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# THE BEACON

Newsletter of the Western New York Educational Service Council

**December 2008**

## **Jim Brotz Appointed Assistant Director of the Council**



The Board of Directors of the WNYESC have announced the appointment of James K. Brotz as its Assistant Director, effective January 1, 2009. He is pictured on the left with Executive Director, Bren Price. Jim will be coordinating the New Administrator groups and the Administrative Study Group. He will be involved in a host of other activities and projects, such as the P-16 School-University Consortium and the Brocton-Fredonia Merger feasibility study.

Jim retired in January of 2008 from the West Seneca School District after an illustrious career as a coach, guidance counselor, high school principal and the last 6 years as Superintendent. Most recently he served as Interim Principal at Williamsville South High School. The Council Board, office staff and its affiliate districts look forward to Jim's positive and forward-thinking presence.

Pictured at the right is the Council's Board of Directors: Bob Christmann, Lauree Chabe, and Diane Munro in the first row. Behind them is Jeff Rabey, Mary Lickfeld, Mark Frazier, Darlene Michalak, Lynn Fusco and Bob Olczak



The Western New York Educational Service Council is proud of its partnership with the law firm of Hodgson Russ LLP Attorneys. We appreciate their support as our Corporate Sponsor and recognize their outstanding service to the schools of Western New York.

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## Council Facilitating Brocton-Fredonia School Merger Study

### 40 School and District Residents Involved in the Process

The Brocton and Fredonia School District Boards of Education have contracted with the Western New York Educational Service Council to facilitate discussions with school and community representatives on the feasibility of merging the two existing districts into one new district. The first meeting was held in Brocton on December 13, 2008, where the committee members began an in-depth research into four topics: curriculum and instruction, finance and facilities, community relationships and staff/organization. Future meetings will be held on Saturdays in January, February and March, alternating between the two districts. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10th in the Fredonia High School Library Media Center.

Five former superintendents are working as consultants in this study: Bren Price, Jim Brotz, Susan Gray, Paul Haley, and Gerry Glose. They will help the committee in their effort to make recommendations to the Joint Boards of Education by late spring 2009.



**Paul Haley explaining details about the Steering Committee duties**



**Bren Price at the opening orientation session**



**Susan Gray leading the Curriculum/Instruction Committee**

### SAVE OR PASS ALONG THESE DATES

Feb 5, 2009	<b>Response to Intervention Sem.</b>	4:00 p.m. - 7:00 Marriott Hotel
March 12, 2009	<b>Safe Schools Conference</b>	8:30 a.m. - 2:30 UB Center for Arts
March 12, 2009	<b>4th Annual Awards Banquet</b>	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 Millennium Hotel
March 20, 2009:	<b>Character Ed Conference</b>	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 Hilbert College
March 27, 2009	<b>Technology Conference</b>	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 Erie I BOCES
April 22, 2009	<b>Legal Issues for Principals</b>	8:00 a.m. - Noon Millennium Hotel

## “Legal Issues for School Building Administrators”

*New*

Have you ever been threatened with the “I’m calling my lawyer” line? To what extent are you liable when legal issues arrive? What can you do to PREVENT lawsuits? In response to these questions, a new series of workshops for school building administrators (as well as directors and coordinators) will start this spring.

Partners from the law firm of Hodgson-Russ, LLP will be conducting the sessions, and this one will start with the theme, “**Stories Around The Water Cooler: Avoiding Pitfalls and Common Mistakes.**” There will be a presentation of the common pitfalls, one or two topics, and then a question and answer period. Breakout sessions and the Q&A will be divided into Elementary or Secondary.

The first session will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga, starting with a breakfast buffet at 7:45 a.m. and ending promptly at noon so participants can get back to their jobs for the afternoon. No charge (except food) to participants from affiliate districts of the Council. Call for more details...716-645-2932.

### Response to Intervention (RtI) for School Administrators and Directors of Special Education

Some administrators have questions about Response to Intervention programs and regulations. **Mark Shinn**, noted author and speaker, will be at the Marriott Hotel on Thursday, February 5, 2009 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. to speak on the topic, “**RtI: Myths and Misconceptions.**” This event is co-sponsored by McGraw-Hill SRA Wright Group and the Council and will be **FREE** to members of the Council. It will include dinner, refreshments and a preview of instructional materials. Call Bren Price for reservations and more information.

### New Administrator Breakfast Seminars a Huge Success

Howard Smith, Williamsville Superintendent, presented to 38 people on December 16th at the Millennium Hotel. His program, “Becoming the Best of the Best: What Administrators are Looking for when Hiring or Promoting Administrators,” focused on leadership standards as reflected in the skills and personal qualities of the best leaders.



More than 30 new administrators are participating in this series, which is coordinated by Jim Brotz, WNYESC Assistant Director. Two more sessions are scheduled. On January 16, 2009, three area superintendents (Dr. Lynn Fusco, Jeff Rabey and John O’Connor) will share “**Career Lessons Learned from the Field.**” Then on February 10th, De Bonenburger and Paul Hashem will address, “**Dealing with Difficult Discipline Issues.**” There are still some slots available for these two sessions to non-subscribers who want to attend. Interested persons should call Jim Brotz for more information at 716-645-2932. Each meeting starts with a breakfast buffet at 7:45 a.m.

**Thanks to the UB Graduate School of Education**

**The WNYESC recognizes its invaluable partnership with the Graduate School of Education at SUNY Buffalo. The Council deeply appreciates support from Dr. Mary Gresham, Dean of the Graduate School of Education. We also thank the Faculty and Staff for their encouragement and participation in the Council.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Dr. Lynn Fusco**, President;  
Supt., Alden CSD  
**Dr. Darleen Michalak**, Vice-Pres., Deputy Supt., E I BOCES  
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**Dr. Mark Frazier**, Lead Community Supt., Buffalo Public Schools  
**Ms. Mary Lickfeld**, Director,  
Williamsville Teachers' Center  
**Ms. Diane Munro**, Supt., Allegany-Limestone CSD  
**Mr Jeff Rabey**, Supt., Lake Shore CSD  
**Dr. Christine Kroll**, Ass’t.  
Dean, Ed. Outreach Network—  
GSE SUNY Buffalo

**UPCOMING CALENDAR**

<b>December</b>		
10th	School Site Group	4:15 - 6:30 p.m. Marriott
11th	Administrative Study Group <b>Lunch Mtg</b>	11:30 a.m. Marriott
16th	New Admin Group - Buffalo	7:45 - 10:00 a.m. Millennium
<b>January</b>		
15th	Awards Banquet Nominations Due	
16th	New Administrators Group - Buffalo	7:45 - 10:00 a.m. Millennium
<b>February</b>		
3rd	New Principals Group GV BOCES	7:45 - 10:00 a.m. LeRoy
5th	RtI w/ Mark Shinn & McGraw Hill	4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Marriott
10th	New Administrators Group - Buffalo	7:45 - 10:00 a.m. Millennium
<b>March</b>		
11th	Board Meeting	11:30 a.m. Eagle House
11th	School Site Group	4:15 - 6:30 p.m. Marriott
12th	Safe Schools Conference	8:00 - 2:00 p.m. UB-CFA
12th	4th Annual Awards Banquet	6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Millennium
20th	Character Ed Conference	9:00 - 3:00 p.m. Hilbert College
26th	Administrative Study Group - Chris Collins	4:15 - 6:30 p.m. Marriott
27th	Technology Conference	9:00 - 3:00 p.m. Erie 1 BOCES
<b>April</b>		
22nd	Legal Issues for Principals - Hodgson Russ	7:45 - Noon Millennium

**WNYESC STAFF**

**Bren T. Price, Sr., M.S.** Executive Director  
**James K. Brotz, M.S.** Assistant Director

**Susan Paulson** - Executive Assistant  
**Bonnie Domogala** - Bookkeeper **Karen Lewis** - Office Assistant

**Vincent Coppola, Ed.D.** **Thomas Ramming, Ed. D.**  
Search Consultants

Located at: SUNY Buffalo, 222 Baldy Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260-1000  
716-645-2932; FAX 716-645-3840; email — paulson2@buffalo.edu

**Membership Commitment**

It is our goal to provide high quality, cost-effective programs and services for our members. Whether it be professional development, consultant studies, data-driven studies, superintendent searches, connections to research and higher learning or leadership development, the Council is dedicated to supporting all educators and schools in Western New York.