



Letter to the Board

Michael Havens

Superintendent of Schools

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April 9, 2009

"Knowledge becomes wisdom only after it has been put to practical use."

- unknown

Board Letter

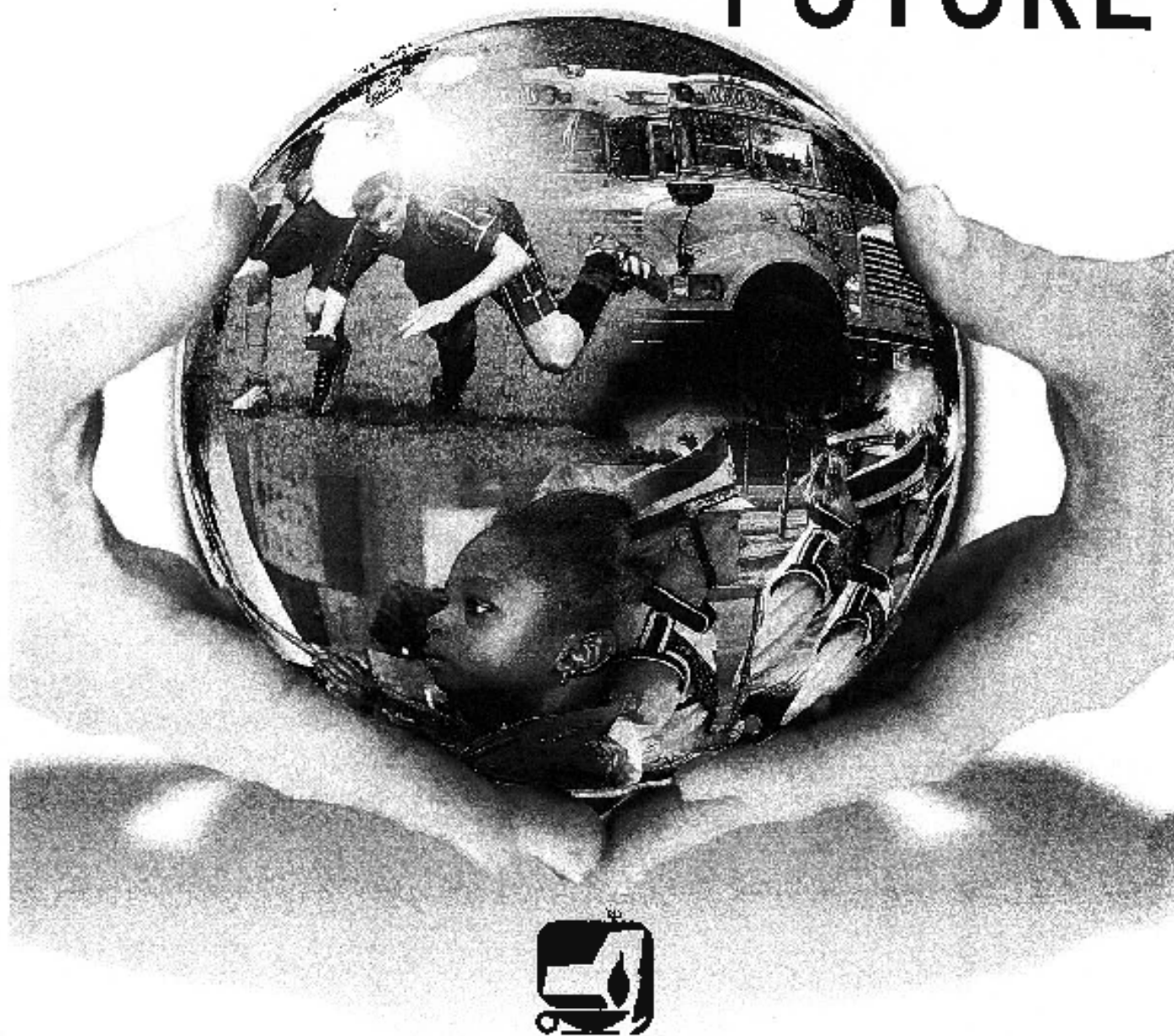
- Freewill to become Walworth Town Hall?** For those of you who did not make the three Boards meeting, Walworth discussed building a new Town office building. I took the plunge and asked them how they felt about using Freewill and having us move those children on to the main campus. I expected a firestorm but was wrong. They were interested in discussing the possibility. Many of you have been suggesting this for some time. I had not thought Walworth would tolerate such a move (and they still may not), but perhaps you were right and I was wrong. They would like to have a private further discussion about the issue.

So I have a question for the Board. Would you like me to explore this further (along with a school Board member) with the Walworth Town Board? I don't think we should discuss this at a Board meeting, particularly before the budget vote, but send me an email letting me know if you want me to proceed. If most people want me to go ahead, I'll set up a meeting. If most do not, I'll let it die.
- NYSSBA Resolution Kit:** Attached is the kit for forming and process resolutions and position statements to submit to the school board for consideration at the annual meeting in October. Please let me know if the board intends to create a proposal.
- BOCES Ballot:** Attached is the ballot for the BOCES Annual meeting. You will be acting on this at the April 22nd meeting. There are 3 vacant seats and 3 candidates. You will also need to decide whether you wish to support the BOCES Administrative budget or not.
- MS Incident:** Today Mr. Armocida was made aware of an incident in his building involving a male and female student sending each other sexually explicit pictures of each other (sexting). Mr. Armocida notified the parents and suspended the children. He contacted SRO Chapman to advise him on the situation since this is considered child pornography.
- Bob LaRuche Picture:** I have attached a classic picture Amy took today. Mr. LaRuche challenged his OP students to reach 100,000 minutes, and if they did, he would shave his head. The children excelled and read 120,000 minutes – all for their cause. Did I mention they also dyed his mohawk red!
- MS Teacher update:** I have been twice contacted by the SED investigator assigned to our recently resigned MS teacher. She said that based on our report she believes he will lose his teaching license.

7. **Spring Break:** I plan to be take a couple days off next week, if the weather is cooperative. I believe Lori has the same idea. We will be putting together an abbreviated letter with agenda details. Best wishes to all who are traveling for a pleasant and safe trip.
8. **Upcoming Events:**
4/10 – All Schools and offices closed – Good Friday Holiday
4/13 – 17 – Spring Recess – Schools Closed
4/22 – **WEDNESDAY** - Board of Education meeting @ DO – 7:00 p.m.
4/24 – Junior Prom @ Harro East Ballroom – 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.
4/24 – ½ day parent teacher conferences - K-12
9. **Attachments:**
a) NYSSBA resolution kit
b) BOCES Ballot
c) Bob LaRuche Picture

2009 Resolutions Kit

FIGHTING *for*
NEW YORK'S
FUTURE



New York State School Boards Association

**New York State
School Boards Association**

2009 Resolutions Kit

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NYSSBA Resolutions Process

Your involvement in the NYSSBA resolutions process shows that you recognize that for boards of education to improve public education, they must influence public policy at all levels of governance. Once resolutions have been approved at the Annual Business Meeting, we urge you to actively participate in NYSSBA's advocacy efforts. Contact NYSSBA's Governmental Relations Department at (800) 342-3360 or (518) 783-0200 to learn how you and your board can be a powerful force for New York State public education.

NYSSBA's advocacy efforts are directed by its members. Only resolutions passed by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting become NYSSBA legislative programs and only member boards of education and NYSSBA's Board of Directors may submit resolutions for consideration. This Resolutions Kit is intended to provide a clear and helpful guide that will allow your board of education to submit resolutions that have the greatest possibility of acceptance by the delegates to the Annual Business Meeting.

Formulating Resolutions and Position Statements

As NYSSBA members and locally elected educational leaders, you are in the best position to identify those issues that most need the support, time and attention of this Association. Those issues are conveyed to the full membership through the submission of a resolution passed by a member school board or NYSSBA's Board of Directors and submitted to NYSSBA for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting.

Each resolution filed prior to the deadline is reviewed by the Resolutions Committee, which is comprised of one school board member from each Association area and one member representing the Big 5 school boards. These members are appointed by the president of the Association and confirmed by the Board of Directors.

Between the time a resolution is submitted and the time it is reviewed by the Resolutions Committee, NYSSBA staff reviews it to clarify any possible questions that may arise. Staff then writes both a statement of support and a statement in opposition to the resolution. Both statements are provided to the Resolutions Committee, which meets in July to review and discuss each resolution. Statements are then altered based on the views of the Resolutions Committee members. The committee votes in one of three ways: to recommend, to not recommend, or to declare the resolution as continuing policy of NYSSBA.

Resolutions are then compiled in a booklet, *2009 Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions*, which is mailed to all member boards in early August.

A board of education can choose to amend its proposed resolution or rebut the Resolutions Committee's statement after the committee's review, by following the process below. This amendment or rebuttal will be included in NYSSBA's *2009 Amendments and Rebuttals* brochure that is mailed to member boards in September. A member board may also propose an amendment to any resolution or proposed bylaw amendment by mailing it to each member board at least 30 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

Once adopted, resolutions – now known as position statements – remain continuing policy of NYSSBA for five years unless rescinded sooner, superseded or enacted into law. **It is not necessary to reaffirm existing position statements.**

NYSSBA's Board of Directors also has a role in the resolutions process. The Board of Directors may submit proposed resolutions for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting, following the same procedure as all submitting boards. The Board may also pass Contingent Resolutions that are only submitted to the Resolutions Committee if no other member board of education submits a proposed resolution on that issue.

Each year, after the Annual Business Meeting, the Board of Directors determines NYSSBA's legislative priorities, consistent with the resolutions adopted by NYSSBA's membership. The Board also reviews adopted resolutions each year to determine if the purposes of the resolutions have been accomplished or if the resolutions are due to expire or to determine whether they have been modified by the adoption of subsequent resolutions.

Expiration of Position Statements

Each year, NYSSBA's position statements are revised to reflect actions taken by the delegates at the preceding Annual Business Meeting and policy decisions made by the Board of Directors. Those resolutions or position statements that are no longer valid or relevant are deleted.

Article 9 of the Bylaws calls for a five-year expiration of all resolutions unless sooner rescinded, reaffirmed, enacted into law or otherwise accomplished. Therefore, please note that all position statements in the *2009 Position Statements and Bylaws* book that were passed in 2004 will expire in October of 2009 unless submitted and passed at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting.

Timely – Topical

NYSSBA has a strong and effective program of advocacy. With four staff devoted to governmental relations, a statewide newspaper that is read by state legislators and staff along with hundreds of school board members that serve as Legislative Liaisons, Federal Relations Network members and advocates, your Association is a powerful voice on behalf of public education. As a result of the broad array of educationally related issues, NYSSBA must lobby on issues at times without the direct guidance of its membership. Yet, only resolutions passed at the Annual Business Meeting set the direction of NYSSBA's advocacy efforts.

The Association currently lacks resolutions addressing some of public education's most pressing issues. Examples of issues that lack the support or opposition of a NYSSBA resolution are:

- (1) How the state will address the rising costs of energy, and health care and the impact on local taxes; including whether local taxes should be capped.

- (2) Whether or not charter schools should be allowed to join NYSSBA or receive NYSSBA services.

Boards should make sure their proposed resolutions are appropriate subjects (in other words, germane to public education) for the delegates to address. For example, a proposed resolution such as opposition to casino gambling may not be directly related to New York State public education and may be defeated by the delegates on that basis. The media and the public may perceive, however, that by defeating the resolution, NYSSBA actually approves of casino gambling. It is important then, to be sure the issue is pertinent to public education in New York State prior to submitting a resolution for consideration.

Clear Reasoning

Boards should also include a clear, concise and persuasive rationale in support of their resolutions. If the rationale is ambiguous, imprecise or fails to convey its relevance to other school districts, an otherwise sound resolution may fail.

Too Busy?

Serving your community as a locally-elected public official is an intense and time-consuming endeavor. It forces you to focus primarily on issues of local importance. However, when combined with nearly 700 member boards of education and over 5,000 school board members statewide, you become New York State public education's greatest advocate. Proposing well-crafted resolutions on issues central to improving public education greatly enhances the value of your service to the children of New York State.

Choosing the Right Issue

A well-crafted resolution gives NYSSBA members and staff a clearly stated goal while providing flexibility to advocate for school boards' positions and lobby for a solution that meets member needs. Consider the following when drafting your board's proposed resolution:

- **History.** Review NYSSBA's current positions to determine whether and in what manner the issue has been previously addressed.
- **Relevancy.** Resolutions should be "global" rather than "local." They should have a statewide impact or at least be relevant to most school boards in the state. NYSSBA is a statewide organization and its positions should represent all member boards.
- **Educationally-focused.** Resolutions should focus specifically on education rather than youth in general. In addition, resolutions should not focus on changes in law or regulations that merely ease administrative practices.
- **Timeliness.** Resolutions should address timely issues districts currently face. NYSSBA cannot forcefully advocate on a particular issue without a position from the delegate assembly.
- **Clarity.** Resolutions should be clear in their stated goal or intent, and their rationale. If the resolution itself is unclear or the rationale is ambiguous, imprecise or fails to convey the resolution's relevance to other member school boards, the resolution may fail.
- **Flexibility.** Resolutions should guide advocacy, not prescribe one specific solution. They should be worded broadly enough to provide NYSSBA with the latitude to apply their

intent in order to achieve the resolution's goal. Resolutions are not "draft legislation" but rather proposed positions of the association that will guide fluid legislative negotiations.

- **Position.** Resolutions should be carefully drafted to avoid redundancy in, or conflict with, current positions. Existing positions should be repealed rather than contradicted.

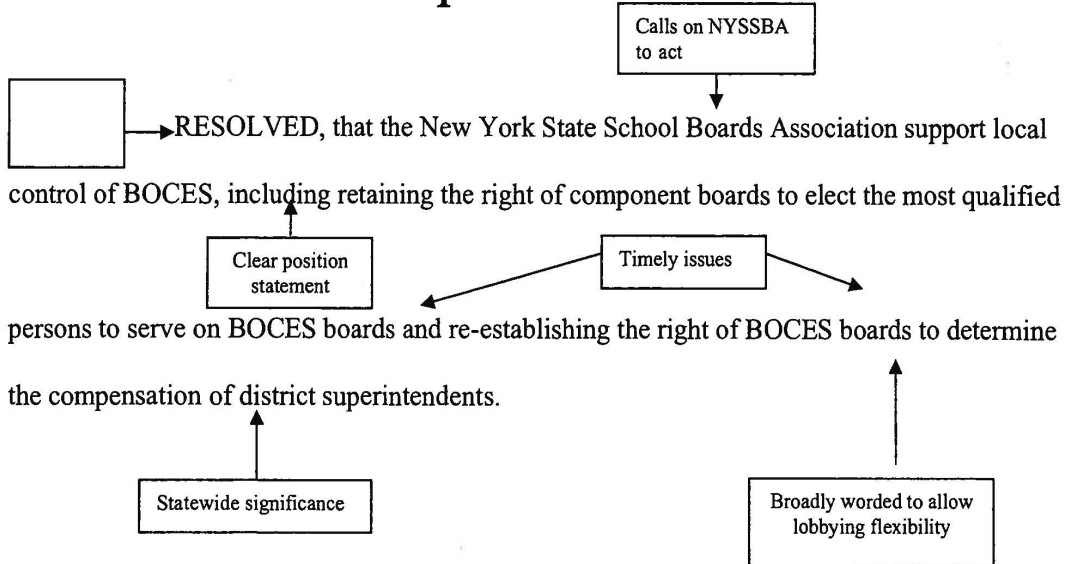
Drafting an Effective Resolution or Bylaw Amendment

In drafting a proposed resolution or bylaw amendment, keep in mind the following guidelines:

1. Begin your resolution or bylaw amendment with a single "resolved" clause as stipulated in Article 9, Section 2 of the NYSSBA Bylaws.
2. Deal with only one issue per resolution or bylaw amendment. **Do not include "whereas" clauses.** If you have more than one issue, submit more than one resolution or bylaw amendment.
3. Word your resolution in broad, general terms, which indicate your goal but leave out specific methods and techniques that prescribe its implementation.
4. Keep in mind the "resolved" clause is what delegates will actually vote upon. The "rationale" statement is meant to support the "resolved" clause, which, in essence, is your resolution.
5. Make sure the arguments in support of your resolution or bylaw amendment outweigh the arguments in opposition to it in an objective discussion.
6. Submit your resolution or bylaw amendment on school district letterhead. It must be signed by the school board president, superintendent, or clerk.
7. Designate a contact person, with the power to modify the resolution or bylaw amendment in consultation with the Resolution Committee. Include that person's name and daytime telephone number with the resolution. That person must be available on **July 6, 2009** between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to respond to any questions about the resolution from members of the committee.
8. Submit your resolution or bylaw amendment early, before the **June 15th deadline.** This will allow NYSSBA staff more time to review the language and contact you for clarification if necessary.

New York State School Boards Association

Sample Resolution



Rationale

The NYSSBA Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on BOCES believes that preserving local control of public education institutions is central to NYSSBA's mission. A clear and positive voice on these matters will help to unify the membership and reinvigorate our opposition to proposed reductions in local control. Recent attacks on BOCES and school boards governance require a unified response from NYSSBA and all its members should be part of that voice. The committee believes that the attempt to undermine BOCES governance is part of an ongoing attack on school boards governance in general, which includes plans to eliminate or significantly modify school boards in our large cities. It is time that NYSSBA took a united stand against these unwarranted attacks.

Focused on a core belief

Timely and responsive to political environment

Establishes broader significance

RESOLUTION WORKSHEET

Insert Your School Letterhead Here

Be it resolved _____

Rationale _____

Signed By: _____ *Date:* _____

_____ *Board President*

_____ *Superintendent*

_____ *Board Clerk*

(One of the above needs to sign)

Name of contact person available July 6, 2009 to address any questions/concerns of the Resolution Committee:

Name: _____

Day Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

*This form can be found in the Advocacy section of the NYSSBA website at www.nyssba.org.

Deadlines

It is imperative that proposed resolutions be received as early as possible so they may receive proper attention from NYSSBA staff, the Resolutions Committee and the delegates.

All resolutions received by the **June 15, 2009** deadline will be compiled in the *2009 Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions* booklet, which will be mailed to all member boards.

NOTE: Deadlines are based on **Saturday, October 17, 2009** as the **Annual Business Meeting** date.

Proposed Resolutions

Resolutions, signed by the board president, the superintendent or clerk, must be **received in NYSSBA's office by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 15 2009** to be considered by the Resolutions Committee, in accordance with Article 9, Section 2 of the NYSSBA Bylaws. **Resolutions must be on school district letterhead and may be faxed or mailed to NYSSBA. We will, in turn, send a confirming fax/letter stating that your resolution was received by the deadline. This is the only acceptable proof that your resolution was received by the deadline.** Resolutions submitted after 5 p.m. on June 15, 2009 may be introduced from the delegate floor as "late resolutions" during the portion of the Annual Business Meeting entitled "Other Business" if the sponsor secures the approval of two-thirds of the voting delegates. Late amendments to the bylaws cannot be considered. We strongly urge you to submit resolutions well in advance of the deadline in order to assure proper consideration by the Resolutions Committee.

All resolutions received by the deadline will be compiled in the *2009 Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions* booklet, which will be mailed to all member boards.

Amendments and rebuttal statements to resolutions for the Amendments and Rebuttals brochure must be received in the office by **5 p.m. on Friday, September 4, 2009**, in order to be included in NYSSBA's *2009 Amendments and Rebuttals* brochure. The brochure will be mailed to all member boards by **Thursday, September 17, 2009**.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Proposed **bylaw amendments** must be received in NYSSBA's office by **5 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2009** to be considered at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting, in accordance with Article 17, Section 2 of the NYSSBA Bylaws.

An **amendment to a proposed bylaw amendment** may be considered at the 2009 Annual Business Meeting only if it has been mailed to each member board by **Thursday, September 17, 2009**.

Role of Designated Contact Person

Member boards that submit resolution(s) for consideration at NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting must appoint a contact person who will be authorized to speak on behalf of the submitting board. The designated contact person must be empowered to modify the resolution(s) based on the suggestion(s) of the Resolutions Committee, if that contact person agrees to the suggestion(s).

The designated contact person must be available on **July 6, 2009** between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to respond to any questions about resolution(s) from members of the Resolutions Committee.

The designated contact person's name and daytime phone numbers must be submitted with the resolution.

Thank You **for Your Continued Efforts on Behalf of Public Education**

Your Governmental Relations Staff

- David A. Little, Director of Governmental Relations
- Charles S. Dawson, Jr., Deputy Director of Governmental Relations
- Christine M. Decatur, Governmental Relations Representative
- Penny Martiniano, Departmental Secretary

New York State School Boards Association

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Latham, NY 12110-2125

518-783-0200 or (800) 342-3360

Website: www.nyssba.org

**WAYNE-FINGER LAKES BOCES
APRIL 22, 2009 ELECTION/ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET VOTE**

OFFICIAL BALLOT

There will be three (3) vacant seats on the Wayne-Finger Lakes Board of Cooperative Educational Services each for a three-year term effective July 1, 2009. The three nominated candidates are listed below, in the order determined by lot, with their address and school district of residence.

➔ The Board of Education of your district is allowed one vote per vacancy.

- Jeanne Durfee, 3947 Boynton Road, Walworth, NY 14568 - school district of residence Wayne
- O.J. Sahler, 4214 County Road 16, Canandaigua, NY 14424 - school district of residence Canandaigua
- Lynn Gay, 83 Main Street, East Bloomfield, NY 14443 - school district of residence Bloomfield

➔ **CANDIDATES (VOTE FOR 3)**

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Board of Education of the _____ Central School District cast one vote for _____ to a seat on the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES board for a three-year term effective July 1, 2009.

[indicate number of board members present] _____

Vote: yes no abstain Motion Carried Motion Defeated

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Board of Education of the _____ Central School District cast one vote for _____ to a seat on the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES board for a three-year term effective July 1, 2009.

[indicate number of board members present] _____

Vote: ___yes ___no ___abstain ___ Motion Carried Motion Defeated

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Board of Education of the _____ Central School District cast one vote for _____ to a seat on the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES board for a three-year term effective July 1, 2009.

[indicate number of board members present] _____

Vote: ___yes ___no ___abstain ___ Motion Carried Motion Defeated

➔ **ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET VOTE**

A motion was made by _____, and seconded by _____ that the Board of Education of _____ School District, at its April 22, 2009 meeting, approve the 2009-10 tentative administrative budget (Part 1) of the Wayne-Finger Lakes Board of Cooperative Educational Services in the amount of \$2,864,432.

[indicate number of board members present] _____

Vote: ___yes ___no ___abstain ___ Motion Carried Motion Defeated

Fax ballot by 9:00 AM on April 23, 2009 to:

**Cindy Murray, Board Clerk
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES
FAX: (315) 332-7425 (24 hours)**



**WAYNE-
FINGER LAKES
Board of
Cooperative
Educational
Services**



