

# Leadership Matters

JULY 2013  
IASA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Students' best friend



**VISION 20/20 INITIATIVE**

Organizational Transformation  
Assessment & Accountability  
Digital Learning  
Leadership  
Engage  
Governance

principals parents teachers administrators

**Vision 20/20:  
Landmark initiative  
for IASA & kids**

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# Webb becomes president of IASA

The superintendent of the Goreville Community Unit District 1 is the new president of the statewide association for school superintendents and administrators. Dr. Steve Webb began his one-year term on Monday (July 1) as president of the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA).

"It is a complete honor to be selected to represent school administrators across the state as we work together to make a positive impact on the future of educating kids," said Webb, who will succeed Dr. Kathryn J. Robbins, who recently retired as superintendent of the Leyden High School District in Franklin Park. "If nothing else, I hope I can contribute some common sense in terms of dealing with issues we face in moving our education system forward."

Brent Clark, executive director of the IASA, praised Webb as the right person to lead the IASA at this challenging point in time for public education.

"These are very difficult times for public education given the deep state budget cuts and unfunded mandates facing school districts," Clark said. "Steve Webb not only is a well-respected educator, but he also has the experience and a common-sense approach that will serve our association well."

In addition to serving this past year as President-Elect of the IASA, Robbins also has served in various capacities the past six years, including Treasurer from 2010-2012, and stints as Chairman of the Budget Committee and the Membership Committee.

Webb also is President of the Association of

Illinois Rural and Small Schools Board of Directors, a position he has held since 2010. He was appointed to Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon's "Classrooms First Committee" to study the issue of school district consolidation and collaboration.

A native of Goreville, Webb has served the past 10 years as superintendent of the school district he attended, and where his father served as a teacher and administrator for 31 years. Webb previously served as superintendent in Thompsonville and as principal in Joppa. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from McKendree University, his Master's of Science in Education and his Doctor of Philosophy in Education Administration from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.



"It is a complete honor to be selected to represent school administrators across the state as we work together to make a positive impact on the future of educating kids, If nothing else, I hope I can contribute some common sense in terms of dealing with issues we face in moving our education system forward."

— New IASA President Dr. Steve Webb of Goreville Community Unit District 1

Goreville School Board President Kenneth Robison called Webb "a true leader with a great work ethic."

"Dr. Webb not only is a leader in educating our children, but in

making every effort to improve our everyday lives by writing grants for the school and community, using his optimism and caring personality in helping to resolve problems as they occur, or simply throwing on his work clothes and doing the work himself," said Robison, noting that Webb was selected the Village of Goreville "Volunteer of the Year" in 2009. "Some people lead with their mouths and telling you what they are going to do. Dr. Webb just does it."

Webb has been married to his wife, Angie, for 20 years and the couple have four children, Nate (18), Alison (17), Braden (13), and Kanon (9).



# Vision 20/20 could be landmark initiative for IASA — and for kids

Message from the Executive Director  
Dr. Brent Clark

In meeting with the IASA representatives from all over the state for the Vision 20/20 initiative, I told them that June 6, 2013 could very well prove to be a landmark day in the 67-year history of the IASA. I said that because that was the day we embarked on a project to chart the future of public education that never has been done by IASA and, as far as we can tell, by anyone else.

The charge given to the 46 people selected to serve on this project was not to think about politicians or pensions or anything else except kids. Kids need to be at the top of our agenda because that's what we are about, and that's what public education is supposed to be about — though it often doesn't seem that way when the state and/or federal governments gets involved.

We know what brought us to this point: Public schools are victims of reforms and reformers. When I was a school superintendent, I thought there was a master plan and that we as superintendents had a role in that plan. When I got to Springfield, I found out that there is no master plan, and the state just rolls from crisis to crisis. When the reformers came to town it seemed like they were the only ones to have a plan.

simple enough for people to understand. We want to plan for an ideal system of education for our children. We want it to be inspirational in order to garner the public support we need at the grassroots level in communities across this state. And we absolutely want it to be more than just a bunch of words on paper.

While the 42 superintendents and 4 advisory panel members listed in the subcommittee chart on Page X have been selected and have accepted this time-consuming, extremely important mission, they will be reaching out to their regions to gather thoughts and ideas from you, the real practitioners of public education in our state. I have asked that the two representatives from each IASA Region make it a point to brief members at each region meeting, and we will use *Leadership Matters* to offer regular updates. We need to build an appetite for this project so when it is completed we have the buy-in and fire it will take to build momentum from the community level all the way to the state capitol.

The timing, and the timeline, of this initiative is by design. We want to have a finished plan for public education no later than Labor Day of 2014 because our top-shelf goal is to make this blueprint for public education part of the gubernatorial campaign in the fall of next year. Wouldn't it be great if one of the candidates for governor adopted our vision as part of their platform?

If we fall short of that mark, it does not mean that this project will have been a failure. Far from it. There's no question that the plan we formulate will be on the radar screen of the state board and other educational leaders in our state.

Also, it will provide IASA with policy guidance going forward because it will provide detailed definition for our motto "Maximum Success for All Students."

There is one very big reason that Vision 20/20 will have to be taken seriously by those in charge of education policy in Illinois: ***This will be the first and only plan for kids in Illinois developed by the people who are actually on the front lines in communities throughout the state doing the work of educating children.***

***“This will be the first and only plan for kids in Illinois developed by the people who are actually on the front lines in communities throughout the state doing the work of educating children..”***

While it is important to understand how we got here and to be aware of the past, it is even more important to think forward. It was quite interesting to hear some of the comments when Diane Sawyer (ECRA's facilitator, not the other Diane Sawyer) asked the IASA members to define what visioning meant to them. Words like "inspirational," "ideal," "clear," "simple," and "real, not just words" were some of the thoughts offered.

I can't think of any better way to describe what we want Vision 20/20 to be. We want our plan for the future of public education in Illinois to be clear and



*IASA Executive Director Dr. Brent Clark addresses the first meeting of the Vision 20/20 team.*

## Vision 20/20 initiative kicks off with Illinois children as main focus

IASA's Vision 20/20 initiative got under way on June 6 as representatives from each of the Association's 21 Regions gathered at the Springfield headquarters to receive a briefing about the goals and timelines for the project and to receive their committee assignments.

"This very well could be one of the landmark days in IASA history," said IASA Executive Director Dr. Brent Clark in kicking off Vision 20/20. "This has never been done before, to gather an august group of Illinois educators to represent the views, interests and future of schools and kids."

The overarching goal for Vision 20/20 is to develop a roadmap for public education in Illinois going forward, with an emphasis on what is in the best interests of children. The objectives include:

1. Uniting the Illinois education community around a vision to improve education in Illinois.
2. Documenting the consensus among Illinois educators for creating a desired future vision of education in Illinois.

3. Providing a common voice from the Illinois education community to guide state policy.

The timeline is to have a plan completed no later than Labor Day of 2014, in time to be included in the gubernatorial campaign discussions.

"Take kids, and paint your vision," Diane Sawyer, Educational Consultants and Research Associates (ECRA) senior associate and one of the project facilitators, told the IASA members.

ECRA Group Inc., a national research, leadership and strategic planning consulting firm located in Rosemont, was selected to be the project manager. ECRA will staff the subcommittee meetings to help facilitate discussion and to document the work product. Interestingly, by design there are no educators as part of the ECRA group involved with Vision 20/20.

"We have no educators working on this project because all of you are the education experts," said Dr. John Gatta, president and chief operating officer of ECRA, whose role will be to provide executive

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Vision 20/20 kickoff article

(Continued from page 5)

oversight of the project. In addition to Gatta and Sawyer, others on the ECRA project team include Dr. Gina Siemieniec, executive vice president and the Vision 20/20 project director, and Cynthia Starz, a senior associate and one of the facilitators.

Gatta said he quickly committed ECRA to the project when Clark called to discuss the Vision 20/20 idea.

“Before he finished his first sentence, I told him we are absolutely in,” Gatta recalled. “We are an Illinois company that is dedicated to working with school districts to help document that public education does work.”

Each of the 21 IASA Regions selected one representative and IASA Executive Director Clark also chose one representative from each Region. Those 42 representatives were divided into three working groups, with the two members from each Region serving on a different group. The groups, their missions and the members assigned to those groups are listed in a chart on the next page.

Also, an Advisory Panel has been established for Vision 20/20. It includes the 2013 IASA Superintendent of the Year Dr. Jane Westerhold, the 2014 Superintendent of the Year (to be named in November), Dr. Cameron Carlson, assistant professor of educational leadership at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale representing Higher Education, and Dr. Sheila Harrison-Williams, serving under-represented IASA constituencies.

The detailed timeline is broken into three phases:

### Phase I: Project Planning (June 6, 2013)

- ◆ Establish project objectives
- ◆ Identify project needs and resources
- ◆ Develop a detailed timeline
- ◆ Determine subcommittee members
- ◆ Develop a website ([www.illinoisvision2020.org](http://www.illinoisvision2020.org)) to serve as a communications vehicle and project management tool throughout the process (you also can follow on Twitter by using @ILVision2020)

### Phase II: Vision Development (June 2013 through June 1, 2014)

- ◆ **June 6, 2013:** First subcommittee meetings to outline objectives for each subcommittee and to design a survey (June 6, 2013)
- ◆ Provide survey services to gather key stakeholder input beyond the formal committees



*Dr. Gina Siemieniec, Executive Vice President of ECRA and the Vision 20/20 Project Director facilitates a working group meeting.*

- ◆ **August 1, 2013:** Launch two surveys, one for a control group of superintendents and another for a broader community
- ◆ **October 8, 2013:** Second meeting of subcommittees
- ◆ **January 23, 2014:** Third meeting of subcommittees
- ◆ **April 24, 2014:** Fourth meeting of subcommittees
- ◆ **June 1, 2014:** Draft document articulating a new vision for public education in Illinois

### Phase III: Public Engagement and Communication

- ◆ **June 12, 2014:** Fifth and capstone meeting of subcommittees and document debriefing
- ◆ Receive stakeholder comments on draft document
- ◆ Synthesize and document stakeholder comments
- ◆ Develop final document
- ◆ Identify and document next steps for public engagement and communication
- ◆ **July 1, 2014:** Final Vision 20/20 document sent to IASA Board of Directors for review and consideration



## Governance and Finance

- ◆ Dr. Victor Zimmerman, Abe Lincoln
- ◆ Dr. Jay Morrow, Blackhawk
- ◆ Dr. Judith Hackett, Cook North
- ◆ Dr. Jeff Stawick, Cook South
- ◆ James Prather, Cook West
- ◆ Gary R. Tipsord, Corn Belt
- ◆ Dr. Gary Kelly, Egyptian
- ◆ Karen Perry, Illini
- ◆ Michael Kelly, Kaskaskia
- ◆ Rick Schmitt, Kishwaukee
- ◆ Dr. Thomas Leonard, Lake
- ◆ Stephen Murphy, Shawnee
- ◆ Dr. Gina Segobiano, Southwestern
- ◆ Mark Cross, Starved Rock

## Digital Learning/ Assessment & Accountability

- ◆ Matt Brue, Abe Lincoln
- ◆ Dr. Lindsey Hall, Central Illinois Valley
- ◆ Dr. Quintin Shepherd, Cook North
- ◆ Jeannie Stachowiak, Cook South
- ◆ Dr. Louis Cavallo, Cook West
- ◆ Dr. Jeff Hill, Corn Belt
- ◆ Dr. Michael Connolly, DuPage
- ◆ Dr. Kelly Stewart, Egyptian
- ◆ Dr. Dan Bertrand, Kishwaukee
- ◆ Tad Everett, Northwest
- ◆ Dr. Don White, Three Rivers
- ◆ Matt Plater, Two Rivers
- ◆ Jeff Fritchtnitch, Wabash Valley
- ◆ Roy Webb, Western

## Leadership and Organizational Transformation

- ◆ Jerry Klooster, Blackhawk
- ◆ Dr. Jay Marino, Central Illinois Valley
- ◆ Dr. Kathryn Birkett, DuPage
- ◆ Judy Wiegand, Illini
- ◆ Jennifer Garrison, Kaskaskia
- ◆ Julie Schmidt, Lake
- ◆ Thomas Mahoney, Northwest
- ◆ Dr. Lori James-Gross, Shawnee
- ◆ Dr. Todd Koehl, Southwestern
- ◆ Steve Wroblewski, Starved Rock
- ◆ Dr. Richard Decman, Three Rivers
- ◆ Les Stevens, Two Rivers
- ◆ Mark Doan, Wabash Valley
- ◆ Ralph Grimm, Western

The Vision 20/20 Advisory Panel includes the 2013 IASA Superintendent of the Year **Dr. Jane Westerhold**, the 2014 Superintendent of the Year (**to be named in November**), **Dr. Cameron Carlson**, assistant professor of educational leadership at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale representing Higher Education, and **Dr. Sheila Harrison-Williams**, serving under-represented IASA constituencies.

# Conference committee on pension reform hears from usual cast



Diane Hendren,  
Chief of Staff /  
Director of  
Governmental  
Relations

The conference committee on pension reform held its first public meeting on June 27 in Chicago, but no new ground appeared to be broken during the meeting that lasted six hours. In fact, the usual cast of characters that testified at previous House and Senate pension reform hearings offered opinions again at the conference committee meeting.

No surprise to anyone, but no one had changed their position on the complex issue. In fact, even though some of the 10 members of the conference committee talked about the need for compromise, it appeared that the battle lines are drawn the same way as they were in May when pension reform failed to achieve a consensus.

While most of the discussion centered around House Speaker Michael Madigan's plan (Senate Bill 1) and Senate President John Cullerton's union-backed plan (SB 2404), Rep. Lou Lang (D-Skokie) reintroduced his plan (House Bill 2375) as a new concept for the committee's consideration.

Major points in Lang's plan included:

- Setting a goal of 80 percent funding in 45 years instead of 100 percent funding in 30 years;
- Increasing employee contributions by 3 percent over six years;
- Shifting the state's normal pension costs to school districts and universities by ½ percent per year; and

Making permanent the 2 percent income tax increase that is due to expire January 1, 2015, saying that the income tax issue, not the pension problem, is the "800-pound gorilla in the room."

Lang claimed his bill is constitutional, but said he is unsure of the amount of savings because no actuarial study has yet been done. Lang, an attorney who has studied constitutional law, said he believes neither SB 1 nor SB 2404 is constitutional. He said that fixing the pension problem would require a series of concepts, must be credible and constitutional and must be comprehensive and include all five of the state's pension systems and not exclude the Judges Retirement System as other proposals have excluded.

Conference. Committee Chairman Sen. Kwame Raoul (D-Chicago) said that he did not believe the committee could solve the pension reform problem if

## Governor signs FY14 education funding bills

Governor Pat Quinn has signed three bills into law that will fund education in Illinois for the next fiscal year. Due to an unexpected \$1.3 billion in revenue that was received in April, fiscal year 2014 education funding avoided even more painful cuts and mostly preserved funding at last year's levels.

However, even with this one-time revenue, current funding for General State Aid remains prorated at 89 percent of the foundation level. Like GSA, transportation is funded at the same level as in FY13, but that still is 42 percent less than three years ago. Also, early childhood education will receive \$300 million – the same as last year.

The governor signed House Bill 208 and Senate Bills 2555 and 2556. Through this legislation, the state board of education will receive a total of \$6.7 billion for PreK-12 education, compared to \$6.54 billion in FY13.

it limited its choices to SB 1 or SB 2404.

"What we've learned here today is that there is a universe of options and everyone should be open to that universe," Raoul said.

It only takes a majority of six of the 10 conferees to sign off on a bill that then would go to the House and Senate for a possible vote - and eight of the 10 appointees previously had voted for Madigan's bill (Senate Bill 1) that unilaterally imposes pension benefit cuts on employees and retirees.

However, any proposed language that comes out of the committee still must be approved in both chambers and the same issues of fairness and constitutionality that caused SB 1 to be soundly defeated in the Senate still were apparent during the committee meeting as articulated by Senate Democrats Raoul and Linda Holmes (Aurora), with Daniel Biss (Evanston) calling for compromise between SB 1 and SB 2404, which achieves less in the way of savings but offers employees and retirees choices regarding reduced benefits or access to the state's health care plan.

Madigan refused to call SB 2404 for a vote in the House even though most observers thought it would have passed by a big majority compared to the two-vote margin by which SB 1 passed the House.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Conference committee article

The conference committee concept arose out of a June 19 Special Session called by the governor. Unable to secure enough votes to pass any of the pension reform measures currently on the table during that Special Session, the governor and legislative leaders agreed to form a conference committee to try and work out a compromise.

The governor has insisted that the conference committee have a pension reform bill on his desk by July 9, but that artificial deadline seems very unlikely given the logistics of getting any actuarial data once the committee arrives at a proposal that at least six members are willing to sign.

There have been some subtle signs that a compromise might be possible.

Cullerton, who up to this point has steadfastly held to the position that employees and retirees must be given choices in order for cuts to their pension benefits to pass constitutional muster, said he thought a plan proposed by university presidents had some possibilities even though it did not contain any "choice" provisions. And Madigan, who had opposed formation of a conference committee, agreed to the maneuver, even though he has not moved from his position that his plan is the answer to the state's fiscal problems.

In addition to the three Senate Democrats listed above, the conference committee of 10 legislators includes two Senate Republicans (gubernatorial candidate Bill Brady of Bloomington and Matt Murphy of Palatine), three House Democrats (Elaine Nekritz of Northbrook, and Michael Zalewski and Arthur Turner, both of Chicago) and two House Republicans (Darlene Senger of Naperville and Jil Tracy of Mount Sterling).

The We Are One Illinois union coalition that



worked with Cullerton to come up with SB 2404 said at the committee meeting that it has given all that it is prepared to give and will not support any substantive changes to the provisions of that bill.

The conference committee said it would continue to communicate daily and is scheduled to hold another public meeting July 3 in Chicago. Groups scheduled to address the committee on July 3 include the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, which is expected to talk about the proposal unveiled by university presidents (SB 2591), and Ralph Martire's Center for Budget and Tax Accountability. Martire has said the problem is a debt problem, not a pension problem, and has been a staunch proponent of re-amortizing the pension debt into flat, annual debt payments of about \$6.9 billion through 2057.

If anything comes out of the conference committee with a chance to pass, the most likely scenario would be passage by a simple majority with an effective date of June 1, 2014. To have an immediate effective date would require a three-fifths majority of both chambers, considered highly unlikely given the past votes on this issue.

### **SAVE THE DATE for the New Superintendents' Conference!**

**July 31<sup>st</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

IASA is here to help as you transition into the role of Superintendent. This is an exciting and overwhelming time in your life, and IASA will be with you each step of the way.

We would like to invite you to join the IASA Administrative Team led by Dr. Brent Clark, Executive Director, and Dr. Richard Voltz, Associate Director of Professional Development and Induction/Mentoring Programs, at the 2013-2014 New Superintendents' Conference on July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 1, 2013. This two-day conference, free of charge, will cover a variety of topics from board relations and school finance to technology and personal health.

This is a great opportunity to meet other first year superintendents, gather vital resources, and build a support network for your first year on the job.

**To register, [click here](#) .**

If you have questions contact Kim Herr, PD Secretary at (217) 753-2213 or [kherr@iasaedu.org](mailto:kherr@iasaedu.org).



*Tri-Valley Elementary school students read and pet therapy dog Miley in teacher Pam Broadrick's class.*

## Student's best friend: Therapy dog Miley

**By Michael Chamness**  
**IASA Director of Communications**

As she stylishly walks down the halls of Tri-Valley Elementary School in Downs, Miley is greeted with friendly smiles and waves from almost every student – the same reaction she gets from townsfolk when she leads the parade as Mardi Gras queen.

No offense to Mike James, who was elected mayor of the McLean County village of about 1,000 residents in April, but if elementary school students could vote, Miley would be the odds-on favorite. That is, of course, if dogs could serve as mayor.

A yellow Labrador Retriever who just turned 4 years old, Miley's day job is as a Professional Therapy Dog in Tri-Valley District 3, where she assists students who are overcoming reading difficulties. Some school districts in Illinois use therapy or reading dogs, but Miley may be the only dog in the state that is a full-fledged member of the faculty. She proudly wears her faculty ID badge, and her mug shot appears alphabetically with all of the other teachers and staff members in the school yearbook.

"The reaction between kids and that dog is like

nothing you can imagine," said Dr. Curt Simonson, superintendent of the Tri-Valley district that includes an elementary school, middle school and high school. Miley is a member of Simonson's family and his wife, Chris Simonson, is one of the school's guidance counselor and Miley's handler. The Simonsons have two Labradors and a Cocker Spaniel.

She has only been working in the school district three years, but Miley's legend has grown.

There was a first-grader with Downs Syndrome who had never read ... reading his first book to Miley.

Another student, a third-grader, had a stuttering problem. While the guidance counselor was talking with the teacher they noticed that the boy was reading fluently. "We just looked at each other," Chris Simonson said.

A non-verbal autistic girl spoke the words "Miley dog."

Then there was the 2011 tragic accident involving a school bus from Tremont, a neighboring school district. Two Tremont high school students died when the pickup truck in which they were passengers lost control and hit the school bus.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Miley the therapy dog

*(Continued from page 10)*

Simonson reached out to the principal of Tremont High School and offered Miley's assistance. "He said he didn't know what to expect, but that the way Miley reached out to those grieving kids – the toughest kids to reach -- was one of the most unbelievable things he'd ever seen."

The bus driver, who was not at fault and whose actions to keep his bus upright probably saved lives, still was struggling emotionally in the aftermath of the crash.

"He told us that Miley probably saved his life," Simonson recalled. "He said he walked in the school library and saw the dog and Miley was very comforting to him. He said he was in a bad place and that Miley brought him back."

Miley underwent an extensive 10-month training

"It's almost like magic," Chris Simonson said. "If a child is crying, she will gently put her paw on them. She can just sense when kids are in need. I can't explain it other than she was trained as a service dog."

-- Tri-Valley Guidance Counselor  
Chris Simonson



*Pam Broadrick, left, Miley, and  
Chris Simonson*

course through the Canine Assistance Rehabilitation Education Services (CARES) program in Concordia, Kansas. The program, which uses prison inmates to train professional therapy dogs, medic alert dogs and disability service dogs, has placed more than 900 certified assistance dogs throughout the world.

The Simonsons had to go to Kansas for a week of 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. training with Miley. They were allowed to bring her home to Downs only after she passed a rigorous set of "final exams," including having to "stay" despite all-out attempts to seduce her to chase a ball or to react to diversions in a crowded mall.

Miley circulates through classrooms at all three Tri-Valley schools. She spends Tuesdays in Pam Broadrick's Response To Intervention (RTI) classroom, where a handful of kindergarten through third-grade students comes in each hour to work on

improving their reading skills. Reading scores have gone up thanks to the reading program, teachers and Miley.

"With Miley, it's a combination of disarming and soothing. It just seems like she relieves all that stress on reading," Broadrick said. "Everybody is basically the same with Miley. The attitude seems to be 'We get to read to Miley.' There seems to be a sense of peace, a sense of home for the children. Kids that might not want to read in class all want to be picked to read to Miley."

Often Miley will doze off during the reading sessions. Broadrick is quick to point out to the kids that their good reading is what relaxes Miley to the point of snoring.

Another special feature about Miley is that she always seems to hone in on children who are sad or dealing with something.

"It's almost like magic," Chris Simonson said. "If a child is crying, she will gently put her paw on them. She can just sense when kids are in need. I can't explain it other than she was trained as a service dog."

"It's amazing how she'll pick out the one,"

Broadrick agreed. "There is one student with Cystic Fibrosis that Miley will go to and he just loves her. She always seems to go to the one that needs her."

Making Miley part of the Tri-Valley staff was not a slam dunk. In fact, Chris Simonson had been trying for several years in various school districts to introduce a service dog into the education process. In one instance elsewhere, she was rebuffed by the remark "dogs have fleas" as well as other fears such as lawsuits. The district carries a \$1 million liability policy on Miley as it does on all school employees.

Chris Simonson showed the school board a PowerPoint presentation and also had a therapy dog visit from a successful program in Eldridge, Iowa. The Tri-Valley Education Foundation approved a \$3,000 grant, but only \$500 was used as the Simonsons paid for Miley themselves. Miley is

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Miley the therapy dog

(Continued from page 11)

sponsored by Dr. Matt Saxe of Ghrist Veterinary Clinic and Barb Spradlin of K-9 Cleaners for all of Miley's care.

There are certain rules, including:

- ◆ Students are not to feed Miley
- ◆ Miley must at all times be with an adult
- ◆ Anyone can pet Miley, but only two people at a time can pet her
- ◆ Only adults can give Miley commands so as not to confuse her

Miley wears a harness and leash, but most often will carry the leash in her mouth as she knows her way around the school as well as anyone. Students are not hesitant to be around Miley, even those who had not been around dogs or even had a fear of dogs.

"One girl was petrified of dogs before she met Miley," Chris Simonson said. "Now her family has a dog. We don't really get any complaints about Miley being in school. The complaints we get are if she doesn't get to all of the classrooms."

For the reading classes, students are selected based on benchmark scores, with Miley used to help those who need assistance. And it's not only



*Miley, sporting her faculty ID badge, takes a short rest.*

students who turn to Miley for help, Simonson said. Teaching is a difficult profession, and some days can be tough.

"It's not uncommon for staff members to come into my office to visit with Miley," she said.

Perhaps the most telling fact regarding Miley's acceptance is that she often is the recipient of that time-honored gift to a favorite teacher: Students bring her apples, her favorite treat.

# LEADERSHIP

# LM

# MATTERS

SAVE THE DATE

49<sup>th</sup>  
Annual  
★  
**IASA**  
Conference

October 9-11

Crowne Plaza  
3000 South Dirksen Pkwy  
Springfield, IL 62703

# Enhanced PE Task Force offers webinar

You might describe Dr. Jean Sophie as having been a skeptical member of Illinois' Enhance Physical Education Task Force when it began last year. Established by Illinois Public Act 97-1102, the Enhance P.E. Task Force was charged with the mission of providing the governor and the General Assembly recommendations related to the Illinois Learning Standards for Physical Development and Health by August 31, 2013.

"I was probably the 'Debbie Downer' of the group because I pretty much was against adding anything to what administrators and teachers have to do because that's just not the current reality of schools given all of the budget cuts and mandates," said Sophie, who was IASA's representative to the task force. "But then I had the 'Aha' moment: It doesn't have to cost one dollar more because there are different ways to help kids become more active. You don't have to add a P.E teacher or another class period."

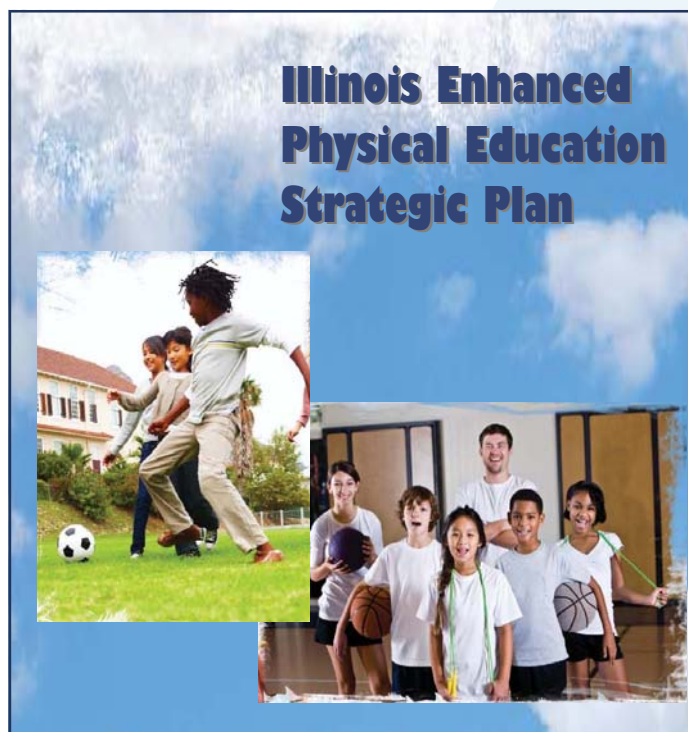
Whether it is a 20-minute recess or just having kids get up in the classroom and be active for a few minutes, Sophie said the research shows there is a definitive link between students becoming more active and their academic performance improving.

"Studies have shown that children who are physically fit perform better in school and students whose fitness declined had a dip in their academic performance," Sophie said. "In those same studies, they found that the brain was more engaged in the children who were deemed physically active as well as improved impulse control, behavior, restlessness, motivation, depression, self-esteem, stress reduction and mood and anxiety regulation.

"You could say I was pretty skeptical, but I have totally bought into the concept of enhanced P.E."

The Enhance P.E. Task Force, which is co-chaired by State School Superintendent Dr. Chris Koch and Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, will be offering two hour-long webinar training opportunities for superintendents, principals, school board members and other school officials.

The webinars, titled "Enhance P.E.: Making the Connection Between Physical Activity, Learning, Behavior & Health," will be offered at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 16, and again on Monday, August 5. They are being offered by the Enhance P.E. Task Force and the Illinois Public Health Institute, and the webinars count as a Continuing Professional



Development Unit (CPDU) for educators.

Presenters include Koch, Paul Zientarski, the Learning Readiness P.E. Coordinator for Naperville District 203, where the school has seen dramatic improvements in test scores, and Sandra Noel, a physical educator and curriculum developer with more than 40 years of experience who also played a key role in writing the Walk Across Illinois School Fitness Program. Sophie will narrate the webinar. The learning objectives include:

Understanding the neuroscience research showing a connection between P.E. or physical activity and academic achievement, behavior and conduct, and health.

Describing the return on investment and how schools benefit from the allocation of dollars and time for P.E. and physical activity during the school day.

Describing the practical steps schools can take to enhance P.E. and physical activity immediately, such as encouraging more rigorous physical activity during existing P.E. and other movement time.

For more information, or to register for one of the seminars, visit [www.iphinetwork.org](http://www.iphinetwork.org). Also, the task force has made available an **Enhanced P.E. Resource Guide**, a **Fact Sheet**, and **Research Summary**.



## **IASA, IASB, IASBO offer insurance plans for schools**

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# SWIASA volunteers assist Habitat for Humanity

Several Southwestern Illinois Association of School Administrators (SWIASA) members volunteered to work at current building projects for Habitat for Humanity on Monday, June 10.

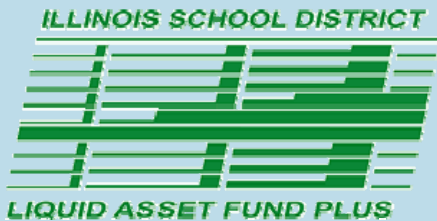
The Habitat for Humanity homes currently under construction are in the Carondelet Neighborhood of south St. Louis (Loughborough and Virginia Ave.). The SWIASA administrators contributed by installing soffits and fascia on three homes, finishing framing on the porch of another, and preparing subfloor for laminate installation at two other locations.

This is the second year members of SWIASA have volunteered to work with Habitat for Humanity.

The superintendents and administrators who participated this year were:

- ◆ **Scott Harres**, Wolfbranch District #113
- ◆ **Darcy Benway**, O'Fallon District #203
- ◆ **Matt Stines**, Grant District #110
- ◆ **John Bute**, O'Fallon District #104
- ◆ **Kyle Freeman**, Mascoutah District #19
- ◆ **Jon Green**, Millstadt District #160
- ◆ **Jeff Daugherty**, Belleville Area Special Services Cooperative (BASSC)
- ◆ **Dale Sauer**, Shiloh District #85

## ISDLAF+ June 2013 Monthly Update



Click [here](#) to view the June 2013 ISDLAF+ rates, economic indicators and general economic news brief. To obtain additional information regarding this IASA sponsored service, contact Emmert Dannenberg, statewide marketing director/ ISDLAF+ at 815.592.6948. To check daily rates, visit the ISDLAF+ website at [www.isdlafplus.com](http://www.isdlafplus.com).

## Process your IASA Membership Dues today!

The 2013-2014 IASA membership drive is officially underway. Renewal invoices have been sent to all members for processing dues. For your convenience, membership dues can be processed by clicking [here](#) to use the online website or by clicking [here](#) to print a hard copy invoice.

**Dues must be received by August 1 in order to be included in the 2013-2014 IASA Membership Directory.** If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Stephanie Price at 217. 735.2213



# Getting to know your IASA Board

## Dr. Patrick Martin Central Illinois Valley

**School district:** Washington District 50 Schools  
**One thing you would like people to know about your school district:** Washington District 50 Schools received an EETT grant in 2008 and has continued efforts to implement platforms of technology for individual student use. As of the 2012-2013 school year, each grade 6-8 student was provided an iPad II device, grade 3-5 students operate from a 2:1 netbook cart configuration, and students in grades K-2 have access to iPod Touch devices in a 2:1 configuration. Every classroom has an Eno Board and LCD projector.

**Years on IASA Board:** 2

**Years as educator:** 13

**High school:** Richmond High School (Indiana); Lakenheath High School (RAF Lakenheath in the United Kingdom); Urbana High School

**Colleges or Universities:** Illinois State University (BS; MS; Ph.D.)

**Family:** Wife – Taren; Children – Ryleigh (5), Jackson (4), and Tyson (1)

**Favorite hobby:** Golfing, running, reading, and cheering on sports teams coached by family/friends

**Favorite movie:** *Hoosiers*; *Remember the Titans*; *Good Will Hunting*

**Favorite book:** *On Common Ground* by DuFour, Eaker and DuFour, and anything by John Grisham

**Favorite musical artist:**

Eagles, One Republic and Coldplay

**One thing people probably would be surprised to know about you:** That I spent two stints overseas as a child – first on a military base in Baumholder, Germany from age 3 to 6 and second while in high school on the Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath in England, where my father and stepmother still live.

**Biggest concern about public education:** That though the rhetoric of educational reform efforts speaks to opportunities for students and improvements for change, more thought is not put into the implementation model of such policy development for districts and schools.

**Most encouraging thing about public education:** The ingenuity of teachers in the classroom, their ability to adapt and the continued excitement of students to learn.



## Victor White, III Illini

**School district:** Prairieview-Ogden School District #197

**One thing you would like people to know about your school district:**

Academically strong district.

**Years on IASA Board:** 1

**Years as educator:** 26

**High school:** Tampico High School (birthplace of President Reagan).

**Colleges or Universities:** University of Dubuque (BA); Eastern Illinois University (MA/EDS)

**Family:** Sherri – wife of 25 years; Zac – oldest son – 21 years old; Matthew and Kyle (twins) -19 years old.

**Favorite hobby:** Golfing, hunting, fishing, camping, boating, and lifting weights (no real favorite)

**Favorite movie:** “300” - *Sparta*

**Favorite book:** *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff*

**Favorite musical artist:** The Band --- 38 Special

**One thing people probably would be surprised to know about you:** I coach 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> girls volleyball.

**Biggest concern about public education:** How Illinois doesn't financially support education as its top priority. The State only pays 27.6% compared to all other states which average 46.7% (CTBA report 2013).

**Most encouraging thing about public education:** Smiles on students' faces and dedicated employees!



# July 2013

| Sun                                    | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|  | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 7                                      | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| 14                                     | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| 21                                     | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| 28<br>12th Annual Leadership Institute | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |

## Calendar Index



IASA Event



Legislative Event



Professional Development Event

Click on a color-coded date to open a link for more information about the event.

# August 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |



## News from the Regions



## New Superintendents FY 2014

| Region            | District                    | New Superintendent            |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Abe Lincoln       | Bement Comm Unit #5         | Ms. Sheila Greenwood          |
| Abe Lincoln       | Greenview Unit #200         | Ms. Jan Kunz                  |
| Abe Lincoln       | Okaw Valley #302            | Mr. Kent Stauder              |
| Abe Lincoln       | Stewardson-Strasburg CU #5A | Ms. Michele Lindenmeyer       |
| Abe Lincoln       | Sullivan Unit #300          | Mr. Brad Tuttle               |
| Abe Lincoln       | Windsor Comm Unit #1        | Mr. Geoff Schoonover          |
| Central IL Valley | Brimfield Unit #309         | Mr. Joseph Blessman           |
| Central IL Valley | Creve Coeur #76             | Mr. Shayne Aldridge           |
| Central IL Valley | Pleasant Hill Elem #69      | Mr. Shannon Dudek             |
| Cook North        | East Prairie #73            | Ms. Terry Madl                |
| Cook North        | Golf Elem #67               | Dr. Beth Sagett-Flores        |
| Cook North        | Sunset Ridge #29            | Dr. Edward Stange             |
| Cook South        | Harvey #152                 | Dr. Denean Adams              |
| Cook South        | Oak Lawn-Hometown #123      | Mr. Paul Enderle              |
| Cook South        | Orland #135                 | Ms. Janet Stutz               |
| Cook South        | Sunnybrook #171             | Dr. George Hughes             |
| Cook South        | W. Harvey-Dixmoor #147      | Dr. Bethel E. Cager           |
| Cook West         | La Grange Highlands #106    | Ms. Patricia Sullivan-Viniard |
| Cook West         | Pennoyer #79                | Mr. Brad Voehringer           |
| Corn Belt         | Donovan Comm #3             | Mr. Lucas Schroeder           |
| Corn Belt         | Olympia #16                 | Dr. Andrew Wise               |
| Corn Belt         | Tri Point #6-J              | Mr. Jeff Bryan                |
| Du Page           | Butler #53                  | Dr. Heidi Wennstrom           |
| Du Page           | Community #94               | Mr. Doug Domeracki            |
| Du Page           | Glen Ellyn #41              | Dr. Paul Gordon               |
| Du Page           | Gower #62                   | Mr. Victor Simon              |
| Du Page           | Villa Park #45              | Mr. Anthony Palmisano         |
| Du Page           | West Chicago #33            | Dr. Kathy Wolfe               |
| Egyptian          | Opdyke-Belle-Rive #5        | Ms. Debra Blakey              |
| Egyptian          | Summersville #79            | Mr. Mark Zahm                 |
| Illini            | Heritage #8                 | Mr. Tom Davis                 |
| Illini            | Urbana #116                 | Mr. Donald Owen               |
| Kaskaskia         | Breese #12                  | Mr. Mike Toebin               |
| Kaskaskia         | Patoka Comm #100            | Ms. Leslie Cole               |
| Kishwaukee        | Batavia #101                | Dr. Lisa Hichens              |
| Kishwaukee        | Harrison #36                | Ms. Susan Wings               |
| Kishwaukee        | Rockford #205               | Dr. Ehren Jarrett             |
| Lake              | Winthrop Harbor #1          | Ms. Patricia Hodge            |



## News from the Regions



## New Superintendents FY 2014

| Region       | District                   | New Superintendent     |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Northwest    | Galena #120                | Dr. Sharon D. Olds     |
| Northwest    | Winnebago #323             | Mr. Scott Bloomquist   |
| Shawnee      | Cobden #17                 | Mr. Aaron Mattox       |
| Southwestern | Granite City #9            | Mr. Jim Greenwald      |
| Southwestern | Jersey CU #100             | Ms. Lori Hopkins       |
| Southwestern | Smithton #130              | Ms. Susan Homes        |
| Southwestern | St. Libory #30             | Mr. Stuart Parks       |
| Starved Rock | Henry Senachwine #5        | Mr. Michael Miller     |
| Three Rivers | Bourbonnais #53            | Mr. Dan Hollowell      |
| Three Rivers | Manteno #5                 | Ms. Lisa Harrod        |
| Three Rivers | Mokena #159                | Dr. Omar Castillo      |
| Three Rivers | Nettle Creek #24C          | Ms. Judy Wohler Wilson |
| Three Rivers | Yorkville #115             | Mr. Tim Shimp          |
| Two Rivers   | A-C Central CUSD #262      | Mr. Timothy Page       |
| Two Rivers   | Carrollton #1              | Dr. Kerry Cox          |
| Two Rivers   | Community Unit #4          | Mr. Brian Kurz         |
| Two Rivers   | Jacksonville #117          | Mr. Steve Ptacek       |
| Two Rivers   | Quincy #172                | Mr. Steven M. Cobb     |
| Western      | Avon Comm #176             | Mr. Chad Willis        |
| Western      | Bushnell-Prairie City #170 | Ms. Kathy Dinger       |
| Western      | Dallas Elem #327           | Dr. Ryan Olson         |
| Western      | LaHarpe Comm #347          | Dr. Ryan Olson         |
| Western      | V.I.T. Comm #2             | Mr. Mike Curry         |
| Western      | Williamsfield #210         | Mr. Tim Farquer        |



## News from the Regions



## Transferring Superintendents FY 2014

| Region            | District                    | Transferring Superintendent |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Abe Lincoln       | Meridian #15                | Mr. Daniel R. Brue          |
| Central IL Valley | Fieldcrest CU #6            | Mr. Dan Oakley              |
| Central IL Valley | Havana Unit #126            | Mr. Matt Plater             |
| Central IL Valley | IL Valley Central Unit #321 | Mr. Chad D. Allison         |
| Central IL Valley | Pekin Comm HS #303          | Mr. Gary DePatis            |
| Cook North        | Community Cons #59          | Dr. Arthur Fessler          |
| Cook North        | Lincolnwood #74             | Dr. Joseph F. Bailey        |
| Cook South        | Brookwood #167              | Dr. Valorie M. Moore        |
| Cook South        | Gen. George Patton #133     | Dr. Carol Kunst             |
| Cook South        | Sandridge #172              | Mr. Thomas P. Smyth         |
| Cook West         | Leyden Comm HS #212         | Dr. Nicholas Polyak         |
| Cook West         | Riverside #96               | Dr. Bhavna Sharma-Lewis     |
| Du Page           | Maercker #60                | Dr. Jamie S. Reilly         |
| Du Page           | Medinah #11                 | Dr. John Butts              |
| Illini            | Villa Grove #302            | Dr. Mary Ann Manos          |
| Kaskaskia         | Litchfield #12              | Mr. John Mullett            |
| Lake              | Deerfield #109              | Dr. Michael Lubelfeld       |
| Northwest         | Meridian #223               | Dr. Robert H. Willis        |
| Shawnee           | Johnston City #1            | Mr. Terry A. Milt           |
| Starved Rock      | Leland Comm #1              | Ms. Colette A. Sutton       |
| Three Rivers      | Bradley-Bourbonnais #307    | Dr. Scott Wakeley           |
| Three Rivers      | Manhattan #114              | Mr. Russell A. Ragon        |
| Three Rivers      | Momence Comm #1             | Mr. Gary R. Miller          |
| Three Rivers      | Peotone #207U               | Mr. Steve Stein             |
| Three Rivers      | Yorkville #115              | Mr. Tim Shimp               |
| Wabash Valley     | Flora Comm #35              | Mr. Joel Hackney            |
| Western           | Lewistown #97               | Ms. Jeanne Davis            |
| Western           | Macomb Comm #185            | Dr. Patrick M. Twomey       |

## Marketing opportunities available at the 49th Annual IASA Conference October 9-11, 2013



The Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) is pleased to announce that we are offering businesses who provide supplies, equipment or services to public schools the opportunity to meet with Illinois school administrators at the 2013 IASA Annual Conference. The conference is scheduled October 9-11, 2013, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway in Springfield.

- ◆ Reserve a booth
- ◆ Host a hospitality suite for attendees
- ◆ Sponsor an event, meal or speaker

Click [here](#) to take advantage of your marketing opportunities.

## IASA Membership directory advertising available

Your firm can advertise in the upcoming 2013-2014 IASA Membership Directory. The directory is distributed to over 1,100 school administrators in Illinois and placing an ad is an excellent opportunity to get your company's name and services in front of superintendents, assistant superintendents, and other administrators throughout the state. Deadline is Friday, July 12, 2013.

Click [here](#) to download an advertising request form.

