

CSAANYS NEWS

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE
406 Fulton Street • Suite 512 • Troy, New York 12180

Federal Legislation Update

by Sister Mary Anne Brawley

From February 29 through March 2, 1988 I attended the Third Annual Legislative Meeting on Educational Issues at the United States Catholic Conference in Washington.

As might be expected, the first order of business was the status of Chapter I reauthorization. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have passed bills (HR5 and S373) and are presently working on compromises to enact the law. Using the House version (HR5) the Congress is considering 2 amendments which will help the Catholic school community in coping with the post Aguilar-Felton problems. They are:

- Section 1017(a) which requires timely and meaningful consultation of the local educational agency with the non public schools in planning delivery of service;
- Section 1017(b3A) which requires a timely resolution of complaints within 90 to 120 days.

Secondly, a burning issue for this 100th Congress is child care. S1885 and HR3660 are bills to improve the quality of child care service by increasing the number of available providers through grants, loans and tax incentives and by providing vouchers to working parents which they can exchange for services from approved providers. This legislation is of concern to us because;

- S1885 Section 19(B)(i) prohibits funding of programs held in places which contain "Religious symbols and artifacts unless they are covered";
- and by 19(B)(ii) which prohibits employing teachers or teachers' aides from a sectarian school.

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CRITICAL ISSUES DAY IN ALBANY

On Tuesday, March 1, Associate Director Sister Carol Cimino attended the New York State Catholic Conference Critical Issues Day at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. After an opening prayer service, the various interest groups met to review the legislative priorities to be discussed with legislators and to discuss strategies for the presentations.

Following these briefing sessions, the 400 participants kept appointments with Senators and Assemblypersons. Several of the participants who attended in order to press educational issues are CSAANYS board members and CSAANYS members.

Chief among the education concerns is state grants for asbestos abatement and inspection and repair of petroleum storage tanks. Increases in textbook and library materials aid, access to learning technology and implementation of Chapter 1 are all pressing needs of nonpublic schools.

We once again urge our members to encourage parents to write to their local state legislators and press for some action on these priorities this year.

and the winner is.....

...Margaret Andrews of St. Joseph's Elementary School in Buffalo, whose "Pass It On" entry won her a free trip to the NCEA Convention in New York City. Thanks to Sam Rosen Educational Services and P.F. Collier, Margaret's air fare, hotel and meals during the convention were covered. She was also honored at a breakfast at the Marriott Marquis on the Wednesday of the Convention.

Margaret's idea is an incentive for families in her school to recruit new students. A current school family who recruits a new student receives a voucher worth one month's tuition when that new student registers. According to Margaret the program is two years old and "has more than paid for itself in increasing enrollment".

We wish to thank all those who submitted entries & remind you that we will begin accepting "Pass It On" ideas in May for a monthly prize of either \$50.00 cash or a Collier's Encyclopedia.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sister Joan McGuire, SCH, Principal of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Queens. Sister passed away suddenly on March 6.

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* Budget Alert:

On Wednesday, April 20, 1988, the New York State Legislature passed the 1988-89 budget. It includes a record \$7.9 billion for education. Unfortunately for the second straight year this education allotment has completely ignored the non-public school student. There is no increase in textbook, library, or software aid.

Of more immediate concern, however, is the \$50 million allocation for asbestos study and abatement in schools around the state. In defining "schools" the legislature speaks only of public, or perhaps more rightly - GOVERNMENT, schools. This means that our schools, although subject to the same AHERA regulations, will receive no state funds to cover the cost of inspection, testing, and management planning.

In our opinion, we need a concerted effort in reacting to this exclusion of non-public school students in the Education budget. The parents of 380,000 children in New York State have chosen Catholic schools for their children. These tax paying citizens are being unjustly treated in a State which claims to provide justice for all. What are we going to do about it?

Variance Action!!

On Monday, April 11, Iona Preparatory School received a variance for 12th grade social studies. This was the culmination of over one year's work by the CSAANY Board to seek exception to the requirement of a fourth year of social studies which would force a number of our accelerated students to drop an AP course or other well-chosen elective.

Now that the precedent has been set, we believe joint action on the part of the Council of Catholic School Superintendents and the State Education Department will be forthcoming. We are happy to have been part of this long and often grueling process to maintain our academic autonomy in this area.

Our special thanks go to Brother Michel Bettigole of Bishop Ford High School, Brooklyn who first requested our involvement on behalf of the Brooklyn secondary administrators; to Brother James Liguori of Iona Preparatory School, New Rochelle who filed our trial test; to Fred Calder of the New York State Association of the Independent Schools, Dr. Frederick Aho and Susanna Gould of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools for their advice and support; and finally to our secondary administrators who took the time to respond to our data-gathering questionnaire. Without this cooperative effort we fear we'd still be waiting for some action on this issue.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Applications for the 1989 New York State Teacher of the Year Award are due in the SED by July 1, 1988. Candidates should be exceptionally skillful and dedicated classroom teachers who are respected by students, parents and colleagues. Classroom teachers with five or more years' experience and who plan to continue in the teaching profession may apply.

CSAANY is represented on the state selection committee and we encourage Catholic school personnel to participate in this program. For application information contact SED, Bureau of School Supervision, 668 EBA, Albany, NY 12234, (518)474-5894, or your superintendent..



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THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE
AND
THE NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS
PRESENT
6TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

"A FUTURE AND A HOPE"

APRIL 28-30, 1989
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

For years now, we've used our monthly newsletter to advocate the partnership that must exist between Catholic school administrators and Catholic school parents. Now that stance has been envisioned into reality as both CSAANY'S and the NYS Federation of Catholic School Parents have concluded discussion which will be realized at a state convention to be held April 28-30, 1989 at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Syracuse, NY.

The theme "A Future and a Hope" represents the intended outcome of the gathering: that, together, parents and administrators can explore and utilize those resources which will not only insure the survival of the Catholic schools of NYS, but will maintain the excellence of those schools. To that end, a slate of speakers and workshops will present ideas and suggestions for cooperative action that can be sustained by schools around the state. Bishop O'Keefe of Syracuse will also be on hand Saturday evening to celebrate the convention liturgy.

There will be exhibits of products and services of interest to parents and principals and an advertising journal. The cost of the entire three days, including meals, speakers, accommodations at the Sheraton and the Friday evening reception will be under \$160 to CSAANY'S members, more for non-members. Parents of CSAANY'S-affiliated schools will be given the same consideration as administrators who are members. More information will be sent out as soon as it is available; we make mention of the gathering now so that you may mark your calendar and your budget.

We look forward to this unique, historic event and we would encourage our administrators to begin to identify key parents from each school - parents who possess the leadership potential and the talent to spearhead school-by-school movements toward the realization of the power and influence that lies in the parents of our students. In this way may we cement a lasting partnership for the benefit of our students.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: A Major Victory

★ A major victory was handed to the State's private schools on July 14 as the NYS Legislature reached an agreement on state reimbursement to schools for asbestos inspection in compliance with the Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). ★

★ Under the \$25 million dollar program, according to the July 15 Albany Times Union, the state will pay 40% of the total cost of asbestos inspections carried out between Jan. 1, 1988 and July 1, 1989, the federal deadline. Of that, \$21 million will go to public schools and \$4 million to nonpublic schools. ★

★ After the initial budget had virtually ignored nonpublic schools, a telephone campaign was conducted on May 24 to state legislators' offices. As a result, several lawmakers came out in favor of including the nonpublic schools in the asbestos inspection allocation. ★

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CSAANYS Board Elects Officers

At its May meeting, the CSAANYS Executive Board elected Sister Mary Ann Crimmins, CSJ president for the 1988-89 school year. Sister Mary Ann is currently the principal of St. Philip Neri School in Northport and she has represented the Rockville Centre elementary schools to CSAANYS since 1982. David Brown, Assistant Principal of Notre Dame High School in Utica, was elected vice president of the Board. Mr. Brown has represented the secondary schools of the Syracuse diocese since 1984.

Secondary schools elected representatives to the CSAANYS Board this Spring. The representatives are:

Sr. Mary Ann Cody, IHM - Rockville Centre

Mr. Hugh Kirwan - Brooklyn

Bro. Anthony Iazzetti - New York

Sr. Carolyn Schanz, CSJ - Albany

Mr. David Brown - Syracuse

Mr. Franklyn Kamp - Rochester

Rev. Michael Kolodziej - Buffalo

Bro. Louis St. Pierre - Ogdensburg

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

The US Education Department recently revised and renamed regulations regarding the fording of parents and student privacy and other rights with respect to school records.

Although the regulations do not, technically, require our Catholic elementary and secondary schools to comply, the US Catholic Conference has advocated that diocesan offices adopt policies of compliance. Diocesan schools offices will be notifying schools about adherence to these policies.

Statewide Conference on Law-Related Education

The Law, Youth and Citizenship Program will hold its 12th Annual state-wide conference on Law-Related Education October 26-28, 1988 at the Sagamore Hotel in Bolton Landing, NY. The conference theme is "The Decade of the Child: A Promise to Be Kept" and would be of interest to K-12 teacher or administrator seeking to be involved in law-related education.

Registration fee is \$25.00, and registration materials will be distributed to administrators of elementary and secondary schools during the summer.

CORRECTION

Our June newsletter contained an article on before- and after-school day care which omitted an important line. It should have read:

"Currently all schools that conduct before - and after-school day care for 15 or more hours per week are required to be licensed by DSS..."

It should also be noted that the law contains several ambiguities which could be construed so as to exempt religious schools from regulation by DSS and those need to be taken into consideration when operating day care



Legislative Update cont'd...

Asbestos Extension

Compliance with AHERA, the national asbestos legislation has been amended as of the first week of July. Schools may request a variance from the October 12, 1988 deadline for filing an asbestos inspection report and management plan with their SEA.

The procedure provides that schools may have until May 9, 1989 to comply if they have compelling reasons for doing so. Depending on how dioceses decide to respond, either a central authority or an individual school may request the deferral. In either case, the school or the agency must show that it is making a "good faith" effort to comply. This 7-month deferment may enable our schools to do a better job on asbestos management and thus ensure the health and safety of our students in a more efficient manner.

Fire Inspection

CSAANYS has written to Assemblyman Saul Weprin concerning the Assembly's action on reimbursement to private schools for costs related to the annual fire inspection report.

The monies have already been encumbered in the 1988 budget and simply need inclusion in the already court-tested mandated services legislation. As of this writing (July 14), the Senate version has passed and the Assembly Rules Committee is now considering its version. We will keep you updated on this.



Training for School Food Service Workers

During the 1988-89 school year, the Training Network for School Food Service Workers will make available six training programs to schools. The network will bring a master instructor to the school to do a district-wide training session. Topics include: merchandising, accountability, financial management, offer vs. serve, nutrition, effective use of government donated commodities.

The public school district may be arranging for sessions on the local level and Catholic schools may wish to contact the Network to arrange sessions. A training session may be arranged by contacting Mr. Frank Rinaldi at (518) 474-3956.

Textbook Revision

Due in large part to the efforts of CSAANYS Executive Director Sister Mary Anne Brawley, the State Ed. Dept. has recommended for action by the Board of Regents on expansion of the type of material under the definition of textbook.

In January, 1987, the definition of "textbook" was amended to include newspapers where study guides and other materials had made them an educational tool. Sister Mary Anne brought to SED's attention the fact that news-magazines such as Newsweek have also developed study guides and other materials, thus bringing them under the definition of textbook.

This proposed amendment was presented in July, 1988 to take effect November 4, 1988.

Examination Schedule Available

The NYSED has published the January and June, 1989 Regents Examination, Proficiency and Competency test schedule. Principals who have not received a copy may contact Kenneth Ormiston at SED.

ESIPA Pilot Project

Albany-area school principals might be interested in a pilot project in playwriting for students in grades 9-11, which begins Jan. 9, 1989. The Empire State Institute for Performing Arts will furnish information on this and other services if you write: Education Dept., ESIPA at the Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223.

Second Language Proficiency Exam

These examinations will be available for administration in 1989 in French, Spanish, Italian, German and Latin.

Not all students are expected to take or to pass a second language proficiency exam.

They are intended for 8th grade students who have completed 2 units of study, but the exams may be administered at any grade level. Students who pass a proficiency exam below grade 9 will earn one high school unit of credit in second language instruction.

Students do not have to pass a second language proficiency exam to earn either a Regents or a local high school diploma.

"Capital Expense" Funds for Chapter 1

The Congress passed an appropriation message in Sept. which allocates money to LEA's to assist them in bringing the Chapter 1 program for private school children up to its pre-Felton level of participation.

New York State's allocation is \$4,247,182.00 based on 1984-85 figures of 39,663 private school participants in the program. These funds may only be used by LEA's to pay for the added costs under Aguilar v. Felton constraints.

It is recommended that Catholic school officials meet with district officials to determine how best to utilize these new funds, which will be available July 1, 1989.

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* NYSED is looking for occupational education teacher with at least 3 years' experience to serve as an Occupational Education Teacher Ambassador. Contact: Helen M. Branigan, Bureau of Occupational Ed. Prog. Development, One Commerce Plaza, Albany NY 12234 before December 15.

* "Imaginative Images", a juried art exhibition for grades K-12 will be cosponsored by SED in selected cities around the state. Students are invited to submit art work by Feb. 17, 1989. More information can be obtained from Joan White-Smith, Imagination Celebration Office Rm. 9B38, Cultural Ed. Center, Empire State Plaza, Albany NY, 12230.

* In response to our Sept. newsletter article on the National Diffusion Network we received a letter from Mr. Thomas E. Peters of the Buffalo Diocesan Office. Mr. Peters is willing to assist schools on how to work with CAPE to design an inservice program. Contact him at Catholic Center, 795 Main St., Buffalo NY 14203.

* A new Regents Physics Syllabus is being distributed to replace the 1967 edition. For individual copies, write: Publications Distribution Unit NYSED, Rm. 171, EBA, Albany NY 12234.

* Beginning with the 1989 Regents Comprehensive Exam in English, the Related Areas section of the test will be dropped. The 5 credits that had been allotted this section will be added to the Part I literature essay.