SAANYS Convenes a Third Constituent Meeting with Congressman Tonko

On August 4, SAANYS convened the third District 20 Constituents Meeting for Congressman Paul Tonko. The meeting was held at SAANYS headquarters. Twelve school district representatives and SAANYS representatives Thomas Sands and James Viola met with the congressman and two members of his office, Diana Bennett and Devin Toussaint.

Approximately a dozen educators met with Senator Marc Panepinto on August 26 in Region 12. During the 90 minute meeting, topics discussed included school funding, annual professional performance reviews, common core standards, receivership, common core-aligned assessments, and students opting out. From left to right: Bob O’Connor; James Viola: Senator Panepinto; Region 12 President Time Carter; SAANYS President Elect John McKenna; Gretchen Sukdolak, Cheektowaga Central MS Principal; and SAANYS Board of Directors member Larry Badgley.

The school district administrators attending this meeting were:
- Jill Bonacio, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District
- Timothy Brunson, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District
- Jason Chevrier, Schodack Central School District
- Kirsten DeMento, Watervliet City School District
- Hakim Jones, Revena Coymans Selkirk School District
- Marna Meltzer-McMorris, Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District
- Patricia Paser, Schenectady City School District
- Thomas Sands and James Viola

SAANYS Takes the Lead on APPR


Above: SAANYS Deputy Executive Director Don Nickson leads a series of APPR workshops around the state entitled “Navigating and Negotiating the New APPR.” Attendees received SAANYS’ latest resource documents: the Sample Principal APPR Agreement and the APPR 3012-D Negotiation Resource Packet.

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The verdict is in on the status of the New York State schools hanging in Blue Ribbon status limbo – the New York State Education Department (SED) has communicated that these schools will not be recognized this year.

As previously reported, 12 schools were notified by the US Department of Education that their Blue Ribbon applications were successful, and that the only remaining criterion for recognition was certification by SED that AMO/AYP requirements have been met for 2014-15. Unfortunately, due to spikes in student opt-out rates on state exams, these schools did not achieve the required 95 percent participation rate for AMO/AYP. SAANYS pursued the issue with SED and was informed that there was little or no possibility that the 95 percent requirement would be waived or adjusted.

SAANYS pressed further, lobbying the issue with members of congress in Washington, DC and having extensive communications with Aha Kumi, director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. On July 9, Kumi communicated to SAANYS that the US Department of Education would accept SAANYS’ recommendation to allow for an anomaly waiver considering the participation rates for previous years, compared to the participation rate for 2015. This was excellent news for these well-deserving schools.

Blue Ribbon Schools Update

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Jenifer Fox
Author of The Strengths Movement in Schools
Jenifer’s work with school administrators, parents, and teachers focuses on the need to develop our leadership strengths and the strengths of our students in order to create learning communities where students are inspired academically and ready for the complex world they will enter.

David Berliner
Author of 50 Myths & Lies That Threaten America’s Public Schools
David will share his controversial but powerful ideas about “the grand myth that America’s public schools do poorly compared to other counties” and other ‘myths’ including the value of standardized testing and increased ‘rigor.’
Executive Viewpoint
Kevin S. Casey, Executive Director

What if There is No Tomorrow?

Another school year. Time to welcome back staff and students, all of whom hopefully are refreshed and ready to go. Time to focus on teaching and learning, and preparing young people to be successful in an increasingly complex world. Time to put the tumult of the recent past behind us and start with a clean slate. Or maybe not.

The educational landscape is again dominated by APPR, testing, and the opt-out movement. It seems to me a bit like the movie Ground Hog Day, where Bill Murray plays a character that finds himself living the same day over and over again.

During the last legislative session this past spring the legislature passed the governor’s budget bill that yet again modified the APPR. The modifications yet again require collective bargaining over an evaluation system with limited credibility among those who must implement it, and those it purports to measure. SAANYS staff again issued an APPR resource packet, a sample APPR agreement, and again toured the state with explanatory APPR presentations, to the extent that this system can be explained. And yes, this is again done under the threat of the loss of state aid increases for failure to comply. Sound familiar?

We recently learned the statewide opt-out rate for the 3-8 ELA and math exams grew from 5 percent to 20 percent, with some districts reaching into the 70-80 percent range. Commissioner Elia recently said opting out was unreasonable, and possibly unethical for educators to support. This loss of gasoline onto the fire was followed by an announcement that SEU would develop a “toolkit” to help administrators combat the anticipated opt-out movement this school year, and that the SEU lawyers would be consulted in its preparation. To many, myself included, this seemed heavy-handed and impliedly threatening. One legislator referred to the reference of the lawyers as the “goon squad” intended to intimidate teachers and parents. If we have learned anything over the past few years, it’s that teachers and parents (as well as administrators) are not easily intimidated by state officials. Indeed, the opt-out movement itself is an assertive act of independent personal authority over determining what conditions one’s child may be subjected to.

In response to the “goon squad” pushback, Commissioner Elia assured the public that she intended no threat, and that the toolkit had been requested by some superintendents to attain clarity over the legal framework surrounding test administration. Regardless of her original intention, the pushback should serve as a lesson about the sensitivity that currently exists among parents, educators, and public officials alter three or four years of angry rhetoric, and the ever-evolving test-based evaluation system seemingly designed to assure the punishment of some percentage of the educators. It should serve as a lesson that empowered parents are organized, angry, and can hire their own lawyers and lobbyists as well. After all, this type of response has happened before. Remember Commissioner King at Spackenkill and its aftermath?

I truly hope that Commissioner Elia can help calm the waters, and allow the focus of educators to return to teaching and learning. I hope the commissioner and regents will make SEU responsive and supportive to educators in the field. Too many educators now view it as oppositional. The lengthy ongoing policy struggle is a huge distraction that detracts from the energy and effort that should be child focused. We know there will be opt-outs; we know there will be legislative lobbying seeking to mitigate the damage of a suspect test-based evaluation system. We have seen this before. It does not mean proponents of opt-out or legislative change are unreasonable or unethical. What it means is that we are still unable to articulate (or legislate) an education policy that garners widespread acceptance among those that entrust their children to professional educators, or among the professional educators themselves. We may have not yet gotten to tomorrow.

Executive viewpoint
Congressman Tonko... continued from page 1

- Thomas Reardon, Wynantskill School District
- Donald Stevens, Watervliet City School District
- David Wetzel, South Colonie School District
- Kimberly Wilkins, Albany City School District
- Diane Wilkinson, Schenectady City School District

The agenda for the constituent meeting primarily consisted of one item – ESEA reauthorization. This is not the first time this topic was discussed with the congressman, since SAANYS met with members of New York State’s federal delegation in Washington during the current calendar year. On February 24, SAANYS President Christine Foglia; SAANYS’ delegate to the National Association of Elementary School Principals, Thomas Payton; SAANYS Regional Representative Thomas Sands; and James Viola were joined by colleagues from New York City, Buffalo, and Yonkers in completing meetings with Senators Charles Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand, and seven house members. On June 24, Foglia, Sands, and Viola again met with both state senators and with nine house members.

Before delving into the topic of the meeting, however, Viola handed Congressman Tonko for the support he had provided in regard to twelve excellent, high-performing schools that were in jeopardy of not receiving Blue Ribbon designation due to unexpectedly high test opt-out rates in 2015. Not containing a 95 percent student participation rate in state tests is a requirement for Blue Ribbon designation. More information regarding the Blue Ribbon School candidates is included on page one.

In regard to ESEA reauthorization, school representatives were pleased to learn that Congressman Tonko voted against HR-5, Student Success Act, which was passed. Support was expressed for HR-4172, Student Testing Improvement and Accountability Act, by Congressman Chris Gibson. This bill would require test administration at least once in grades 3 through 5, 6 through 9, and 10 through 12. The provisions would allow states to test every student every year to continue to do so, and alternatively, would allow other states to streamline their testing programs.

Participants also discussed college and career readiness, offering two recommendations:

1. Recognition of a High School Equivalency Diploma as a form of successful school completion; and
2. Rasing the high school graduation rate on all students who remain enrolled in school and graduate with a high school diploma, or its equivalent, regardless of the number of years they take to complete their secondary education program.

The two recommendations are supported by the NYS Federation of School Administrators (union of NYC, Yonkers, and Buffalo), Council of New York Special Education Administrators, and NYS Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA).

For more information regarding Congressman Tonko’s constituents meeting, contact James Viola, director of government relations, by e-mailing jviola@saanys.org. ■

For more information regarding the SAANYS legislative agenda, the New York State Board of Regents, the Educational Conference Board, or other government relations concerns, contact James Viola, SAANYS director of government relations, at jviola@saanys.org.
Creating Effective Section 504 Plans
IT’S NOT AS EASY AS YOU THINK!
NOVEMBER 6, 2015
Plainview Holiday Inn, Plainview, New York
8:30 am - 1:30 pm
Registration fee – $150

Section 504 statute and regulations provide much less guidance than IDEA, leading to confusion among practitioners. Due to lack of clarity, mistakes are made, exposing school districts to significant liability, potentially harming children, and putting the careers of educators and school leaders at risk.

This workshop will provide practical, easy-to-apply guidance that addresses:

• The different test for determining discipline for students with 504 plans.
• When and how to conduct reviews of 504 plans (annual reviews of 504 plans are not required).
• How to respond when provided with a doctor’s note declaring a student eligible for a 504 plan. Medical diagnosis is not required for 504 plan eligibility, and a medical diagnosis in and of itself does not make a student eligible for a 504 plan.
• The due process rights that parents are entitled to under 504 v. IDEA.
• The nuts and bolts of Section 504 litigation.
• Best practices for reducing potential liability.
• Lessons learned from Section 504 case law.
• Practical application of knowledge through video case studies and small group discussion.

Seats are limited at this very important forum. Building and district teams are encouraged to attend.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jacob S. Feldman, Esq.

Register at www.legaloneny.org

Cyberbullying: Prevention and Intervention
ALL ASPECTS OF CYBERBULLYING, SOCIAL NETWORKING, AND SEXTING WILL BE Explored.
DECEMBER 4, 2015
Plainview Holiday Inn, Plainview, New York
8 am - 1 pm
Registration fee – $150

After participating in this comprehensive workshop, educators will be able to:
• Identify popular online environments among elementary students, pre-adolescents, and adolescents today and recognize various forms of cyberbullying.
• Understand the potential emotional, psychological, and behavioral consequences of cyberbullying.
• Identify how young people are using social networking websites and teach youth how to use social networking responsibly.
• Know how to respond to cyberbullying incidents and the extent to which school personnel can get involved in cases that involve electronic communication (in or off campus).
• Describe the current legal issues concerning bullying and cyberbullying, with an update on Dignity Act 504 for All Students Act requirements.
• Know the necessary elements of a comprehensive school cyberbullying policy.
• Recognize warning signs and identify important strategies for preventing cyberbullying.
• Much, much more!

Presenters:
JUSTIN PATCHIN, PhD
Leading Researcher and Expert in Cyberbullying
KAREN SIRIS, EdD
Dignity Act Update for Dignity Act Coordinators
ANNE DONNELLY
Deputy Bureau Chief, Nassau County District Attorney Office

Register at www.legaloneny.org

This summer has been a busy one, to say the least! SAANYS Professional Development has provided a variety of professional learning opportunities around the state over the past few months that have included:

LIFT NY Summer Institutes in Rochester, Albany, and Long Island

These two-day workshops, "What We Need NOW!" featured keynotes and workshops designed to meet the needs of educators where they are now. Topics included Connected Learning, Collaboration Strategies that Work, Redefining the Role of the Principal Through Michael Fullan’s Lenses, Making Sense of New Part 154 Regulations for English Language Learners, and more. Participants got a great deal, with four workshops over two days, delicious lunches from Panera, two books (Fullan’s The Principal and the Administrators Handbook), and online follow-up for support and implementation for a nominal fee. Here’s some feedback from the participants in the three locations:

"I enjoyed the interactive formats and opportunities to discuss and learn from colleagues."
"Motivating and thought provoking!"
"It was awesome! I wish all of the administrators on my team could have come. I’ll be using the videos, ELI information, and collaboration ideas with my staff next year!"
"Loved the Fullan workshop and can’t wait to read the book.

"The resources were excellent. I plan to do more research on BYOD and other ideas."
"Lots of opportunities to move around and participate – very knowledgeable presenters!"
"Valuable and relevant information … strategies that will be easy to bring home and implement."

Google Camps!
August was truly Google Month, with Google Camps happening in Tonawanda, Madrid Waddington, Bethlehem, and Dansville, thanks to our collaboration with our partners at Educational Vistas, Inc. These "Google Camps" featured a full program designed to inform attendees about the latest Google tools and strategies, including introductions to Google Camps and plan to attend one to see what all the excitement’s about!

August also was the month for APPR. Full-day conferences developed with our partners at Educational Vistas, Inc. were held in Long Island and Albany on August 12 and 13. "The Changing World of APPR: Meeting and Managing the New Requirements" featured a full program designed to inform attendees about the new 3012d by presentations that included a keynote from Jim Viola, APPR interpretation by SAANYS attorneys, and roundtable conversations as well as presentations by practitioners, exploration of the state of SLOs, and a look at the importance of aligning curriculum with goals. Again, check out the SAANYS website for information about all upcoming Google Camps and plan to attend one to see what all the excitement’s about!

APPR

SAANYS, the leader in school law training
Sunday Workshops:

Session 1
Sunday, October 18
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm

National Core Art Standards: All Administrators Are Experts
Lori Orestano-James and Marc Greene
NYSSMA and NYSCAME

The new National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) and Graduation Pathways are here, and administrators are clamoring for help on how to best support the needs of their teachers and students. This session will provide the resources to help align curriculum, develop integrated approaches, and ensure a smooth transition for a high-quality arts program.

Making Teacher Evaluations More Efficient
Cindy Gallagher, Educational Vistas and Dr. Kathleen Alfreg, Minbrook CSD

dis are challenged to find efficient ways to manage complex APPR processes and components. This presentation will demonstrate district use of StaffTrac to integrate multiple tasks in one comprehensive system. Using this system, independent and peer observers have a seamless way to follow district negotiated processes and principals can manage observations and SLDS effectively for potential professional and instructional benefit.

An Innovative Model to Build Teacher Leaders
Maureen Patterson and Steven Garrath, Livonia CSD

This presentation will exemplify the work of the Central New York Leadership Development Program (CNYLDP), guiding the participants through the key elements of this innovative program that uses district administrators to lead the professional development of teacher leaders. Coursework, cohort projects, technology, and instructional strategies will be used to demonstrate the CNYLDP framework.

Cultivating Teachers’ Professional Growth with the EdCamp Model
Janet Warden and Lorene Craven, Watering CSD

The goal of this session is to share how the EdCamp model can become the format where teachers get inspired by their colleagues and share their talents and passions. Learn how to develop norms of collaboration, empower teachers, and use technology to implement an EdCamp in your own district.

Revitalizing Collaborative Data Teams
Karen Amro and Thomas Jett, Measurement, Inc.

Successful data teams are those that strengthen a school’s capacity to improve student learning. This session promises to spark new life into your data team by demonstrating how to infuse inquiry, focused analysis, and reflection dialogue into a collaborative process. Learn how to choose and use protocols to facilitate the review of data at all levels and support instructional decision making.

Session 2
Monday, October 19
10:00 am - 11:15 am

Why Should We Care About Adult Ed?
Laurie Breslau and Joseph Campbell, Adult Literacy and Corrections Education

What’s new in adult education and how does the educational achievement of adults influence the learning outcomes of K-12 students? Two seasoned adult educators will discuss opportunities for Out of School Youth and Adult Learners and how they work with K-12 educators to increase educational outcomes.

Bringing Collaborative Leadership to Life
In Your School
Paul Parthey, Arlington CSD

Gone are the days of isolation when teachers and administrators only focused on their own office or classroom. Today, leaders and teachers need to partner to multiply learning. This interactive workshop will explore the most current ideas about how to collaboratively lead professional development that multiplies learning for all.

How Data Driven Instruction Can Rejuvenate Teachers:
See it to Believe it!
Amy Piper, Fredonia CSD

See how one school in western NY used data to rejuvenate teachers, prioritize instruction, and improve teacher morale. Fredonia took a look at data to bring teachers together, collaborate on instruction, and bring creativity to the ELA and math modules, with increased trust, improved parent communication, and better student outcomes.

One District’s Story: How Blended Learning is Changing Instruction at Cuba Rushford
Jay Morris and Chris Capodanno, Cuba Rushford CSD

This workshop will describe the ways students in the Cuba Rushford School District are using blended learning to increase their learning and achievement. Participants will understand how Moodle, iTunes U, and other strategies are working in varied classroom settings.

How to Work Less, Produce More, and Still Get the Job Done in a
Sensible School Week
Kari Niehuis, Pittsford CSD; Holly McGuirk, Whitestall CSD; and The Break Through Coach

What if you could work sensible hours each week and have your student results soar? We call that a breakthrough! With the ability to reduce your workload by 30 hours per week and multiply your time in classrooms by 50 percent, this session can provide a way to increase student achievement and have a healthy personal life!

Session 3
Monday, October 27
11:30 am - 12:45 pm

What Every NYS Administrator Needs to Know About Financial Planning
Greg Ronneburger, AXA

What will my NYS pension benefit look like? When should I start to collect Social Security? What should I be doing with my 403(b)? As a NYS school administrator, the answers to these questions are paramount in building a successful plan for yourself. This session will put you on the right path to answers to these important questions.

Faculty Meetings: From Dissemination to Engagement
Jessica Lorty, Rachel Wagner, Mary Beth Soullier, Rossworld CSD

Learn how a secondary principal transformed traditional school faculty meetings into an engaging forum where teachers are able to connect, share, and grow as educational professionals. Create an outline to inject active engagement into your next faculty meeting.

Cost: $375 Members, $225 Single Day, Rooms: $159 + tax
REGISTER NOW at SAANYS.ORG

Google Camp for Administrators

Google Camp for Administrators
October 17, 2015
Rochester Hilton Garden Inn

What is an Edcamp Format?

An “unconference” without keynoters, everything to be determined by the attendees. Participants will discover how to set up a site and run an Edcamp without a keynote, with a focus on all things Google.

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School Email and Confidentiality

Email is a wonderful thing. We can quickly and inexpensively communicate with colleagues, friends, and loved ones. In real time as they say. A byproduct of this fast, efficient, and convenient method of communication is that it has made us, most of us I suppose, more productive. Are we less busy? No. History has shown us that a natural consequence of technological advancement is that more is expected of us. Regardless, today the ability to email is ubiquitous. We write email in the grip of quiet convenience, scribbled often in the solitude of our offices, homes, cars, and pretty much anywhere with iPhones and smartphones providing email services.

For those readers who use school district email, it is critical that you read and understand your district’s acceptable use policy. You are often required to sign one either annually or when you are first employed. Even if your acceptable use policy allows you to send personal emails using the district’s address or on the district’s server, or even if your district has no policy at all, I recommend you do not use school email to send sensitive personal material. Quite simply, you cannot expect to have confidential communications with your attorney using school email.

The courts have nonetheless set up a four-part test when considering whether attorney client privilege applies in email use over employer email. The first was whether the employer maintained a policy banning personal use or other objectionable use. Second, whether the employer reserved the right to monitor computer or email use. Third whether the employees were notified of this right to court that the employer failed to meet such a test. But as I noted above, even if your employer does not have a policy or has failed to notify you of the policy and the procedures in it, out of an abundance of caution you should not expect to communicate confidentially with your attorney using school email. The reason is that the school district owns the email. The courts have recognized the school district’s right to access your email. It is as if the district is looking over your shoulder as you write an email. Everything noted above applies to private employers. Given that the school districts are public employers, public policy and transparency are additional considerations for the courts in privilege disputes. This should inform users of school email that they should be doubly cautious. An employee should take every precaution to make sure their correspondence with their attorney remains privileged. It includes taking steps that evidence the employee’s intention that the communication was confidential such as password protecting documents, using one’s personal device and web-based email addresses. The courts consider attorney client privilege waived when one party’s conduct is so careless that it suggests they are unconcerned with privilege or it otherwise increases the likelihood that their opponent will discover the material. The privacy notice at the end of an email is insufficient to protect your communication as privileged. So do not be surprised if your attorney asks you to correspond using web-based email in lieu of work email.

Curriculum is the relationship of teaching, learning, and assessment within an integrated web.

Common Core is not a curriculum. It serves as the blueprint for learning expectations. As such, it was developed through a backwards planning approach where the end points. Therefore, the learning processes spiral down to establish important vertical grade-to-grade articulation. Spiral down; deliver the email. The purpose of the question becomes who owns the email correspondence. The courts have applied the school email to have confidential communications with your attorney using school email.

Quite simply, you cannot expect to have confidential communications with your attorney using school email.

From Common Core to Common Learning

Sponsor Opinion piece by Dr. Bruce H. Crowder, Senior Researcher, Educational Vistas, Inc.

At this time in New York State education, it appears that Common Core State Standards (CCSS) remain in place while grades 3-8 ELA and math testing has moved to a new vendor. Also, significant changes to APPR are being mandated. Third, we are notified of this right to monitor computer or email use. Third whether the employees were notified of this right to confidential communications with your attorney using school email.

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Changes in the contract include:

- **Salaries**: 1.75 percent in each year of the agreement.
- **Tenure payment of $5,000** after appointment to tenure.
- **Three school administrators** with five or more years receive a $2,000 adjustment in tenure payment to equal the $5,000 tenure benefit.
- **Longevity**: After five years of service to the district an additional $4,000 longevity payment shall be added to base salary. After ten years of service to the district an additional $4,000 longevity payment shall be added to base.
- **A one-time $1,000 doctoral stipend** shall be paid that will not be added to the base.
- **A new IRC457 Plan** shall be implemented.
- **Language statement** related to the health insurance buy-out option shall remain in effect until the pending litigation is resolved.

### Baldwin Union Association, Region 2 (Nassau County)

The Baldwin Union Free School District and the Baldwin Association of Administrators, with the assistance of SAANYS Negotiator Peter Valente, have reached a new five-year agreement for the period of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018.

- **Salaries**: Year one: salary step shall remain frozen for the period of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018.

### Valley Stream #30 Union Free School District and the Valley Stream #30 Council of Supervisory Association, with the assistance of SAANYS Negotiator Peter Valente, have reached a new five-year agreement for the period of July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019.

Changes in the contract include:

- **New salary schedule for new hires after July 1, 2015** with pre July 1, 2015 members moving to a new position remaining on schedule A. New elementary principals hired after July 1, 2015 shall have a work year of 11 months.
- **Doctoral stipend**: Shall be increased by $200 to $2,200.
- **Longevity**: A new longevity schedule for $500 after eight years of service and an additional $500 after ten years shall be adopted.
- **Health Insurance**: Hires after Jul 1, 2015 shall contribute 25 percent to the cost of either individual or family plans.
- **Retirement Incentive**: Effective July 1, 2015, the per diem rate for accumulated sick leave shall increase to $185 per day up to a maximum of $37,000.
- **Work Year**: Amended to reflect that ten and twenty summer work days shall cover the period of July 1- August 31.
- **Grievance Procedure**: Text of grievance procedure shall be included in the CBA and include the board of education as the final step of appeals.

**Shenendehowa United Supervisors Association, Region 6**

The Shenendehowa United Supervisors Association has successfully completed negotiation of a three-year agreement to cover the period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. The settlement provides for 2 percent plus step salary increases during each year of the agreement. Modest improvement of longevity amounts and indexing of steps are also included. Equity adjustments for some member groups are provided in year three of the contract. The percentage of member health insurance contribution remains the same. The negotiating team of Mike Dougall, Dave West, and Linda Lee was assisted by SAANYS Labor Relations Specialist Jennie Pennington.

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Legal Advice and Assistance
SAANYS Legal and Labor Relations Department offers comprehensive, aggressive representation on job-related matters, with no dollar cap.

Labor Relations Services
Services include advice, assistance, and representation throughout the entire negotiation process. Negotiators and teams are provided with extensive resources, including multiple research databases of salary and benefit information.

Professional Growth
SAANYS helps members meet their continuous learning needs and requirements through a year-round, comprehensive professional development program.

Government Relations
Members can be assured that their voices are heard loud and clear on issues such as education funding, tenure, mandates, retirement issues, education reform initiatives, and federal policy. A member-composed government relations committee establishes the legislative priorities for the association and lobbies those issues on behalf of fellow educators.

$10,000 Term Life Insurance Policy
Plus, Voluntary Group Insurance Options and a Free Financial Profile
Through an exclusive partnership with AXA, members can receive competitive rates on life, disability, long-term care, and more. In addition, a full array of retirement services is available, including a complimentary financial profile and comprehensive financial planning services.

Career Center at saanys.org
The online database of school leadership positions is free to job seekers. Members receive a monthly email alert highlighting recently advertised vacancies. Members also receive a 20 percent discount on job vacancy postings.

Abenity Discounts
Abenity is a national discount provider partnering with SAANYS to bring members savings from leading manufacturers such as Sears and Brooks Brothers. Also save on travel, restaurants, home and garden, apparel, movies, theatre, and sporting events.

Travel to China
Travel to China at great discounts via Rewards Travel China. Great rates for 2015-16 travel.

Personal Legal Services Plan
This program offers members significant discounts on non-work related legal issues through a national legal services provider. The plan includes a free simple will and unlimited phone advice and consultation upon enrollment.

Online Defensive Driving Course
A discounted defensive driving online course provided through the National Safety Council. Members are eligible for up to a 10 percent discount on auto insurance and a reduction of up to 4 points.

National Affiliation
SAANYS is the official state affiliate of both the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals and their state/national principal of the year programs.

Auto and Home Insurance from Liberty Mutual
As a member of SAANYS, you can receive exclusive savings on your auto and home insurance. To learn more about Liberty Mutual insurance or get a free, no-obligation quote, call 800-524-9400 or visit www.LibertyMutual.com/saans.

Residential Home Funding Corp. – Mortgages for Champions Program
No lender closing costs for educators. No application fee, no processing fee, no underwriting fee, no commitment fee. For more information, call 888-614-5406.

BOSE Discounts for Educators
BOSE offers special pricing on select products for educators – call 1-800-277-5014 and mention the ‘educators’ program.’

SAANYS has done its best to present the unanticipated, anomalous circumstances experienced by these schools during the administration of the 2015 state assessments in the hope that an appropriate adjustment may be approved. We are very disappointed with the above results, but confident that these schools and their communities are undeterred, and will continue to provide outstanding educational services to their students, and that they will all continue to excel.

Availing procedure would not be allowed for Blue Ribbon determinations. Thus, 11 out of the 12 schools in limbo will not be honored as Blue Ribbon schools this year due to their opt-out rates.

SAANYS is the official state affiliate of both the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals and their state/national principal of the year programs.

Blue Ribbon Schools...
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There was still one more roadblock – SED. In the end, SED agreed to meet those goals by offering custom communications, mobility, collaboration and productivity solutions across America’s most reliable wireless voice and data network. Our commitment to part- ership with education and technology leaders ensures institutions can cost-effectively deploy enterprise-grade mobil- ity solutions that meet the needs of educators.

Our culture of honesty, integrity, responsiveness, and first-class solution helps us support mis- sion-critical projects with the same sense of urgen- cy and accountability as our customers. Verizon continues to lead the industry by offering the highest quality products and services while intro- ducing innovative tech- nology solutions.

SAANYS corporate sponsor

A message from a

For additional information, visit www.saanys.org/memberbship/membership-benefits.

Blue Ribbon Schools... continued from page 1

There was still one more roadblock — SED. In the end, SED determined that it would use a two-year averaging procedure for Blue Ribbon determinations, rather than the three-year averaging that most of these schools needed. When asked why a two-year rather than a three- year student participation average was not used, SED responded that because SED uses a two-year average as part of the state’s accountability system, a three-year averaging procedure would not be allowed for Blue Ribbon determinations. Thus, 11 out of the 12 schools in limbo will not be honored as Blue Ribbon schools this year due to their opt-out rates.

SAANYS has done its best to present the unanticipated, anomalous circumstances experienced by these schools during the administration of the 2015 state assessments in the hope that an appropriate adjustment may be approved. We are very disappointed with the above results, but confident that these schools and their communities are undeterred, and will continue to provide outstanding educational services to their students, and that they will all continue to excel.