CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

March 2017

Vol. XXXXI No. 07

CAPITAL REGION BOCES FACULTY ASSOCIATION

TRIAD

Affiliated With NYSUT [10-195] & AFT/NEA AFL/CIO-[Local 2991]

Beyond DeVos, What 5 Key Trump Appointees Could Mean For Schools

February 17, 20176:03 AM ET Anya Kamenetz - Sophia Alvarez Boyd - Kat Lonsdorf—Reprinted from nprEd

(From left) Ryan Zinke, the nominee for interior secretary; Attorney General Jeff Sessions; Judge Neil Gorsuch, Supreme Court nominee; Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; and Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price.

Getty Images/NPR

The action in the U.S. school system is overwhelmingly local. But the federal government, and the courts, have an important hand in many issues that touch classrooms — from civil rights to international programs of study. We looked at the records of some of President Trump's key appointees to see how they might affect education in the years to come.

Jeff Sessions, attorney general (confirmed)

In his first two days in office, Attorney General Sessions appeared to reverse course on the previous administration's pursuit of transgender student protections under Title IX, which bans sex discrimination in education programs that receive federal funding.

According to the Washington Blade, his office withdrew a motion for a partial stay of a Texas court ruling from last summer, and moved to cancel oral arguments that were scheduled for Feb. 14. The Texas court had prohibited the Obama administration from enforcing guidance on the treatment of transgender students, such as allowing students to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their preference.

When voting against the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009, Sessions stated, "Today, I'm not sure women or people with different sexual orientations face that kind of discrimination. I just don't see it."

The Department of Justice is charged in certain circumstances with enforcing prohibitions on discrimination in schools and universities. For example, DOJ has historically filed "consent decrees," detailed agreements on how to desegregate school systems.

As The Atlantic reported, civil rights groups are expressing concern that this enforcement could be curtailed under Sessions' Department of Justice, and that the Department of Education's own Office for Civil Rights could be downsized

In This Issue: Presidents Report-Pg. 4; TA/Aide Chapter-Pg. 5; Retirees Corner-Pg. 6

Important Dates for 2016-2017

Exec Board NYSUT	Rep Council 900 bldg. (unless noted otherwise)	TRIAD Meeting Maywood	BOCES BOARD Meeting
March 8, 2017	March 22, 2017 Schoharie Rooms	*March 28, 2017*	*March 20, 2017*
April 12, 2017	April 26, 2017 Schoharie Rooms	*May 2, 2017*	*April 13, 2017 Plattsburgh*
May 10, 2017	May 24 2017 Schoharie Rooms	*May 30, 2017*	*May 15, 2017*
June 7, 2017	June 14, 2017 Schoharie Rooms	*None*	*June 19, 2017*
	04:15-6:00 PM	*4:00 PM*	*July 17, 2017*

Save the DATE

Celebration Bash

June 1, 2017

Mallozzis on Curry Road

Save the DATE

BOCES Spring Prom

May 19, 2017

Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

POSITION	NAME	HOME	WORK	E-Mail Address
President	H. Douglas Harple	899-1044	862-4776	hdharple@msn.com
Vice President	Sherry Karcher-Hewitt	366-9060		sherry.karcherhewitt@gmail.com
CVP TA/EA	Colleen Condolora	265-2358	356-8349	condolora@aol.com
CVP Service	Gina Hanley		862-5332	ghanley97@gmail.com
CVP Spec. Educ.	Flora Fasoldt	674-0223	377-9018	electflora@aol.com
CVP C T E	Erica Kane	224-2372		ericalynnkane@gmail.com
Secretary	Barbara Burnham	334-1193	862-4720	baburnham@gmail.com
Treasurer	Deborah Sorvari	452-8138	334-1296	debmom39@nycap.rr.com
Membership Chair	Susan Kusalonis	393-5598	862-5336	skusalonis@gmail.com
Grievance Chair	Kristen Lashway	421-3446		Kris10Lashway@gmail.com

www.crbfa.org

continued from front page

or merged with DOJ.

To take an example, under the Obama administration OCR investigated more than 200 higher education institutions on sexual assault issues. If Sessions does take over the OCR, then the future of those open investigations would be uncertain.

Finally, Sessions' Senate record is of a hard-liner on immigration. This worries the many students who fall under President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, policy.

Neil Gorsuch, Supreme Court (nominated)

Judge Gorsuch has been involved in several rulings that touch on various areas of education, including school discipline and student rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA.

Last year, he dissented from a circuit panel ruling in *A.M. v. Holmes*, a case where a New Mexico seventh-grader was handcuffed for disrupting class, as Education Week reported.

The majority ruled that the school police officer was immune from liability. "[A]ny reasonable officer" should know, Gorsuch wrote in the dissent, "that arresting a now compliant class clown for burping was going a step too far."

In another case involving school discipline, Hawker v. Sandy City Corp, where an officer twisted a 9-year-old's hand in a "control hold," pushed him against a wall and handcuffed him, Gorsuch joined the majority ruling that no excessive force was used.

Gorsuch's opinions in three different cases all tended toward limiting the responsibilities of school districts toward students with autism and other conditions — for example, if they leave school of their own accord out of frustration. IDEA's standard of a "free appropriate public education," reads Gorsuch's opinion in one of these cases, "is not an onerous one."

Rex Tillerson, secretary of state (confirmed)

The State Department might not seem that involved in education at first glance, but Tillerson could play a role in how American students are perceived abroad and vice versa.

The department funds a slew of study abroad programs, like the Fulbright Scholarship, the Critical Language Scholarship Program and multiple merit-based scholarships for high school students. It also houses the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which facilitates student exchanges and cross-cultural programs.

The department also oversees student visas for foreign students coming to the United States, like the F-1 and J-1. Some of these visa holders were among those caught up in last month's executive order banning the entry of citizens from seven majority-Muslim countries. There are currently more than a million international students enrolled in American universities.

Since Tillerson doesn't have a political track record, it's a little hard to tell where he'll fall as far as education opportunities and policies within the State Department. But, we do know that ExxonMobil, the company that Tillerson ran before taking on his new position, has regularly touted the importance of STEM education and funded multiple scholarships and cross-cultural programs worldwide through the ExxonMobil Foundation.

As for Tillerson's personal stance on education, he wrote a 2013 op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*, defending the Common Core and expounding on the importance of education in a global world. Here's a snippet:

"We need to raise expectations at every grade level so that, for instance, students who do well in math in lower grades are spurred to take algebra and more advanced math. But we need high standards to drive efforts to improve educational outcomes in every subject.

"With these education standards under attack in many states where they have been adopted or are being considered, the Common Core needs support now more than ever if America is going to reverse its education decline and prepare its young people to compete in today's dynamic global economy."

Tom Price, secretary of health and human services (confirmed)

At his confirmation hearing, Tom Price said his goal as secretary of health would be to make insurance accessible to everyone.

But his proposals as a congressman to cut Medicaid's federal funding could affect school districts, especially those with a higher concentration of low-income students.

According to a survey from AASA, the School Superintendents Association, about 1,000 school district leaders from 42 states were "deeply concerned" about Republican proposals to refinance Medicaid. Republicans have typically proposed turning Medicaid into a block grant program, which could eliminate schools from eligibility for reimbursement funds.

"Medicaid plays a very important role in schools because it allows school districts to receive reimbursement for students with disabilities who have services that are immensely necessary in order for them to learn," says Sasha Pudelski, author of the study. Those services include speech language pathology and occupational and physical therapy.

About two-thirds of the respondents to the superintendents survey said they use Medicaid reimbursements specifically to subsidize the salaries of professionals, such as nurses, mental health providers and specialized instructional support personnel, who provide the services for special education.

Ryan Zinke, secretary of the interior (nominated)

The Interior Department is home to the Bureau of Indian Education, which accounts for roughly 42,000 students at 164 elementary and secondary schools on 64 reservations in 23 states. Currently, Zinke is a Republican U.S. representative from Montana, a state that has one of the larger Native American populations in the country, and served as a state senator before that. A majority of the bills Zinke has sponsored have to do with public lands and natural resources — not a surprise for someone tapped to head the Department of the Interior — but Native American issues have also accounted for a notable percentage of bills he has put his name on.

As far as education, Zinke has repeatedly voiced his support for keeping education policy control at a local level. "I don't have a problem with standards," he said in 2014 campaign speech in Helena. "But states should have more say in developing standards, rather than a one-size-fits-all." His website says he opposes Common Core, is in favor of local school board control and supports families who choose homeschooling.

News from the President

Dear Colleagues,

VOTE/COPE. Yes, I said "VOTE/COPE". Please make sure you contribute to VOTE/COPE. In the past, our support of this so necessary fund has been less than it could be, at best. We need to do better. This is the fund that helps improve our working conditions by funding efforts to change or add legislation that determines things like educational funding, improvements in retirement benefits or what education in the next 10-20 years, will look like.

Now more than ever we need to support VOTE/COPE. Education is still at risk, though it has seen better support in the last year. As difficult as it is to believe, people might want to cut or eliminate the services we provide. The attempt has been made and I believe we are not yet in the clear. Give to VOTE/COPE.

Not only do we need to support VOTE/COPE like never before, we need to continue to send messages to all our legislators expressing our concern and need for enhanced funding. The message is that support for education is paramount to the future of this state. The continued ability for New York to attract employers and employ its workforce is directly proportional with the state's willingness to invest in the education of that workforce.

We need to send a message, not once, but over and over. "Increase educational funding, especially BOCES". The services we provide are vital. We know this and we need to make sure the politicians at the Capital know it.

Use the NYSUT MAC. E-mail if you want, but keep using the MAC to send FAXES. Ask friends, neighbors and relatives who have any interest in education or the future of this state to do the same. They, too, will be affected if the proposed budget does not adequately support education.

We absolutely must get our message through. Not only does our employment depend upon it, but also the futures of our children and the children we teach. With the push for higher standards, increasing funding education is necessary.

One thing that we continue to see at BOCES is change. Sherry Karcher-Hewitt and I are participating in the search process to hire a new district superintendent. It is a varied group of stake holders including component school superintendents and board members. As I have said before, one constant at BOCES is change. This is one more change we will see and hopefully a positive one.

Looking Forward, Doug

Point/Counterpoint on the 2017 Constitutional Convention

The best way to turn a "yes" or "maybe" voter into a "no" voter is by having a personal conversation with them about the constitutional convention. Having response to the questions on what a constitutional convention can and can't accomplish is a great way to begin.

Fiscal Conservatives

Statement – I think a constitutional convention is a great idea because it will cut our taxes!

Response – What makes you think that? The people who would meet in Albany could just as easily raise the state debit limit and allow the state to spend more money. Why chance it?

Gun Rights Advocate or Gun Control Advocate

Statement – I want to repeal/strengthen the SAFE Act, and I think holding a constitutional convention will allow us to do that.

Response – I understand what you're saying. Gun rights are hot issues right now, but the delegates to a constitutional convention could do just the opposite of what you want. Remember, the amendments they propose could be voted on individually or altogether. If they are voted on individually, how do you think the gun issue would be voted on by the entire state?

Opposition to Public Pensions

Statement – I think the pension for public employees are too high. Most make six figures. We can cut them if we want a constitutional convention.

Response – The average teacher pension is about $40,000 and the average state and local employee pension is about half of that. Is that really too much after a lifetime of work? Even if we have a convention, there's no guarantee public pensions would be cut, and we would open u0p everything to changes. Do you want to risk the rights you value just for a slim chance to cut some retiree's income? Do you want to force them to use social services to cost us even more?

Albany Corruption

Statement – These politicians in Albany are all criminals. We can fix that with a constitutional convention.

Response – Unless we vote "no" to a convention those same politicians will serve as delegates to the convention and could get paid for both jobs at the same time! The convention could cost taxpayers millions of dollars. What a party they'll have in Albany on our dime.

Constitutional Amendments are Needed

Statement – We haven't had a rewrite of the constitution since the 1930s so we should have the constitutional convention to fix the language that's out of date.

Response – We have been amending the constitution quite a bit in the last few years through individual amendments placed on the ballot. In 2013, we passed an amendment on casino gambling, and in 2014 we passed another amendment to allow the legislature to go paperless. If other changes are needed, why not use that process?

Changes to Education Policy

Statement – We can do something to fix education policy if we have a constitutional convention.

Response – The constitution already has strong protections for public education. What fixes do you think delegates would put in place that would make it better? I'd rather have education professionals who are teaching our students make the decisions instead of some convention delegate, wouldn't you?

Teaching Assistant/Aide Report Represenhtative List

Colleen Condolora, Chapter VP

Karen Brayton
kbray-ton321@yahoo.com

Conti, Ron
Antoione, Hope
Brown, Lynn
Coulter, Jamioe
Flanders, Lori
Marie, Patricia
Nasser, Catherine
Mosher, Sterling
Pickett, Wilson
Rock, Rob
Totten, Teresa
Townsend, Jaclyn

Mary Davis
marym1214@yahoo.com

Dames (Spencer), Eliza-beth
Davis, Kathleen
Fuller, Charles
Joy, Deidra
Karl, Karen
McClarty, Phyllis
Moore, Shelby
Ostrander, Stacey
Pettersen, Astrid
Risley, James
Roberts, Lucille
Stern, Alexander
Szalowski, Tom
Therrien, Marilyn
Williams, Marcus

Catherine Jakway
mssmarty-pants429@nycap.rr.com

Berkowitz, Jason
Bisaillo, Bille
Devendorf, Cynthia
Egan, Jenna
Fenton, Mary Beth
Ferracane, Gail
Fontaine, Christopher
Klemek, Maureen
LaFountain, Hillary
Lehmann, Kathryn
Madison, Katelyn
Malik, Ambreen
Marks-Curatolo, Eva
Moffat, Dona
O?Brien, Kerry-Ann
Pariseau, Brittany
Post, Sterling
Stage, Shana
Thiyagargan, Meenaskshi

Princetta Jordan
jrpjjrd@gmail.com

Barcomb, Cynthia
Belyna, Vickie
Davis, Jill
Duncan, Jennifer
Foss, Lucinda
Heritage, Brenda
Higgins, Kim
Kosoc, Quinn
Latham, Anna
Pierce, Yvonne
Rubin, Doreen
Williams, Louanne

Christine McDonough
camcd9@yahoo.com

Blizzard, Patricia
Dockerty, Genna
Fitch, Nancy
Flagg, Jennifer
Gilman, Kerstin
Gottlieb, Valarie
Herbert, Lena
Knightes, Lisa
Neaton, Tracey
Price, Pearlie
Reiss, Kevin
Samuels, Jahmel
Schmidt, Daniella
Stern, Linda
Thompson, Barbara

James Reed
soupy42853@aol.com

Berberich, Sharon
Brown, Allison
Champ, Stephanie
Culora, Kerry
Fleshman, Donna
Grassia, Judity
Long, Joanna
Pasquali, Mary Ann
Pieniazek, Susan
Reed, Kristen
Ruth, James
Wilson, Julie
Zimolka, Meghan

Kevin Rheden
krheden@aol.com

Baker, Kathleen
Bennett, Emily
Bradley, Krista
D'Aurizio, Rina
Foster, Tammy
Foster, Tammy
LaFountain, Cristina
Lysiak, Jodi
Minerly, Cheryl
Naccarato, Patricia
Novak, John
Parsons, Kelly
Renee Howland
Robillard, Linda
Ruso, Natalie
Summers, Helen

Mary Ruby
jmanmad-dycakes@yahoo.com

Adams, Tina
Ali, Shireen
Cotton, Dawn
Geragosian, Michael
McTernan, Carol
Moore, Pattie
Peter, Brian
Ruff, Carol
Sadler, Nadine
Shepard, Brenda
Sookhoo, Gangadai
Suriano, Christine
Totten, Lewis

Vickie Sturn
kareka123@yahoo.com

Ashline. Susanna
Chrysler, Theresa
Condon, Karen
Danby, Carol
Farina, Lisa
Grice, Geneva
Groves, Susan
Harris, Dawn
Holmes-Wright, Cheryl
Hudson, Jill
McVey, Amamnda
Novotny, James
Ozmat, Evan
Packard, Cynthia
Riccio, Francesca
Whalen, Katherine

Patricia Thornton
patriciat8@verizon.net

Angelo, Michelle
Capogna, Deborah
Cowles, Allison
Daunais, Sandra
DeMarco, Pattie
Dover, Kelly
Eilenfield, Amanda
Gannon, Vanessa
Griffen, Diane
Pawlak, Gladys
Raftogianis, Elaine
Savage, Cathy
Studler, Pam
Swint, Lisa
Topliffe, Bonnie
Tureby, Jacqueline

Retirees Corner

By Jeanette Christoff 518-356-0137

Greetings to Spring,

We thought our easy winter would glide seamlessly into spring but that was not to be, as storms Niko and Orson blasted us, awakening us from our complacency. With schools and even NERIC closed and roadways impassable it gave an opportunity to appreciate this magnificent phenomena. For a little while, the pristine beauty covered the scars of our physical world and all was beautiful. These magical moments vanished as we realized the work ahead; wrestling the roof rake, swinging the shovel, dancing with the snow thrower. We considered the option of withdrawing into our burrow like that Pennsylvania ground hog, and waiting until it all melted away. But we didn't and within a week most of the snow had vanished. It was followed by several days of record-breaking, February temperatures above 70. What a perfect week for those on midwinter break. The mountains were cold with fresh new snow for skiers, most lakes were still solid and in our local area, yards were ready for some spring clean-up. The songs of birds' serenaded us in our chores, while wave after wave of Canada geese made themselves known on their journey north. For the moment, all was well with the world, at least in the places we could see. Then, the cold and wind descended upon us again.

COFFEE BACK ON THE GOOD LIST

According to research at Stanford University School of Medicine, drinking coffee may help protect older people against inflammation. It showed a correlation between caffeine consumption and older people with low levels of inflammation which can ultimately cause diabetes, hypertension, joint problems, Alzheimer's and many types of cancer. (Gazette, 2/1/2017).

GEORGE WAS A PROPHET

The fictitious works of Mr. Orwell's "1984" continues to become a reality as we read of the use of yet another method of spying on us. As we drive along the highways, some billboards contain equipment which can tap into mobile phones. Personal information such as age, gender and location can be retrieved and sold to advertisers. (Gazette, 10/22/2016).

SOMEDAY

Please tell me someday will
be sooner than later.
Someday-that magical time
when life isn't so hard.
When living seems better
and easier than dying.
Someday when your memory
no longer causes pain.
Someday when my heart stops aching
and I remember to breathe.
Someday when a smile comes
as easily as my tears.
Someday when I hear a bird sing
and I begin to sing along.
Someday when I stop
searching for yesterday
and find and live today.

Deb Kosmer

457-A retirement plan to consider.

By Kim Elliott, BOCES School Social Worker

I have been contributing diligently to a 403B for 30 years. On looking for additional resources to have a tax deferred retirement option, I found that as a BOCES employee we can contribute to a 457 plan. The information below will help you contact the program and get started.

The 457 account you are referring to is part of NYS Deferred Compensation, https://www.nysdcp.com/iApp/tcm/nysdcp/enroll/index.jsp#_

BOCES does participate in this, however it is managed directly by the employee and NYS Deferred Comp. The above link will provide you with information pertaining to the program and how to enroll.

Should you choose to enroll, it will ask for a NYS ID number, which is 211242. The NYS Employee number on the enrollment application is not used by BOCES.

Theresa Capobianco, Finance Specialist, Administration – Payroll, Capital Region BOCES, 900 Watervliet Shaker Road, Suite 102, Albany, NY 12205, P –518-862-4933

How could a NYS Constitutional Convention affect your family and you?

November 7, 2017 Constitutional Convention Ballot Question:
"Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend same?"

A "yes" vote for the Constitutional Convention means you could LOSE:

Your pension.
Your job.
Retirement securities.
State debt limits.
Social welfare needs.
Workers' compensation.
Your visits to state parks.
Your right to collectively bargain.
Your right to have a union
Your right to a free public education
State budget spending caps.
Environmental protections.
Public schools, libraries, colleges and universities

Even if you oppose one or two of the above is it worth risking all the other rights?

Think about it…

How different would your life be if there was no:

- Pension for you to retire with?
- Public schools, libraries, colleges and universities for you to work at or for your children or grandchildren to attend?
- Right to have a contract and have it enforced by a union?
- Protections if you are injured or lose your job?
- Adirondacks or Catskills in which to hunt, fish or hike?
- Protections against polluting our drinking water?
- Spending limits for the government?

What can you do to make sure the constitutional convention is voted down?

- Talk to friends, family, neighbors and your community about why it should be voted down and why they should spread the word!
- On November 7, 2017 vote "NO" on the NYS Constitutional Convention.

The TRIAD is published monthly for the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Membership. We appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE AND TRIAD NEWSLETTER STAFF

TRIAD Co-Editors:
Susan Kusalonis—skusalonis@gmail.com
Vacant

Website Editor
Barbara Burnham, baburnham@gmail.com

Web Site: www.crbfa.org

Contributing Staff and Committee:
Sherry Karcher-Hewitt
sherry.karcherhewitt@gmail.com
Jeanette Christoff
jankachristo@juno.com
Catherine Jakway
mssmartypants429@nycap.rr.com
Kevin Rheden—krheden@aol.com
Gretchen McDonough and Transition Class

Capital Region BOCES
Faculty Association
1015 Watervliet Shaker Road
Albany, NY 12205

Address Service Requested

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage PAID
ALBANY, NY
Permit No. 237

Useful Websites

Happier, healthier weight loss: free calorie counters, food and exercise diaries, nutrition database, recipes, weight chart and journal – plus free apps and a supportive online community. FatSecretet.com

Wiser aging: Detailed information from the American Geriatric Society on arthritis, cataracts, dementia and other ailments…medications to avoid…postsurgical delirium…caregiver how-tos…more. Summaries of the latest research are included, too. HealthInAging.org

Green money savers: find discounts on organic food, clothing and other products. AllNaturalSavings.com…OrganicDeals.com…RetailMeNot.com/coupons/organic

Greener Living: Information on what/how to recycle…cleaning techniques…container gardening…fuel-efficient cars…luxury eco-tourism destinations…even a special dog owner's guide. Earth911.com

Tour a garden: Photographs, maps, reviews and other visitor information on the most stunning gardens in the US and abroad. GardenVisit.com

Sunshine Chairperson

If you know of someone who could use a little cheering up, our sympathy, or a get well card, please contact:
Abby Fischer 518-221-1237, abby.fischer5@gmail.com

Disclaimer for Articles in the TRIAD

The articles contained in the TRIAD are proofed by the Communication Committee and the individual's opinion and do not reflect the opinion of the Executive Board of Rep Council or the Communication Committee of the Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association. They are strictly for your information and enjoyment.