

Leaders

A Newsletter for Florida School Board Members

Joy Bowen elected FSBA president

Georgia "Joy" Bowen, Leon County School Board, has been installed as the new president of the Florida School Boards Association for the 2009-2010 year. Her installation came during the association's spring conference June 10-12 in Tampa.

At the same time, FSBA's other officers were installed for the 2009-2010 year: Candace Lankford, Volusia County School Board, president-elect; Lee Swift, Charlotte County School Board, vice president; Beverly Gallagher, Broward County School Board, treasurer; and Beverly Slough, St. Johns County School Board, immediate past president.

"I consider it a great honor to be elected by my peers to represent them during the coming year," said Mrs. Bowen following her installation. "I am pumped and ready for this great opportunity."

Her theme for the association during her tenure is: "Change and Challenge—Educating Students for the Global Marketplace."

"We are extremely excited about Joy's election. It is well-deserved," said Dr. Wayne Blanton, FSBA executive director. Mrs. Bowen has held several offices with FSBA, including treasurer, vice president and president-elect.

A Marianna native, Mrs. Bowen received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from FAMU and spent 33 years at FSU in various administrative positions before retiring in 2006. She was first elected to the Leon County School Board in 1998. Now in her third term, she is currently school board chair.



Mother and daughter
One of the highlights of Joy Bowen's installation as FSBA president was having her 83-year-old mother, Lucy Neel Moultrie, seated, and 32 other family members witness the proceedings.

In January, Gov. Charlie Crist appointed Mrs. Bowen to the Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council. A month later, she was named to an advisory council to help WorkForce plus develop strategies for allocating federal stimulus dollars.

Bowen's 83-year-old mother, Lucy Neel Moultrie and 32 other family members attended the FSBA installation. Bowen and husband George have three children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Meet your FSBA officers, 2009-10



Former FSBA President Jeanne Dozier, left, Leon County School Board, installed the association's new slate of officers for 2009-2010 during FSBA's Spring Conference in Tampa. They are, from her left: Lee Swift, Charlotte County, vice president; Candace Lankford, Volusia County, president-elect; Georgia "Joy" Bowen, Leon County, president; Beverly Gallagher, Broward County, treasurer; Beverly Slough, St. Johns County, immediate past president.

In this edition. . .

- 2 Pasco wins Magna honor**
- 3 Spring Conference photos**
- 4 Year of challenges, successes**

Insert

Excerpts from FSBA President Joy Bowen's speech

Thank you Spring Conference sponsors!

Leadership Calling

Certified Board Members honored

Five school board members received Certified Board Member distinction during FSBA's Spring Conference in Tampa. In addition, three school boards were awarded a Certified Board Distinction.

The five receiving CBM honors were Karen Disney-Brombach, Indian River County; William "Bill" Mignon, St. Johns County; Steve Nelson, Columbia County; Barbara Rendell, Charlotte County; and Diane Smith, Volusia County. The CBM distinction is currently held by 106 school board members.

The three boards receiving a Certified Board Distinction were Charlotte County (Andrea Messina, Alleen Miller, Barbara Rendell, Sue Sifrit and Lee Swift); St. Johns County (Tommy Allen, Bill Fehling, William Mignon, Beverly Slough and Carla Wright); and Volusia County (Judy Conte, Candace Lankford, Diane Smith and Dr. Al Williams). Sixteen school districts, or 25%, currently hold a Certified Board Distinction.

Pasco County school district earns Magna awards honorable mention

Pasco County Public Schools has been selected as a honorable mention recipient in the American School Board Journal's 15th annual Magna Awards program. The district was recognized in the over 20,000 enrollment category for its environmental education programs, which include the district's first science education center. Through curriculum and field activities, students get the opportunity to experience the environment every school day.

This is the second time Pasco has received Magna Awards recognition. The district took first place in 2003.

The Magna Awards recognize districts across the country for outstanding programs that advance student learning and encourage community involvement in schools.

Lamb honored with President's Award



Outgoing FSBA President Beverly Slough, St. Johns County School Board, presents her President's Award during FSBA's Spring Conference to Dr. Jack Lamb, Hillsborough County School Board and a former FSBA president. "Dr. Lamb has served children for the past 55 years in various capacities, including being the only person to have been the president of both the Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Association of School Administrators," said Ms. Slough. "His service to children with disabilities has been celebrated with numerous awards throughout his long career in public education."



OFFICERS

Georgia "Joy" Bowen, Tallahassee
President

Candace Lankford, DeLand
President-Elect

Lee Swift, Punta Gorda
Vice President

Beverly Gallagher, Fort Lauderdale
Treasurer

Beverly Slough, Switzerland
Immediate Past President

STAFF

Dr. Wayne Blanton
Executive Director

Karen Denson
Director of Board Development

Dr. Max L Schmidt
FSLRS Executive Director

Mark McKinney
Director of Risk Management, FSBIT

Ruth Melton
Director of Legislative Relations

Jim Barnidge
Loss Prevention Coordinator, FSBIT

Linda Quick
Comptroller

Jan Norris
Executive Administrative Assistant

Patricia Peterson
Administrative Assistant for Board Development

Mary Jane Angelotti
Office Administrator, FSBIT

Gail Mitchell
Claims Manager, FSBIT

Scott Hall
CPA, FSBIT

Florida School Boards Association
203 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 414-2578 or Suncom 994-2578
Fax (850) 414-2585 or Suncom 994-2585
E-mail: fsba@fsba.org

Editor
Andy Williams
Communications & Consulting
Tallahassee, Florida
(850) 508-6202
andyw313@gmail.com

Conference Roundup



Gubernatorial candidate Sink visits FSBA conference

FSBA Executive Director Wayne Blanton welcomes Florida's Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, a Democratic candidate for governor, to the association's spring conference. During her brief remarks, Ms. Sink warned of the "next tsunami, declining property tax rolls and what are we going to do about it?" She also said: "Floridians are wising up to the fact that we need stronger schools. We need state leaders to make schools a top priority again. I am tired of hearing we're in the bottom five in graduation rates."

Congrats offered to new president

Several Leon County School Board members were on hand to congratulate new FSBA President Joy Bowen: Superintendent Jackie Pons and, to Mrs. Bowen's left, Maggie Lewis-Butler and Dee Dee Rasmussen.

Senator Detert FSBA's Legislator of the Year

Sen. Nancy Detert, R-Venice, has been named Legislator of the Year by the Florida School Boards Association.



Sen. Detert

The award is presented annually to legislators "who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and service to public education during the past legislative session," said FSBA Immediate Past President Beverly Slough, St. Johns County School Board.

"Senator Detert received this award twice when she served in the House and now, in her first year as a senator, has exhibited superb leadership and integrity this legislative session," said Dr. Wayne Blanton, FSBA executive director.

The award will be officially presented either at the association's Annual Joint Conference in Tampa December 1-4, at an upcoming school board meeting in the recipient's district, or at another event of the recipient's choice.

Senator Detert, a former Sarasota County School Board member, was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1998. She was elected to the Senate in 2008.

While serving in the House, she was honored as FSBA Legislator of the Year in 1999 and 2002. She is currently chair of the Senate Education PreK-12 Committee and serves on the Senate Education PreK-12 Appropriations committee.



Successful census means more education dollars

FSBA's president-elect, Candace Lankford, right, chair of the association's 2010 Census Committee, shows off the new census sign, along with Okaloosa County Superintendent Alexis Tibbetts. The sign was designed by Okaloosa students and will be distributed to school districts. Florida was four percent below the 67% national average of those responding during the 2000 census, said Ms. Lankford. That probably cost the state at least \$3 billion in federal stimulus money.

From the President

By BEVERLY SLOUGH



Beverly Slough

A year of challenges and some successes

Where has the year gone? We began with the challenge to use our leadership to build bridges over troubled waters, and you have certainly fulfilled that goal. I am so proud of each and every board member for your advocacy and perseverance in the most difficult legislative and financial year that many have seen in several decades. You rose to the call to action by forming grassroots groups to make the case that funding education is the paramount duty of our state. The pressure that you brought on your representatives resulted in a terrible, tragic year turning into a difficult, challenging one. Because of your hard work and that of your constituents, we landed as softly as possible. I am so grateful.

We just finished a very successful spring conference. Attendance was great as you came together to learn from each other and from the speakers we provided. Sponsorships were phenomenal! We budgeted \$60,000 but gathered \$97,000, thanks to the referrals you gave to our executive director, Wayne Blanton. These funds will

partially fill the gap created when we lost our training grant on the very last day of budget negotiations. Please continue to give Wayne names of your vendors so that we can continue the high level of sponsorship that helps to sustain our organization.

School grades have now arrived, and increases were noted all across the state. Thank you for supporting your teachers in the fine work they do to prepare our students for success. Because of the decisions you make on the local level, our children are making progress and are graduating prepared for their futures. Our work is sometimes hard to quantify, but great achievement underlines your effectiveness as board members.

As I leave the office of president, I want to thank each one of you for the encouragement and support you have given me throughout the year. You have been so kind to speak words of affirmation and to always rise to the call when I have asked for help. I have never worked with such a large group of capable, willing people in my life. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as your leader this year.

Special thanks must go to the Executive Committee as well. Joy Bowen, Lee Swift, Candace Lankford, and Jeanne Dozier always have the best interests of our organization at heart. They have worked tirelessly to further the interests of FSBA this year. They are to be commended.

Finally, please join me in applauding our staff. Dr. Blanton, Karen Denson, Ruth Melton, Jan Norris, Linda Quick, Patricia Peterson and Dr. Max Schmidt provide the highest level of service to our organization with their very limited numbers that I have ever seen. Each of them gives their best to make FSBA the success that it is. Never miss the opportunity to thank them – we are blessed by each one.

As the gavel passes to Joy Bowen, I am confident that she will lead us to even greater success. Joy comes with much expertise and an experience base rivaled by few. Please give her the same support that I have been privileged to have. We have another challenging year ahead, but as we focus on our children, we WILL continue to build bridges over troubled waters.

Ms. Slough, a member of the St. Johns County School Board, was FSBA's 2008-09 President.

Upcoming Events



- July 8-10** NSBA Southern Region Conference, Little Rock, Ark.
- Sept. 9-11** FSBA Board of Directors' Retreat, Orlando
- Dec. 1-4** FSBA Annual Joint Conference, Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay
- 2010**
- Jan. 31-Feb. 2** NSBA Federal Relations Network, Washington, D.C.
- March 2** Legislative Session begins, Tallahassee
- March 24-26** FSBA Day in the Legislature, Tallahassee
- April 10-12** NSBA 70th Annual Conference, Chicago, Ill.
- May 7** Legislature adjourns

Change and challenge: Educating students for the global marketplace

By Georgia “Joy” Bowen

(Editor’s note: following are excerpts from new FSBA President Joy Bowen’s installation speech.)

Today’s world seems so much smaller...Technology now provides us with anytime, anywhere access to anyone and anything at the touch of a button. A chicken in every pot has evolved into a Blackberry in every hand.

Two years ago, FSBA focused on technology, the tools of information and communication in today’s world. Then last year, we focused on leadership as our bridge to the future. Now, this year we are focusing on both as they must be used to address the change and challenges we are facing.

The challenges

Budget: It isn’t our only challenge but it certainly has everyone’s attention. We need money to do what we need to do. For us, inadequate budgets mean making hard, unpleasant but necessary decisions—closing schools, letting staff go and giving up programs and enhancements that mean so much to so many. Those are decisions none of us wants to make. But we must.

Technology: It’s changing faster than we can adjust or afford. But it is critical to everything we do. It has completely changed the delivery of curriculum from a classroom with textbooks to classrooms with computers and even that is giving way to demands for electronic education delivered anywhere, anytime.

Education standards and expectations: Whether you love the FCAT or hate it, Florida students have made a lot of gains in recent years. Setting benchmarks is important, but they have to be clear to be attainable and they have to be consistent. Students who meet Florida standards and graduate from our high schools should be prepared to compete with other Florida graduates for the college or career of their choice. But we need to think bigger and broader if we want our students to be able to compete with their peers from other states and other countries.

To completely level the playing field, all students would have to be working toward an established set of international benchmark standards.

Keeping the best teachers and closing the achievement gap: Those two challenges go hand in hand. We need our best teachers and administrators to turn around our lowest performing schools. We also need to provide our teachers with intensive support and effective interventions and give them incentives to do it.

I don’t see anything on this list (of challenges) that won’t take money, so let’s talk about the stimulus.

Budget stimulus: I’ll quote the new U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan: “The first step toward real and lasting reform that will insure our students’ competitiveness begins with absolute transparency and accountability

in how we invest our dollars, educate our children, evaluate our teachers and measure our success. Our top priority is to do right by our schools and our kids.”

This is an incredibly unique moment in history. The melt-down of the global economy coupled with the projected mass retirement of baby boomer teachers in the next few years is an unusual combination of events.

But this time is also a golden opportunity, the perfect time to re-adjust. A real do-over. And we school board members are poised in the perfect position to make a real, long-lasting difference.

Change starts at home. We cannot look at this moment as only a global opportunity. We must grow it from the bottom up, from the grassroots through our neighborhoods and communities. Though we exist in a global community, we live at home, right here in Florida.

What are our graduates to do if they really aren’t prepared to compete for jobs. . . ? We must step it up at home, now.

Stop explaining failures based on demographics. Children are children whether they live in Bombay or Blountstown. They are like sponges. They are all capable of learning. They deserve our best.

Tough choices

Now, go home and consider your schools. You know which are the highest performing and which are the lowest performing schools. Leave the children where they are and move the adults, the highest performing teachers and administrators, and see what happens. We’ve been talking about it for years. Let’s do it.

We need to be brutally honest in every regard. Even as we track and publish which teachers are teaching the successful students, we are tracking which teachers aren’t doing such a great job. We cannot keep poor teachers in the classroom. Our students deserve better if they are to have any chance of competing in the global marketplace.

None of us lives in a vacuum. We must be positive advocates for our schools, our neighborhoods and our communities. Let us all take this moment in time to think differently and act boldly in the best interests of our children.

Change, after all, is merely movement, forward movement.

Our challenge is to keep Florida’s school districts moving in a positive and purposeful direction without ever losing sight of the children we serve and the quality of life, the future, they deserve as citizens and leaders in a global society.

I challenge you to lead with courage, to make the hard but necessary decisions in our board rooms and in our communities, to do what is right for our schools and our kids. We are the change we seek and we will prevail.

We thank the sponsors of our Annual Spring Conference June 10-12, 2009

The Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents would like to recognize our highly valued partners. Relationships with our sponsors are instrumental in our pursuit of a higher quality of education in Florida.

Ajax Building Corporation Jay Smith 850-224-9571	Delta Dental Insurance Company George Dades 800-662-9034	The Morganti Group, Inc. Jim Auld 561-689-0200
AlertNow Jason Bedford 800-213-7168	Emergent Design & Development, Inc. Bob and Mary Bedford 850-402-1919	Neola, Inc. Dr. Richard Clapp 330-926-0514
Allstate Construction, Inc. Casey Weldon 850-514-1004	Federated Investors Mark Bloss 412-963-0725	PENN FOSTER, Inc. Don Kidd 352-795-9506
American Fidelity Assurance Brad Bennett 850-508-6183	Florida School Boards Insurance Trust Mark McKinney 850-414-0021, X303	PMA Financial Network, Inc. Donald E. Weber 630-657-6400
Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Dave Marcus 561-998-6800	Fringe Benefits Management Company Barb Brown 800-425-6200, X2111	Ron Sachs Communications Ron Sachs 850-222-1996
Audio Enhancement Gary Evans 800-383-9362	Ford & Associates Jerry W. Ford 813-874-6621	Royal Concrete Concepts John Albert 561-689-5395
BRPH Architects-Engineers, Inc. Fran Pickett 321-751-3071	FrontRow Ron Hostetler 800-277-0735 X4895	SchenkelShultz Architecture B. J. Brundage 239-481-0200
Clancy & Theys Construction Company R. L. Pace 407-513-1501	GCA Services Group Liz Strunk 888-588-0863	Sweat Monkey Scott Fore 863-944-7000
Collier Enterprises II, LLC Stacy Frank 813-259-1196	Harvard Jolly, Inc. Jeffrey E. Cobble 727-896-4611	Symetra Financial Patrick McCormick 425-256-8179
CompassLearning Lisa Dreyer 954-818-2754	K12, Inc. Blythe Carpenter 919-745-7134	Universal Seating Company Barry Schuster 800-330-7328
CrossePointe.net Marty Monroe 850-228-8882	LightSPEED Technologies, Inc. Gail Rosenberg 941-870-0607	VALIC Greg Miller 813-269-3316
Crowne Consulting Group, Inc. Ray Tomlinson 407-654-5414	MBIA Asset Management Thomas Tight 888-231-8995	Wachovia Securities J. Michael Oliff 727-895-8437
CTB/McGrawHill Beth Williams 561-337-8025	Merrill Lynch David Abrams 561-362-4766	W. G. Mills, Inc. Patricia Smithwick 239-275-3003
	Mobile Modular Management Corp. Tom Wagoner 863-965-3700	