

Report on the 61st Annual Meeting of MASC

November 14-17, 2007

Hyannis, MA

Attended by Paul Funch

MASC Delegate Assembly - Officers

- President: Ellen Furtado, Swansea
- President-Elect: Debra Bibeau, Amesbury
- Vice President: Kathleen Robey, Marlborough
- Secretary-Treasurer: Ellen Holmes,
Ashburnham-Westminster
- Division I (BoD): Dorothy Presser, Lynnfield
- <http://www.masc.org/>

MASC Delegate Assembly – Resolutions

- 1 (Charter School enrollment info) - ~unan.
- 2 (SPED transport. costs in Ckt. Brk.) – unan.
- Motion to Divide resolution 3 - $>2/3$ (Y)
- 3.1 (adequate state funding) – unan.
- 3.2 (reorganize State BOE) – unan.
- 3.3 (100% Medicaid reimbursement) – unan.
- 3.4 (Charter School moratorium) – $>2/3$ (N)
 - Amend.: Work with CSs to understand grievances – defeated (Y)

MASC Delegate Assembly – Resolutions - #2

- 3.5 (restore SC approval of SIPs) - >2/3 (N)
- 3.6 (more than MCAS) - >2/3 (Y)
 - Amend.: shorten to 1st phrase – defeated (N)
- 3.7 (greater flex for ELLs) - >2/3 (Y)
- 4 (revise Foundation Budget formula) – unan.

School Committee Self-Evaluation

– Pat Correira & Mike Gilbert

- Free service provided by MASC
 - Collects forms and analyzes
- Recommended mid-year, each year
- Possible areas of evaluation
 - Governance (policies, mission, “PD”)
 - Operations (roles, training, protocols)
 - Member Relations (courtesy, info sharing)
 - Committee/Superintendent Relations

School Committee Self-Evaluation - #2

- Possible areas of evaluation (continued)
 - Strategic Planning (incl. budget process)
 - Community Relations (public, towns, PR)
 - Conduct of SC Meetings
 - Fiscal Management (regular reports)
 - Student Achievement
- SC can choose some or use all areas of evaluation

Getting Our Students to College & Careers - Jeffrey Nellhaus

- Acting Commissioner of Education
- Good News
 - MA is #1 in National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/aboutnaep.asp>
 - Near top in SAT scores
 - 87% of Class of 2009 met Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) competency standard on their 1st try
- Bad News
 - 35% of MA HS grads attending MA colleges required remedial coursework in 1st semester

Getting Our Students to College & Careers - #2

- Requirements for Success in 21st Century Economy
 - Expert thinking skills
 - Identifying & solving problems
 - Organizing info & understanding relationships
 - Taking initiative
 - Complex communication skills
 - Observing & listening
 - Asking critical questions
 - Interpreting info
 - Convincing others

Getting Our Students to College & Careers - #3

DOE's FY09 Budget Priorities

- Students
 - Academic support grants
 - Connecting activities
- Educators
 - Leadership training
 - Educator workforce development
 - PD in Math, Science, ELA, and Data
- Districts
 - Targeted assistance
 - Expanded learning time
 - Kindergarten
 - After school and summer programs
- <http://www.doe.mass.edu/>

Global Economy/Global Competitiveness: Cultivating a World- Class Work Ethic - Alan November

- Provocative, insightful, and compelling
- Context
 - China and India each have more gifted students than the total number of US students
 - Calculus required for graduation in Columbia
 - Two language fluency required for graduation from ESs in many countries
 - Test scores are necessary, but not sufficient

Global Economy/Global Competitiveness: Cultivating a World- Class Work Ethic - #2

- 3 Primary Skills
 - Information processing
 - Children must learn to deal with massive amount of information and to support their own learning
 - Global communications
 - Web literacy
 - Exceptional diversity
 - Self-directed
 - Empower our children for a global economy where there is no boss
- <http://www.novemberlearning.com/>

Communications 101 – Glen Koocher, Wendy Spector, John Creed

- Only 15-19% of voters have connection with public education, so direct efforts accordingly
- 95% of school news is sports-related. Many talented people (teachers, administrators, students) are being overlooked.
- SC members should write op-ed pieces

Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria – Special Advisor for Education to Gov. Deval Patrick

- Education is the #1 priority of the Patrick Administration in FY09
- It is essential to link pre-K, K-12, and post-secondary public education (Dr. Mohler-Faria is also President of Bridgewater State College)
- Readiness Project
 - Extended learning time, etc.

Preparing MA Students for the 21st Century – Ken Kay

- <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>
- Business leaders are looking for communications skills and work ethic in HS graduates, but are not finding those skills
- There is an entirely new context for careers
 - “The World is Flat,” by Thomas L. Friedman
 - Technical info volume doubles every 24 months today. In 2020, it will double 5 times per year!
 - Our question was: “Do I know it?”
 - New “question” is: “The info that new workers will need doesn’t even exist yet!”
 - From age 18 to 38, the average worker has 10.2 jobs

Preparing MA Students for the 21st Century - #2

- New Context
 - Global Competition
 - Global Cooperation
 - Information Growth
 - More Jobs Over Course of Career
 - Service Economy (now 6-65%, 80% in 2014)
- Skills Required
 - Global awareness, self-direction
 - GA, collaboration, info & comm tech literacy
 - Info literacy, critical thinking, problem solving
 - CT, PS, innovation & improvement, flexibility & adaptability
 - Comm skills, life & career awareness skills

Preparing MA Students for the 21st Century - #3

- Table talk is no longer “Eat your food. There are people starving in China.”
- It is now “There is someone in China starving for your job.”
- Others countries are hungry for our standard of living and their students are working hard and long hours to beat us to the jobs of the future
- We need to develop a sense of urgency, end our complacency, and learn to compete effectively in a new globally connected economy

Preparing MA Students for the 21st Century - #4

- Workforce Survey (October 2006)
 - Most important skills when hiring a HS graduate
 - Work ethic (80%!)
 - Collaboration (75%)
 - Good communication (70%)
 - Social responsibility (63%)
 - Critical thinking & problem solving (58%)
 - HS Deficiencies of recent hires
 - Written communication (81%!)
 - Leadership (73%)
 - Work ethic (70%)
 - Critical thinking & problem solving (70%)
 - Self-direction (58%)

Preparing MA Students for the 21st Century - #5

- Recommendations
 - Focus on 21st century skill outcomes
 - Embed 21st century skills in Core subjects
 - Students set goals for themselves
 - Students evaluate whether they met their goal, whether they should have had a different goal, whether they were efficient, and what they would do differently
 - Upgrade professional development
 - 80% should be directed at 21st century skills
 - Upgrade assessments (e.g., John Bransford (<http://www.cilt.org>); College & Work Readiness Assessment (http://www.cae.org/content/pro_collegework.htm); senior projects & student portfolios)
 - Focus on reforming high schools
 - Focus on the results that matter in the 21st century
 - Redefine rigor to include 21st century skills

Preparing Students for the 21st Century - #6

- Every student must be:
 - A critical thinker
 - A problem solver
 - An innovator
 - An effective communicator
 - An effective collaborator
 - A self-directed learner
 - Information and media literate
 - Globally aware
 - Civically engaged
 - Financially & economically literate

**“Design Specs”
for 21st Century
education**

Educator Quality – A Systems Approach to Policy & Practice

- Panel: Susan Freedman (Pres. Teachers21), Rep. Lida Harkins (Asst. House Maj. Leader), Karla Baehr (Lowell Supt.), Kathy Kelley (Past Pres., MFT), J.D. Chesloff (Director of Public Policy, MA Busi. Roundtable), Dennis Richards (Falmouth Supt.)
- What educators believe, know, and can do are the most significant factors in increasing student achievement
- Factors for success in teaching
 - Shared leadership
 - Strong mentoring
 - Collaboration
- Current statistics
 - 50% of new teachers drop out in first 5 years
 - 17% of teachers leave the profession each year
 - Cost of teacher turnover in Boston alone is \$13M/yr

Educator Quality – Systems Approach - #2

- Current bill in Legislature has 106 sponsors: H451/S284 (http://www.teachers21.org/policy_leg_ini_main.htm)
 - Supported by MA Teachers' Association, MASS, Rep. Hargraves, et al.
- Planned approach
 - Phase 1: 15 districts will be initial pilots
 - Phase 2: Additional districts, and additional emphasis on teacher preparation programs
- Unique features of bill
 - Accountability is coupled with incentives that MATTER to practitioners
 - NOT an unfunded mandate
 - Only effort in the nation that is addressing student achievement via educator workforce

Educator Quality – Systems Approach - #3

- Examples of bill provisions
 - Intensive remediation is provided to struggling teachers
 - If intensive remediation does not improve performance, expedited dismissal can occur
 - Pay incentives for hard-to-fill positions
 - Requires districts to have an approved induction program in place for educators in first 3 yrs of licensure.

MassCORE: HS Reform Initiative – Stafford Peat (DOE)

- MA went from 1st to 9th in % HS grads that graduate from college
- 35% of MA HS grads in MA public higher ed took at least 1 remedial course; 28% took mathematics in their 1st semester
- HS students should have access to college courses in HS
- MassCORE provides clear guidance, not a mandatory standard

Parliamentary Procedures for Effective SC Meetings – Glen Koocher

- Rules of Order provide public perception of order and responsibility
- Agendas: Once published, cannot change without board approval
- Recording devices in ES is bad policy (e.g., can't identify speakers, easily misinterpreted)
- Rule of necessity
 - Must be recorded in minutes
 - Based on majority of board, not just those present
 - New ruling that user fees do not cause conflict of interest
- Policy is recommended for how many votes are required for passage of a motion (when abstentions and “present” votes are cast)
- Policy is recommended for time limit for reconsideration motion, and who can make it
- “Rule of Assertion”
 - The person who asserts the point most affirmatively and emphatically is correct