

# NAPSA NEWS



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Informing Pupil Services

Volume 5, Issue 3

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## Conference Plans Nov 15–18



Dr. William DeMeo

Have you ever felt “Not Quite Burned Out But Crispy Around The Edges?” If so, you won’t want to miss Dr. William DeMeo’s presentation. Author of *When Nothing Else Works*, Bill lends his expertise to dealing with challenging behaviors either at home or in the classroom. He is filled with creative strategies to address and adjust problematic behavior. For anybody who deals with challenging behaviors, it is a hot topic in our field today. As Pupil Services providers, not only do you have to deal with the behaviors, but you also have to keep your staff and yourself

balanced. That is a fitting follow-up to his first topic, “Managing the Chaos: Helping Early Adolescents Ride Out the Emotional and Social Roller Coaster.” From his topic titles, you know Dr. DeMeo speaks from experience. These are some of the practical considerations NAPSA keeps in mind when planning our conferences. A presentation needs to provide the attendee with a tool, concept or training that you can take home and employ in your own professional practice. Our goal is to offer unmatched quality in a personal, interactive environment among your peers.

This same forethought goes into every speaker, activity and presentation offered at NAPSA conferences. We take our slogan seriously... “Informing Pupil Services.” Our other speakers include Ohio attorney Melissa Martinez Bondy, who specializes in Special Education law, discipline and policy; Lynn Lang, Director of School Climate for the Archdiocese of St. Louis; Dr. Melissa Reeves, co-author of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) “PREPaRE” School Crisis Prevention and Intervention curriculum; Jackie Ricciardi, Mental Health and anti-bullying advocate. We have also organized an optional social event with the Hofbrauhaus, in Columbus. On Tuesday evening, we will offer dinner and music for \$45. It will be a fun night including food, music and an opportunity to interact with your colleagues. The President’s Reception on Sunday and the Business Luncheon on Tuesday, are included in your Registration fee. We have just added 20 more rooms to our reserved block as the original allotment were already sold out. Guests staying at the Embassy Suites, Dublin, for the special NAPSA rate of \$129 for a two room suite also will have included a daily full hot and cold cooked to order breakfast and a complimentary evening reception each evening. So join us in Dublin to share in this professional “pot of gold.”



NAPSA Board Conference Planning Session





## Executive Director's Report — Wayne Fausnaught



Wayne Fausnaught



The 2015-16 school year is here. I sincerely hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy some summer vacation and relax prior to making your final preparations for the new school year. Pupil Services Administrators are constantly monitoring the school environment to improve the safety, social and emotional health of students and staff. It is vital for you to continuously take care of your health, as well. Pupil services administrators exist on an island. You are the only person in the district with your specific responsibilities. It is extremely important for PPS administrators to utilize all the resources available. Social media has become a valuable method of net-

working with NAPSA colleagues across the nation. If you have not joined Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn, I encourage you to go to the NAPSA website (<http://napsa.com>) and sign up. Use all your resources to maintain contact and to obtain the support necessary to provide the best assistance possible to students and staff. In the August NAPSA TIDBITS, information was provided on the new documentary film entitled "As One: The Autism Project". It is very well done and I recommend reviewing the film. There is additional information in the TIDBITS regarding the "Parent's Guide to Gangs" written by the National Gang Center. It is a guide designed to provide par-

ents with answers to common questions about gangs in order to recognize and prevent gang involvement. Another resource in the August Tidbits was the "Resource Guide for Superintendent Action" published in July 2015 by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of the guide is: 1. "To highlight the important role that superintendents and school leaders play as ambassadors for and implementers of safe and supportive school climate and discipline within their school districts and local communities. 2. To offer possible district and school-level action steps for initiating and enhancing local efforts to create safe and supportive school climate and discipline systems and practices. *Continued p. 3 Exec Dir Rpt.*

## President's Message — Vernice Thomas



As we welcome back thousands of students in school districts across the country, our work as Pupil/Student Services administrators becomes more challenging in a fast paced society. As students are being provided the opportunity to excel academically in middle and early colleges, our responsibility becomes more challenging to provide them with the developmental skills needed to enter the workplace; as these advanced learners sometimes lack the personal attributes necessary to be successful in an environment with many demands. Ten years ago we were devastated by the destruction of Hurricane Katrina finding it necessary for student services personnel to be on the front-

line seeking shelter, food, family reunifications, and assisting others in the reality that many of their family members had died while other families were separated in the aftermath of the storm. Many of our school districts found it necessary to accept displaced students who suddenly found themselves alone and homeless seeking a "new normalcy". We must remind all educators that we are the key to the overall success of students. We must not forget the strengths we have as part of education. Mental health services, drug prevention and intervention programs, services for homeless students, crisis interventions, exceptional children services and counseling services are just a few of our responsibilities that

are important to student success. As a member of NAPSA, please continue to support us as we advocate nationally for adequate funding and resources needed to effectively get the job done. Don't forget to register now for the 2015 NAPSA conference in Dublin, Ohio and learn more about this year's theme: "Pupil Services: A year of Advocacy". Please visit our website at [www.napsa.com](http://www.napsa.com) for conference and registration information. We look forward to seeing you there!!!

### NAPSA's Vision

All students will be provided appropriate supports, services and programs to overcome their barriers to learning.



Vernice Thomas , President

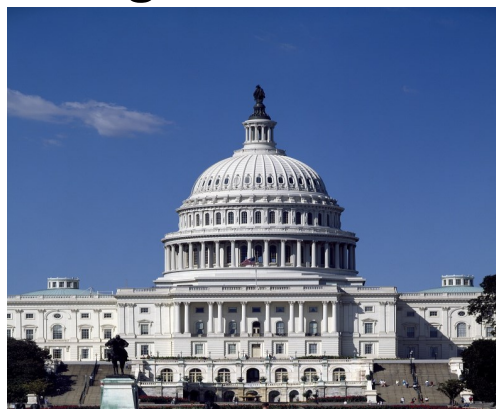
**"We must remind all educators that we are the key to the overall success of students."**



# What's Happening On The Hill—Richard Scott

The summer is almost over. Schools are in the process of re-opening and Congress is about to reconvene. Heidi Nel presented her project, *As One: The Autism Project*, to NASISP.

[As One: The Autism Project](#) is a documentary film that uses the power of theatre, dance, and music to demonstrate the positive effect of art and expression on children with autism. The Project will become a national resource. Here are the updates that were addressed prior to the summer session and will be addressed when Congress reconvenes: **ESEA Updates:** Both the House and the Senate claim they committed to reauthorizing ESEA; however, there are no plans to bring HR5 to the House floor any time soon, and it is unlikely the Senate will take it up before the July 4th recess (we are still waiting on a committee report). **ACTION:** NASISP will draft a letter to Senate Leadership praising the bipartisanship of the HELP committee and urge them to allow S.1777 floor time in order to continue to move the reauthorization process forward. **Student Privacy Bills:** Several bills S. 1322



(Hatch/Markey); (S.1341 (Vitter); HR 2092 (Messer/Polis); Kline/Scott Draft) have been introduced to address student privacy. These bills are largely intended to ensure that third party data collection companies are not misusing student data and that they are not creating targeted advertisements based on the student data. The Kline/Scott bill would codify the various regulatory interpretations of FERPA to essentially bring it up to date. The Vitter Bill is problematic for NASISP in that it would prohibit the collection of psychological data-which as defined in the bill includes measures of student engagement, behavior, learning styles, social skills, mental health/illness etc. This bill could significantly

hamper data based prevention and early intervention efforts in schools. Although it will likely not pass as is, we know that the Senate will be trying to limit the number of amendments debated and it is possible that portions of this bill could end up in a manager's amendment.

**ACTION:** NASISP has always supported the collection of this type of data to inform prevention, early intervening and other intervention supports at the school system and individual student level. Heather and Kelly will draft a letter focusing on how this bill would hamper prevention efforts. It will be sent to coalition to review. **Higher Education Act/Perkins**

**CTE:** NASISP will keep an eye on this bill, particularly as it relates to possible

accreditation issues for our members, and the issue of loan forgiveness. We will also be monitoring conversations regarding Perkins and will be inviting someone to come speak in the coming months to give us more information.



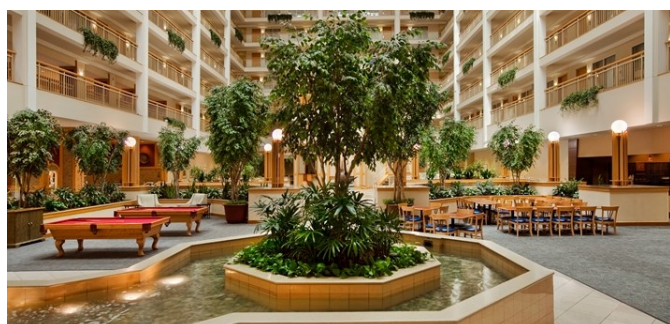
Richard Scott

Legislative Liaison



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## Executive Directors Report Cont'd

3. To share promising practices and useful resources for implementing and sustaining safe and supportive school climate and discipline in collaboration with local stakeholders." In a time when districts are constantly looking for areas to cut and save money, pupil services administrators must constantly be innovative to make services vital to the school district. You need to be pro-active in promoting and advocating the implementation of preventive programs focusing on the academic, social, emotional and physical needs of all students. The need for reliable and effective Pupil Services programs is more important today than ever, along with continuous staff development that is current and informative. One vital means of staying pro-active is to attend the 2015 NAPSA Conference in Dublin, Ohio (a suburb of Columbus). The conference theme is "Pupil Services: A Year of Advocacy". The entire program can be viewed on the NAPSA website. I hope to see you in Dublin. Have an outstanding School year!!

Don't Miss Out. The 2015 NAPSA Conference will meet the needs of all Pupil Services Directors, offering unmatched quality in a personal environment. Watch our website [www.napsa.com](http://www.napsa.com) for registration form and more information. Registration fees have not increased in 8 years.

"Pupil Services: A Year of Advocacy" is calling for you to become an advocate for Mental Health and Sane Education.

## BE\$T HIGH \$CHOOL\$

### EFFECT OF FINANCIAL DISADVANTAGE

While our politicians continue to tell us that throwing money at a problem is not the answer, the overwhelming evidence bears out what every educator knows, "The greatest barriers to school success for K-12 students have little to do with anything that goes on in the classroom." This statement was part of the report of Safe, Healthy, and Ready to Learn, a survey study released May 27, 2015. (See *NAPSA NEWS Vol.5, Issue 2*) To underscore their findings, all you need to do is refer to U.S. News and World Reports – Education. (<http://www.usnews.com/education>) The U.S. News rankings include data on more than 21,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. The results were not unexpected by educators. I chose the 5 top ranked High Schools in the country and the #1 Ranked High Schools in 10 random states to compare demographic data. I then added two more from my home state, PA, to include my district's HS and the top district in our county. The results are shown in the table below.

SCHOOL	STATE	STATE RANK	NATIONAL RANK	% \$ Disadvantaged
School for the Talented and Gifted	TX	1	1	27
BASIS	AZ	1	2	50
Tho. Jefferson HS for Science & Tech	VA	1	3	2
Gwinnett School of Math, Sci & Tech	GA	1	4	34
School of Sci & Engineering Magnet	TX	2	5	60
HS of American Studies at Lehman College	NY	1	11	27
American Indian Public HS	CA	1	12	75
Biotechnology HS	NJ	1	19	1
Julia R. Masterman Laboratory	PA	1	60	31
Walnut Hills HS	OH	1	65	20
Highlands HS	KY	1	197	16
Yarmouth HS	ME	1	238	10
Advanced Technology Academy	NV	1	457	35
John F. Kennedy HS	IA	1	638	12
South Anchorage HS	AK	1	1288	12
Radnor HS	PA	5	475	10
Penn Wood HS	PA	Unranked	Unranked	74

With the exception of Magnet schools for the Gifted, Talented, STEM, and American Indian population, there is a strong correlation between low % of Economically Disadvantaged and high college readiness.

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