

Tarr and Carey Named as MASC Legislators of the Year

The MASC Board of Directors is delighted to honor **Representative Daniel Carey** and **Senator Bruce Tarr** as the Association's 2023 Legislators of the Year. The awards recognize their respective efforts and continuing leadership in the areas of collaboration, cooperation, and civility, and for advocating for social and economic justice for students and families in need.

Daniel R. Carey (D- Easthampton) represents the Second Hampshire District which includes Easthampton, Hadley, South Hadley, and Precinct Two in Granby. He was elected on November 6, 2018 and sworn in on January 2, 2019.

Dan has dedicated his career to public service. He embarked on his first campaign when he was only 28 years old. That successful run culminated in his election to the Easthampton School Committee in 2013 on his 29th birthday. Dan was elected an At-Large City Councilor in Easthampton in 2015 and was re-elected two years later.



A lifelong resident of Easthampton, Dan graduated from Easthampton High School, Emmanuel College, and Western New England University School of Law. Dan went to law school during the evenings while working full time as the Director of the Drug Diversion & Treatment Program in the Northwestern District Attorney's Office. Upon passing the bar, Dan practiced law as an Assistant District Attorney for D.A. David E. Sullivan. Dan also worked for a time as a paraprofessional in the Special Education Department at White Brook Middle School.

Currently Dan serves on four committees. He is the Vice Chair of Advance Information Technology, Internet, and

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COSEBOC Founder Ron Walker to receive MASC'S Tip O'Neill award

The MASC Board of Directors voted overwhelmingly last month to present the 2023 Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. award to **Ron Walker**, founder and director of the Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color (COSEBOC). In announcing the award, MASC President Stacey Rizzo



commended Walker for his advocacy over five decades as an advocate for all students in social and economic need,

and for his groundbreaking work to support boys of color.

A frequent participant and guest speaker at MASC conferences and events, Walker has spent his career as an educator, administrator and ambitious advocate for students. The virtue of education was instilled in Walker through his parents, who grew up in the south during the Jim Crow era and did not have the opportunity for a quality, formal education.

Ron, the oldest of three, went to Lincoln University, a Historically Black College in Pennsylvania. After graduating, Ron became a middle-school teacher in Philadelphia. During this time one of his students, was killed in a gang fight, a loss that affected Ron profoundly.

Ron moved forward as an assistant principal and then as a principal in the Cambridge MA Public Schools. He is the former Associate Director

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MASC welcomes two new staff members

Anthony Andronico, a former member of the Quincy School Committee, and **Alicia (Curtin) Mallon**, currently a member of the Nashoba Voc. Tech. School Committee and prior member of the Westford School Committee, joined MASC this fall as, respectively, Operations and Marketing Coordinator, and Field Director for the North Shore area.

Anthony replaces Sam Cheesman, who left earlier this summer to start his own business. Alicia, who is currently working part time, will officially replace Dorothy Presser, longtime North Shore area Field Director and Past President of MASC, upon her retirement at the end of 2023.



Mallon

Prior to joining MASC this fall, Anthony was a Communications Director

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MASC/MASS Joint Conference: First Person Perspective

by Sally Cragin, former Fitchburg School Committee member

My therapy cat, **Spencer**, had a truly delightful visit at the **2022 MASC/MASS Conference**. His basket was on the table in front of the ballroom, and he really appreciated all the gentle petting and scratches. Usually, he gets to spend 45 minutes in a classroom with children who read him stories – and he loves that too – but settling on his cushion for hours at a time brought him serenity.

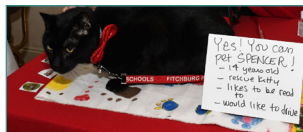
And his presence brought others serenity. This Conference was my 9th (the first eight as a Fitchburg School Committee member), and my first experience bringing therapy pets to our information table at this crucial gathering of education professionals.

Before COVID, members and representatives of Be PAWSitive Therapy Pets and Community Education presented a workshop every year since 2018. We were so glad

to be back – but more importantly, thrilled to see that the work we had done during previous conferences had an impact on attendees.

During the 2022 Conference, many superintendents and school committee members noted that their districts had implemented pet therapy. Some districts reported that a guidance counselor regularly brought a therapy dog; others had community volunteers who visited, but all noted that having pets in the school after enduring years of lockdown and COVID was a boon to students and staff alike.

Superintendent Jeff Zanghi of Berlin/Boylston noted that a golden doodle owned by a staff member “made an enormous difference when we returned to school.” In Hingham, the shop class built a bench and cushions for their therapy dog to be a greeter in school. Meghan McCrillis of Auburn’s school



committee noted that Ella, a small dog, was often in the guidance office. And out in Gill-Montague Regional School District, the school resource officer has a therapy dog, according to Chair Jane Oakes. We heard about other therapy dogs in Belchertown, Westborough, and Burlington (where Superintendent Conti said three dogs were on duty!).

In short – therapy pets have become more acceptable, and their role is better understood than in previous years. And with the challenges of Covid continuing (variants on the illness, along with continuing social/emotional responses in students), we hope that more parents, school committee members, school staff and administration continue to spread the word about the help that therapy pets provide to children, youth, and all staff.

Please stop by our table at the Conference. Our new therapy cat, Reggie, and I will be on duty, and look forward to meeting you, hearing your stories, and helping you implement a therapy pet program in your district.

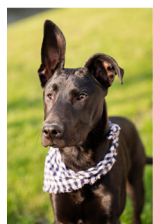
MASC New Staff Members continued from page 1

in the Massachusetts State Senate for just over five years. He also served on his local School Committee for three years before his election to the City Council where he continues to serve. Anthony holds a B.A. in American Government & Politics from Emmanuel College (Boston) and resides in Quincy with his wife, Hannah, and their rescue puppy Brody, unofficially MASC’s new mascot.

A lifelong resident of Massachusetts, Alicia is an alumna of Boston Latin School and Franklin Pierce University. As mom of two, both with IEPs, she has been a proponent of inclusive school policies for over a decade. She spent many years with the Westford SEPAC and continues to be an advocate for SEPAC awareness in MA and beyond - including authoring a bill that proposes expanding both SEPAC and ELLPAC inclusion in district policy decisions.

Alicia was a member of the Westford School Committee for five years before being appointed to the Nashoba Technical High School School Committee, where she currently serves. Though she has served on many subcommittees and in various leadership roles, policy work remains her favorite part of the job.

Alicia resides in Westford with her husband and children.



Brody



Andronico

Tip O'Neill Award

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of ATLAS Communities, a comprehensive school reform organization working with over 100 schools across the country in urban, suburban, and rural school districts.

Several years later Walker founded COSEBOC, an organization focused on transforming the narrative of boys of color; to discuss, learn, and develop solutions to critical challenges impacting boys of color. He remains steadfastly committed to high quality education for children and particularly boys and young men of color and other underserved populations.

Members are asking: What is the School Committee authority in the budget process?

"The school committee in each city and town and each regional school district . . . shall review and approve budgets for public education in the district" MGL Ch. 71, sec. 37

Once you were elected to office, you may have been told, "There are five seasons of the year: spring, summer, fall, winter, and BUDGET SEASON!" While the season of deliberating your budget and shepherding it through appropriation is certainly a time requiring close attention by the Committee, for School Committees in MA, budget season is actually a year-round responsibility.

The Committee's statutory authority over the district budget does not end with the successful vote of the appropriating authority of the district bottom line at town meeting or at city council. Over the year, the School Committee should receive from the business office reports of actual and projected expenditures at the same cost center level at which the Committee passed the budget.

Those reports should be reviewed thoroughly in public meetings.

A comprehensive review of actual and projected expenditures done each fiscal quarter also provides the opportunity for the administration to recommend to the School Committee transfers between cost centers that may be needed in order to ensure the annual budget is balanced, as noted in MASC model policy DBJ.

Such a report, as presented in the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officers (MASBO)'s "Promising District Practices," should include:

- The approved budget and adjusted budget
- Current (year to date) expenditures and encumbrances
- A projection of all remaining salaries and expenditures, compared to budgeted amounts

- A discussion and/or footnotes explaining significant variances

It is crucial that such a report include projections, not simply expenditures to date and encumbrances.

Salary lines, which make up the majority of any district's spending, are particularly subject to changes after budget adoption; ensuring the Committee is kept apprised of such changes and the foreseen impact on the end of the year allows for the administration to make –and for the Committee to adopt–changes as needed to ensure the budget remains balanced.

To be of most use to the Committee, the quarterly report, as with the annual budget, should contain narrative outlining why variances have occurred and any considerations of which the Committee should be aware.

Given the increased scrutiny of district spending due both to the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Act and the Student Opportunity Act, quarterly budget reporting, happening as it does in public, is not only a best practice for the district; it is also an opportunity to increase public confidence in the thoughtful use of district resources.

This response was prepared by MASC Field Director Tracy Novick.

Legislators of the Year

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Cybersecurity and he is a member of the joint committees on Election Laws; Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture; and Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

State Senator Bruce Tarr, a Republican from Gloucester, is the Senate Minority Leader and proudly represents The First Essex and Middlesex District. A member of the legislature since 1991, when he won election to the House of Representatives on behalf of the 5th Essex District. In 1994, he was elected to the State Senate, succeeding Senator Robert Buell, who had served for 16 years.

Having graduated from Gloucester High School in 1982, the Senator earned a degree in Business Administration from Suffolk University's Sawyer School of Management in 1987 and a

J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in 1990.

In 1999, he was named the Assistant Minority Whip of the Senate, and in 2001, he was appointed to serve as the Minority Whip until 2006 when he was selected to become Assistant Senate Minority Leader. The Senate Republican Caucus elected him Minority Leader in 2011, a position he continues to hold.

Widely regarded for his knowledge and ability to understand and develop policy, Senator Tarr was a major architect in the successful passage of the state's stem cell research law, and Melanie's Law, which creates tougher drunk driving penalties for repeat offenders. He has been heralded for his ability to reach not only across the aisle but also for his ability to work with Massachusetts' Congressional delegation and federal regulators.

Got Questions?

MASC's Got Answers!

From budgets and buses to year-long agendas, if you've got questions, field directors at the MASC Joint Conference booth can help you with answers.

When you're visiting the Exhibit Hall, stop by MASC's Booth 36.

Not registered yet: there is STILL TIME. www.masc.org

MASC Lifetime Achievement and All-State School Committee Winners Announced

The following members have been nominated by their colleagues and the MASC Board of Directors in recognition of their contributions to the Association and to their students and school communities. The awards will be presented at the Thursday night, November 9 Leadership Banquet during the upcoming conference in Hyannis.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Bruce Menin, Newburyport
Laura Often, Grafton
Chester Szetela, Chicopee

ALL-STATE

Division I: Jonathan Guzman, Lawrence
Division II: Adam Freudberg, Framingham
Division III: Kendall O'Halloran, Canton
Division IV: Lynn Peredina, Petersham
Division V: Nancy Farrell, West Springfield
Division VI: Mayor Linda Tyer, Pittsfield
Division VII: Kathleen Bent, Barnstable
Division VIII: David Grenier, Bay Path Reg; Voc. Tech.
Division IX: Lisbeth DeSelm, Melrose
Division X: Jeanette Velez, Chelsea

Conference Update: IBB Session Added to Conference 2023 Program

Contract negotiations and concerns around educator retention have been stress-provoking issues on both sides of the bargaining table during COVID and in post-COVID negotiations. A team from the North Adams school district, led by North Adams Superintendent Barbara Malkas will present a special session on Interest-Based Bargaining in Challenging Times. The session will examine difficult, often contentious negotiations in recent years, characterized by deepening divides in perspective and growing mistrust of authority. Personal and professional fear lead to suspicions of motives on both sides of the labor-management bargaining table. Come to this session on Wednesday, November 8 (1:50-3:00pm) and learn how North Adams used interest-based bargaining to rebuild relationships which led to an unprecedented agreement in less than eight hours of meeting time. You will get your questions and concerns answered about the process and why it can (though maybe in some cases, cannot) work for your district. Panelists will also include an IBB facilitator, the teachers union President and Co-President, and a member of the North Adams School Committee.

We hope to see many of you in Hyannis, November 8-10. To register: www.masc.org.

MASC/MASS Joint Conference



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