

Massena Central School Board of Education Update
August 31, 2018



I want to wish everyone a Happy Labor Day, a time when we commemorate all of the important contributions that the labor movement has made to the prosperity of America. Hope to see you at the parade. Our Massena Central School Marching Band led by Jon Hunkins will participate in the 38th annual Labor Day parade in Massena starting at 11:00 am.

[Here](#) is a Courier Observer article about the event.

Welcome Back Students and Staff

On 8/30, we welcomed back our teachers and staff to begin the 2018-19 school year. Our Opening Assembly was followed by two days of training and preparation for the return of students on 9/4. This year, we had the honor of having American Federation of Teacher President Randi Weingarten address our staff on Opening Day. She was joined by Regent Bev Ouder Kirk, Assemblyperson Addie Jenne, Mayor Tim Currier and labor leader Ron McDougall. Board of Education members Mark Goodfellow and Dave LaClair also joined us for the event. It was an exciting day and great way to start the new year.

On 8/23, we welcomed 22 of our new staff to an all-day orientation session which included a bus tour of the district and a briefing on Native American culture. I want to thank former MCS administrator John Murray and St. Regis Business Support Specialist Ed Smoke for leading the tour. Their knowledge about the history of our area provided a great perspective to our newest MCS employees. I also want to thank Stephanie Allen for organizing our mentors who will be guiding many of our new teachers this year and Peter Bertrand and his staff for the delicious treats. I am excited about our new hires and the goals we have set for the new year.



AFT President Randi Weingarten

Ready 4 School

The Ready 4 School night on 8/27 led by Kristin Colarusso Martin and the Community Schools program was a huge success. Over 1,000 people attended the event at Massena High School to receive free haircuts, school supplies, books, clothing, and other items. Our 16 volunteer hairdressers provided 150 free haircuts for children!! We had 35 community partners presenting information to families and a distribution of 1,500 donated books from the American Federation of Teachers.

The genesis of the event came from a conversation with our building principals and counselors who shared that each year, there are some students who are just not ready for school on the first day. Our Community Schools Advisory Committee created a Planning Team and started working on the concept of creating an event where parents and students could experience one-stop-shopping to take care of all of the students' needs when preparing for the new school year. Their objective was to make sure that every student is ready to start the new school year and is feeling good and excited about learning. They also sought to show parents that as a district, we are partners in creating student success as they move through their education journey.

As a community school, Massena Central worked to reach out to all of the partners that we could think of to request donations of clothing, school supplies, and volunteer hairdressers. The Ready 4 School planning team worked from April until August to collect donations, invite community partners, and spread the word about this event. They partnered with local organizations to help

promote and share information about the event and volunteers checked the donation school bus several times each day.

I am very proud of the work of Kristin and the Advisory Committee in providing this opportunity for our students and families. I appreciate all of the donations from the community and the many partners who participated in the event. It was great to see Assemblyperson Addie Jenne there as well as Mayor Currier. We are fortunate to have such a generous community.

[Here](#) is a Courier Observer article about the Ready 4School event.

Raider Rally

On Friday night a group of organizers, led by Curt Wood, held the first Raider Rally to kick off the school sports season. Games, bounce houses, dunk tank, and food concessions were all part of the fun-filled event. Many of our athletic teams participated along with staff and community members. It was a great way to start the new year. Thank you to BOE Member Paul Haggett for playing in the Pep Band.

[Here](#) is a Courier Observer article about the Raider Rally.

Living with Diabetes

The following is a message from Sarah Bentley Garfinkle, School Program Director for the St. Lawrence County Health Initiative. Sarah also serves on our District Wellness Committee and Community Schools Advisory Committee.



Thursdays, Sept 6, 13, 20, 27 & Oct 4 & 11 2018 9-11:30

This **FREE** program is offered by the Health Initiative and will be held at the **Massena Memorial Hospital, Community Education Room**

This 6 week program for is designed for all & everyone is welcome- those who are living with diabetes or pre-diabetes, or are interested in learning more about diabetes. Family members, friends and/or caregivers are encouraged to attend as well. A light snack is provided.

Topics covered include nutrition, physical activity, problem solving, short-term goal setting, medication usage, and dealing with the frustration and other difficult emotions that come with living with a long term health condition. Support and encouragement from both leaders and peers help with day to day management.

To learn more and to enroll, please contact Julie Cooke at julie@getthehealthyslc.org or at (315) 261-4760 ext. 239

Massena in the News

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

“Massena Central School District seeking donations for Ready-4-School event” – Bob Beckstead, Watertown Daily Times

The August 27 event, coordinated by Community Schools’ Kristin Colarusso-Martin is featured.

Link:

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/dco/massena-central-school-district-seeking-donations-for-ready-4-school-event-20180814&template=mwdt>

Saturday, August 18, 2018

“Massena school board approves plan to give clubs, teams limited leeway to customize new logo” – Andy Gardner, NC Now

The District’s Mascot Brand Guide as discussed in the Board meeting of August 16, 2018 is featured.

Link:

<http://www.northcountrynow.com/news/massena-school-board-approves-plan-give-clubs-teams-limited-leeway-customize-new-logo-0241007>

Sunday, August 19, 2018

“Massena Central food service department ends 17-18 with deficit far below last year” – Andy Gardner, NC Now

The report provided by Food Service Director, Peter Bertrand, at the Board meeting of August 16, 2018 is reported.

Link:

<http://www.northcountrynow.com/news/massena-central-food-service-department-ends-17-18-deficit-far-below-last-year-0241074>

Sunday, August 19, 2018

“Anonymous donation helps bring Massena Central School food service debt down” – Bob Beckstead, Watertown Daily Times

The Food Service Report, along with the announcement of an anonymous \$2,000 donation to help cover student debt, was highlighted.

Link:

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/news05/anonymous-donation-helps-bring-massena-central-school-food-service-debt-down-20180819&template=mwtd>

Monday, August 20, 2018

“Massena Central School Board of Education approves mascot branding plan” – Bob Beckstead, Watertown Daily Times/Courier Observer

The provisions of the mascot branding plan are outlined.

Link:

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/dco/massena-central-school-board-of-education-approves-mascot-branding-plan-20180820&template=mwtd>

Monday, August 20, 2018

“Massena school installing signs touting championship teams, athletes on roads leading into town” – Andy Gardner, NC Now

The Board-approved proposal by Martha Slack, regarding signs paying tribute to the District’s NYS champions, is reported.

Link:

<http://www.northcountrynow.com/news/massena-installing-signs-touting-championship-teams-athletes-roads-leading-town-0241151>

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

“Massena Central School’s ‘Ready-4-School’ offers free supplies, haircuts, clothes and more” – Bob Beckstead, Courier Observer

The Community Schools event of August 27 is featured.

Link:

<http://www.mpcourier.com/dco/massena-central-schools-ready-4-school-offers-free-supplies-haircuts-clothes-and-more-20180821>

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

“Massena Central High School students begin training to serve as freshmen mentors” – Bob Beckstead, Courier Observer

Link Crew training at the High School and WEB leader training at the Jr. High are reported.

Link:

<http://www.mpcourier.com/dco/massena-central-high-school-students-begin-training-to-serve-as-freshmen-mentors-20180822>

Thursday, August 23, 2018

“Massena High School hosting ‘Ready 4 School’ event Aug. 27 with free haircuts, school supplies, clothes” – NC Now

Link:

http://www.northcountrynow.com/featured_events/massena-high-school-hosting-ready-4-school-event-aug-27-free-haircuts-school

Thursday, August 23, 2018

“Massena Central High School announces Link Crew Freshman Orientation” – Courier Observer

A brief explanation of Link Crew is provided for the August 28, 2018 event.

Link:

<http://www.mpcourier.com/dco/massena-central-high-school-announces-link-crew-freshman-orientation-20180823>

Monday, August 27, 2018

“Raider Rally to be held at Massena Central” – NC Now

Press release announcing the first-ever Raider Rally on August 31, 2018.

Link:

http://www.northcountrynow.com/featured_events/raider-rally-be-held-massena-central-0241574

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

“Families turn out in large numbers for Massena Central’s Ready-4-School event” – Bob Beckstead, Courier Observer

Highlights of the event of August 27 are featured, noting the many community residents/students who were served.

Link:

<http://www.mpcourier.com/dco/families-turn-out-in-large-numbers-for-massena-centrals-ready-4-school-event-20180829>

Comptroller DiNapoli Announces Employee Pension Rates Stable

According to Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, employer contribution rates for the state's pension system in State Fiscal Year 2019-20 will be in line with the previous year, with the Employees' Retirement System getting a slight decrease and the Police and Fire Retirement System's rate unchanged, New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli announced. DiNapoli also reported the New York State Common Retirement Fund grew stronger and ended the last fiscal year with a funded status of 98 percent, according to actuarial calculations.

[Here](#) is the Comptroller's Report.

District Upcoming Events

9/3—Labor Day

9/4—School Begins

9/10—Facilities Committee Meeting—5:00 pm—CAB

9/13—Junior High Curriculum Night—6:30 pm—Junior High School