents, as well as CSAANYS's intention to encourage the non-public school principals of NYS to cancel membership in NAESP.

Regent Opposes NASBE

At its national convention, the National Association of State Boards of Education proposed a broadening of a resolution against the use of public funds for aid to non-public schools under any circumstances, calling all such aid unconstitutional.

Chancellor Theodore Black of the NYS Board of Regents made a strong statement against the modification and in support of educational pluralism, such as exists in New York State. He stated that passage of the resolution was a "vote of no confidence in our public schools."

before leaving high school, as well as to identify early those students who are below standard and provide necessary remedial help.

The new testing program will provide a uniformed monitoring system of progress towards competency in basic skills from early grades through completion of high school. Only those students scoring below the medial on the sixth grade PEP tests or nationally standardized basic skills tests given by local districts in the eighth or ninth grades will be required to take the new preliminary tests. Those students who pass the Regents exams in English and math are exempted from the final reading, writing and math competency tests.

Before adopting final standards in February, 1979, the Regents will study professional and public reactions.

MINI-GRANTS

Mini-project Program grants ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 are now available through funding by Title IV-C of the ESEA. The projects, which must come in direct contact with students, can deal with developing creative ideas or fresh approaches to regular school subjects, as well as solutions to specific local problems. Special priority will be given to such areas as basic writing, high school math and science, career education, education of the gifted and handicapped, and health and nutrition education. See CSAANYS Research Report #14 on Mini-grants. For more information, contact your local OEP director or the Mini-Project Program Coordinator, Robert G. Kelly (518-474-2380). Application deadline is December 20, 1978.