

Dear Readers,

The fall weather has finally arrived, and with it, the first edition of the 2015-16 SCOPE Education Services' Forum. The Forum is distributed in two forms, the printed hard copy and electronically. The full-color electronic edition is emailed directly to the superintendent of schools for distribution to the school district staff and community. If you do not receive an electronic copy and would like to have it emailed to you, kindly contact SCOPE and we will be happy to email the edition.



SCOPE Education Services, a not-for-profit organization

currently celebrating our 51st year, is permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide services to public school districts on Long Island and in New York State. Services include student enrichment programs; before- and after-school child care; pre-K/UPK; college testing prep courses (PSAT, SAT, ACT); a speaker's bureau for students, parents and school district staff; training for school district staff in DASA, violence prevention and identification of child abuse/maltreatment; professional development for school district staff; and conferences for non-instructional/instructional and administrative staff. This year, SCOPE introduced a new mediation service to school districts. Please see the interview of Dr. Ronald Friedman in this edition of The Forum. The interview clearly explains the potential value of this service to school districts and highlights the qualifications of Dr. Friedman.

Last year, as part of SCOPE's 50th anniversary celebration, \$500 scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors of SCOPE member districts. This program resulted in more than \$43,500 awarded to the Class of 2015. Congratulations to all of the recipients of the scholarship. SCOPE will continue this practice, and we look forward to presenting these scholarships again in 2016.

As always, The Forum includes current information submitted by school districts, including new appointments and promotions. Congratulations to all newly hired school staff and best wishes for much success in your respective positions.

As always, I wish each of you a very productive, successful and safe school year.

Warmest regards,

Atom

George L. Duffy Executive Director

SCOPE Education Services, a not-for-profit organization currently celebrating our 51st year, is permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide services to public school districts on Long Island and in New York State.

George L. Duffy, Executive Director

Save The Date

DASA CERTIFICATION

Monday, November 16, 2015 4-7 p.m. Monday, December 7, 2015 4-7 p.m.

# VIOLENCE PREVENTION CERTIFICATION

Tuesday, December 8, 2015 4-6 p.m.

CHILD ABUSE CERTIFICATION Wednesday, December 9, 2015 4-6 p.m.

Smithtown, NY 1178

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Education Services

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# Announcing<sub>a</sub> New Service

# **Mediation for Conflict Resolution and Enhanced Effectiveness**

What is mediation? Mediation is a specialized way of working with disputing parties to achieve resolution of their issues in a way that is acceptable to all parties concerned. Mediation services can be used to help boards of education resolve internal differences, as well as conflicts and differences among board members and those involving others in the school community. Mediation is especially useful in resolving labor relations issues, including grievances, and other labor management disagreements before they rise to the level of formal grievances or litigation. Internal staff conflicts and matters involving parents and staff also lend themselves to resolution via mediation.

# Why choose mediation?

Unresolved disputes can compromise the school district's ability to deliver the highest degree of quality and effectiveness of educational and related services to the district's students. Mediation is also more cost-effective, less formal and speedier than litigation in situations where litigation is a consideration.

# Who will provide the

mediation services? SCOPE has engaged the services of well-known Long Island educator Dr. Ronald L. Friedman. Dr. Friedman has more than 30 years of experience in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties as a human resources administrator and superintendent of schools. He has formal training in mediation and arbitration through Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. He is a member of the American Arbitration Association's Roster of Arbitrators, as well as its Roster of Mediators. His recent work involves serving school districts across Long Island and in Westchester.



For more information: Please contact Cramer Harrington, SCOPE Deputy Director for Management Services, at 631-360-0800, ext. 161 or charrington@scopeonline.us.

# Excerpts from an interview with Dr. Friedman

SCOPE Associate Director for Student Services Michael J. O'Brien met with Dr. Friedman to discuss his background and insights in dealing with conflict resolution through mediation.

How did your experience as an educator influence your attraction to the field of mediation? Much of my career was involved as a human resources administrator and superintendent of schools. These responsibilities provided me with multiple experiences in dealing with conflict and mediation.

What training prepared you to master the skills necessary to be an effective mediator? My life experiences, along with the formal training I received through Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the American Arbitration Association's programs of study in conflict resolution, provided me with the skills to be more effective.

What role does conflict play in a school setting? Conflict in and of itself is not

a bad thing. Only when two people or groups of people believe one has adverse control over the other and compromise is unreachable does a serious problem surface. Ultimately, pervasive conflict impacts focus and productivity and certainly makes the workplace less inviting and collegial.

What are your views on mediation? The focus through mediation is to help both parties find common ground. Ground rules need to be set and mediation has to be something both parties work out and accept. Both sides need to feel they are in control and resolution needs to be something both parties own. In the final analysis, mediation is an opportunity for all involved to express their humanity in positive, constructive ways. In school systems, it's the kids and the community that suffer most from unresolved conflicts.

# SCOPE's 31<sup>st</sup> *Annual Dinner Meeting* for Superintendents and Board Members







Scope's 31st Annual Dinner Meeting for Superintendents and Board of Education Trustees, held at the Oakdale campus of St. John's University on Aug. 13.

The evening provided an opportunity for newly appointed superintendents and newly elected school board trustees to share ideas with their counterparts from dozens of school districts across Nassau and Suffolk counties.

St. John's stunning Bourne Mansion served as the venue for the dinner that was attended by more than 200 guests, including university President Dr. Conrado "Bobby" Gempesaw.

During his introduction and welcome, SCOPE Executive Director George L. Duffy spoke about the vital role of school board members and superintendents and the importance of exchanging ideas with one another.

"Here on Long Island, we have much to be proud of," Duffy said. "As newly elected board members and new superintendents, you will be following in the footsteps of those who have created a very successful school system. You will also face many challenges. Your efforts will be enriched by your association with your colleagues, both experienced and new."

Keynote speaker Regent Roger Tilles of the New York State Board of Regents received a standing ovation for his presentation, which addressed the failure of Common Core and called for an overhaul of the evaluation system. He told the audience, "I have asked our new [New York State Education] commissioner as early as [Aug. 11] to talk to lots of people to come up with a new evaluation plan from scratch that can be presented to the legislature as early as next year, so that they have something to work with in terms of passing a new evaluation system. I certainly hope we can turn this around for our schools and our students. With your help, I think that we can."







# **SCOPE's Speakers Bureau** Student, Staff and Parent Workshops

SCOPE has a long history of providing speakers to address school district concerns, whether those concerns are related to student issues, staff needs or parent information requests.

Student issues are typically in the realm of the social-emotional challenges faced by children at any level of their development. Awareness and acceptance of differences, appropriate ways to handle confrontation, and the personal and legal responsibilities attached to behaviors are just some of the broad-

# Student Workshops

# Grades K-3 25 students/30 minutes

- Bullying: Staying Safe at School
- Hands Are Not for Hitting
- Free to Be Me: DI-VER-SI-TY
- Where Have All the Manners Gone?

# Grades 4-5 25-50 students/45 minutes

- Cyberbullying Staying Safe Online
- You Can Beat Bullying!
- Put Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes (Empathy)
- Conflict Solving/Anger Management
- Where Have All the Manners Gone?

# Middle School/High School 25-50 students/45 minutes

- Cyberbullying Staying Safe Online
- You Can Beat Bullying
- How Girls Bully Let's Talk About It
- Relational Aggression
- Sexual Harassment Prevention: Empowering Students

based student topics school districts often request. SCOPE is happy to work with districts to find the person (or persons) that will be the most effective in working with children.

Staff conferences and workshops have historically focused on meeting the needs of paraprofessionals and other support staff so instrumental to successfully operating a school district. Half-day, fullday or sometimes even hourly workshops for teaching assistants, clerical workers and any other constituent district

# **STAFF WORKSHOPS (ONE HOUR)**

- DASA Overview
- You Can Beat Bullying! The Educator's Role
- Sexual Harassment: Empowering Staff, Protecting Your Students
- Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (Overview)
- Effective Classroom Management
- Early Adolescence What Teachers Need to Know

# PARENT WORKSHOPS (ONE HOUR)

- Cyber Safety: What Parents NEED to Know
- DASA What Parents Should Know
- Bullyproofing Your Child
- Understanding Your Early Adolescent
- Self-Esteem: Finding the "Star" Qualities in Your Child
- Raising Socially Successful Children

support staff are easily tailored to address any topic that meets the present needs of the school district.

School districts often approach SCOPE to secure a speaker who will provide information and direction to parents on issues and concerns shared by all parents in the school and/or district community. Requests for parent workshops must come from the school district to ensure that any message or direction shared is aligned with the district's mission and/or vision.

- Winning Strategies for Family Communication
- Positive Discipline Practices for Families
- Creating a Loving, Fun Family
- Teaching and Practicing Respect in the Family

For scheduling and associated fees, or if you are looking for a different topic or time frame, Contact: 631-881-9646

Members of SCOPE Are Entitled to: 2 Free Student Workshops OR 1 Staff Workshop Per District, Per School Year\* (\*Does Not Apply to District Conference Days)

# Typical Teaching Assistants Workshop Help Me Focus: / Can't Do It Alone

In today's society, ADHD has become an en vogue term, not a serious diagnosis. Uncover the alarming truth of what ADHD really is and understand its long-lasting impact on students' lives. This informational, interactive presentation will build your awareness of the impact of its symptoms and the importance of developing the essential skills of how to learn as it relates to a skill set for school and success in life.

This presentation will also help you find the solutions to connect with your challenging students and empower them to take ownership and accountability in becoming active and engaged learners. The skills and interventions learned will be applicable immediately, with an understanding of why these interventions are effective. To suggest other topics for Teaching Assistants Workshops, email SCOPE Associate Director for Student Services Michael J. O'Brien at

mobrien@scopeonline.us.

# Learn More About SCOPE Student Services Programs

SCOPE Student Services Programs include School-Age Before-School and After-School Child Care, Employee Day Care, Universal Prekindergarten, Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Enrichment.

# School-Age Child Care

# **Program Overview**

SCOPE child care programs provide a safe, fun and caring environment for the children of working parents. A variety of age-appropriate, supervised games, sports, arts and crafts and enrichment opportunities are offered, as well as healthy snacks, scheduled homework time and daily opportunities to socialize with peers.

#### Admission

The programs are open to all elementary school students residing in the school district. (District transportation restrictions may apply.) Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to capacity limits set by the Office of Children and Family Services regulations. When necessary, students are placed on a waiting list for the next available opening.

# Staffing

All staff are subject to an extensive background check and meet or exceed all requirements Did you know that SCOPE is the largest child care provider in the state of New York? SCOPE serves more than 6,000 students. All SCOPE child care programs are licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and are operated in public schools throughout Long Island.



set by the state of New York. The programs maintain a staffing ratio of one adult to 10 children at all times. SCOPE program supervisors and field trainers oversee the programs. In addition, OCFS inspectors visit the programs regularly.

## Tuition

Parents pay all fees directly to SCOPE. Please call for rates. There is no cost to the school district for a child to attend this program. Fees are subject to change.

# Universal Prekindergarten (UPK)

SCOPE offers a Universal Prekindergarten program, which provides eligible 4-year-old children with a wonderland of opportunity and discovery that builds on children's natural curiosity. The curriculum is aligned with the New York State Prekindergarten Common Core Learning Standards and is designed to transition students into kindergarten.

# **Program Overview**

SCOPE offers a complete Universal Prekindergarten program for 4-yearolds with tuition paid by the school district at no cost to the parents. The program follows the New York State UPK regulations for class size with a 2.5 hour/day instructional structure. Instruction follows the UPK Guidelines and the Approved New York State Prekindergarten curriculum, with any adjustments requested by the school district. The program focuses on meeting the child's total developmental needs, including social, emotional, motor, cognitive and language growth, which are fostered through creative expression, arts and crafts, science, math, reading readiness, music, dance, large and small

muscle coordination, and so much more. Each UPK class has up to 18 students with one teacher and one teaching assistant. All UPK classes are taught by New York State-certified teachers and teaching assistants.

## Admission

The program is open to all eligible 4-year-old children residing in the school district. Most school districts do not transport the children. Children must be eligible to attend kindergarten the following year in order to attend the UPK program. Enrollment is limited to 18 children per class, who must be enrolled within the school district. If there are more eligible children than openings, the school district must hold a lottery and create a waiting list.

## Staffing

All teachers are New York Statecertified and specialists in early childhood education. Teachers are teamed with trained assistants who are sensitive to the unique qualities and needs of each child. SCOPE teachers participate in professional workshops and attend ongoing staff meetings to share resources and keep abreast of new trends in education.

## Tuition

SCOPE offers a complete UPK program for 4-year-olds with tuition paid by the school district. There is no cost to parents.

# Congratulations Are in Order

# Appointments and Announcements



# BAYPORT-BLUE POINT

# New Teachers Welcomed to District

At the start of the new school year, the Bayport-Blue Point School District welcomed new staff members Roy Deyo, Kelly Flaherty, Doug Meehan, Tina-Marie Mikos, Eric Rohoy, Janis Thomson and Jeanne Zodda.



# EAST MEADOW Staff Gather for Superintendent's Conference Day

The East Meadow School District held its Superintendent's Conference Day on September 1, 2015, during which Superintendent of Schools Leon J. Campo visited the staff at their respective schools. He shared his enthusiasm for the start of the new school year and asked all staff to continue to give their best to the students.

# HERRICKS

Dr. Celano Assumes Role of Superintendent of Schools

On July 1, 2015, Dr. Fino M. Celano assumed his role as the new superintendent of schools for the Herricks Public Schools. Dr. Celano joins the district from the Garden City Public Schools, where he served as assistant superintendent for personnel since 2005.





# HICKSVILLE

# Rosemarie Coletti Joins Team as Assistant Superintendent for Personnel

The Hicksville School District welcomes Rosemarie Coletti to its administrative team as the new assistant superintendent for personnel. Ms. Coletti comes to the district with extensive experience, most recently serving as the assistant superintendent for human resources in the Northport-East Northport and Baldwin school districts.



# ISLIP

# Experienced Educator O'Callaghan Joins School Community

The Islip School District announced the hiring of Kate O'Callaghan as its new executive director of pupil personnel services and special education, replacing Barbara Nelson, who retired. Ms. O'Callaghan comes to Islip from the East Islip School District, where she held the same administrative role for the past two years.

# LEVITTOWN

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# Gardiners Avenue Principal Appointed

The Levittown School District has appointed John Jared Vanderbeck as the new principal of Gardiners Avenue Elementary School. Mr. Vanderbeck, a Lynbrook resident, joins Levittown from the Lawrence School District, where he served as assistant principal, administrative dean and administrator of the After-School Learning Academy at Lawrence Middle School. He was a mathematics teacher at Lawrence's middle school and high school, as well as a curriculum course designer for mathematics.



# LONG BEACH Paul Romanelli Appointed

LBMS Principal

The district has appointed Paul Romanelli as principal of Long Beach Middle School, effective July 9. The position was formerly held by Dr. Michele Natali, who has been named the district's executive director of human resources. Mr. Romanelli comes to Long Beach with extensive background experience as a middle school leader. He has served as an assistant principal at Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School for the past two years, prior to which he was dean of students and a math teacher at Oldfield Middle School in the Harborfields Central School District for 10 years.

The district also welcomed Kathleen Connolly as principal of East School, effective July 1. Ms. Connolly comes to Long Beach from the Baldwin Union Free School District, where she held administrative roles since 2006, when she was hired as an elementary school assistant principal.



# MASSAPEQUA

Fairfield's Glenna Raskin Named a NYS Educator of Excellence

Fairfield Elementary School teacher Glenna Raskin was named an Educator of Excellence by the New York State English Council in recognition of her outstanding skills as a sixthgrade English language arts teacher. Ms. Raskin accepted the award on October 16 at the council's annual conference in Albany, New York.



# NASSAU BOCES

# Nassau BOCES Appoints New District Superintendent

The Nassau BOCES Board of Education appointed

Dr. Robert R. Dillon as district superintendent at its August 20 meeting. Dr. Dillon assumed responsibility for leading the largest Board of Cooperative Educational Services in New York State on September 1, 2015. Nassau BOCES is a cooperative of the 56 school districts in Nassau County, which collectively serve more than 200,000 students.

Dr. Dillon has been an active leader in education for 35 years, 24 as a superintendent. Locally, he was the superintendent of the East Meadow Union Free School District from 1999 to 2007. Most recently, he served as the executive director of Reform **Educational Financing** Inequities Today (R.E.F.I.T.), a consortium of school districts dedicated to fair and equitable education for all students.



# NORTH BABYLON

New RMMS Principal a Familiar Face; Introducing DeLuca's New Principal

The new principal at Robert Moses Middle School is a familiar face in the North Babylon School District. Elizabeth Walsh-Bulger, who came to North Babylon in 2008 and served as assistant principal at the high school for seven years, is leading its middle school counterpart as of this school year.

Also effective this school year, William E. DeLuca Elementary School is being led by newly appointed Principal Vincent Fantauzzi. Mr. Fantauzzi comes to the district having most recently served as the assistant principal at Saint James Elementary School in the Smithtown Central School District since 2012, and was the district's administrator for grants and human resources prior to that post for nearly two years.



# PORT JEFFERSON New Principal Named

The Port Jefferson School District has named Christine Austen as the new principal of Earl L. Vandermeulen High School. Ms. Austen previously served in the district as dean of students, technology integration specialist and library media specialist.

# WEST HEMPSTEAD

Superintendent John Hogan to Retire at End of Year

At the September 8 Board of Education business

meeting, West Hempstead Superintendent John Hogan announced his resignation for the purpose of retirement at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Mr. Hogan has served as the superintendent of West Hempstead since July 2007. Prior to this position, he was an administrator in the Elwood Union Free School District for approximately 11 years, holding the positions of both assistant principal and principal of Elwood-John H. Glenn High School. Later, he was appointed as Elwood's assistant superintendent for curriculum. Earlier in his career, Mr. Hogan was an administrator and teacher for several parochial schools in Brooklyn.



# WILLIAM FLOYD

# Board of Education President Serves on NYSSBA Roundtable

Robert Vecchio, president of the William Floyd Board of Education, served as an invited panelist at the New York State School Boards Association 2015 Board Officers Academy, which was designed to help board members learn and sharpen the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve greater board effectiveness.

# **INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS**



**BABYLON** Seventh-Graders Transition to Junior-Senior HS

Babylon High School upperclassmen volunteered their time to impart wisdom and introduce all the new opportunities for the district's incoming seventh-graders. "Transitioning from one school to another can be an intimidating experience," said Superintendent Linda Rozzi. "But with this orientation and the wonderful work of our upperclassman volunteers, our incoming seventh-graders will be at ease and well-prepared. This was a wonderful morning to spend with these new students."



# **BETHPAGE** Soaring into a New Year

Students throughout the Bethpage School District soared into their respective schools on the first day of the 2015-16 school year.



**CONNETQUOT** Edward J. Bosti Elementary School First in District to Implement Revolutionary Leadership Program

More than 25 teachers at Connetquot Central School District's Edward J. Bosti Elementary School came together to learn about The Leader in Me, an educational program designed to develop leadership qualities in children. The program helps schools proactively design a culture to foster responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration and renewal. The process teaches students the skills needed for academic success in any setting, including critical thinking, goal setting, listening and speaking, self-directed learning, presentation making and the ability to work in groups. Edward J. Bosti Elementary School is the first school in the district to implement the program.

# **DEER PARK**

Keeping Tabs for a Cause This year, Deer Park High School took the lead in donating the most tabs of any organization, with 18.775 kilograms of tabs. After the collection, the aluminum tabs are recycled for cash, with the proceeds funding programs that directly benefit children. Deer Park High School's SADD Club and other supportive students donated the most soda can tabs this year to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia.



# EAST ISLIP Shiny Clean

East Islip High School's varsity and JV volleyball teams washed a fire department truck during their fundraising car wash at Rita's Italian Ice.



# EAST MEADOW District Welcomes Full-Day Kindergartners

The sun was shining and so were the smiling faces of kindergarten students in the East Meadow School District as they began their first full day of school on September 3. Teachers, staff members and administrators at each of the district's five elementary schools warmly greeted and assisted kindergartners as they entered their respective school buildings.



# HAUPPAUGE Students and Staff Honor Lives Lost on September 11, 2001

Students and staff in the Hauppauge School District remembered the men and women who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 by wearing red, white and blue and displaying their patriotism throughout the district.

On September 26, the district held its inaugural Patriots Month Walk by collectively walking 911 miles to raise money and awareness for the First Responders' FealGood Foundation. The walk's goal is to bring the community together to honor the men and women who helped during 9/11 and its aftermath.



INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS

# HICKSVILLE

# Schools Open to Excited Students and Staff

The Hicksville Public School District's nine schools opened on September 1 to students, teachers, administrators and parents excited to begin the 2015-2016 year. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Bonuso, riding the bus with students on their first day as part of a personal annual tradition, arrived at Dutch Lane to welcome them to their new school.



## **LEVITTOWN**

# Notes of Achievement for Student-Musicians

The Levittown School District is pleased to announce that the New York State School Music Association has selected student-musicians Dawn Kim and Brendan Skillman from Division Avenue High School and Whitney Sun from MacArthur High School to attend the NYSSMA Winter Conference, to be held at the Rochester Convention Center in Rochester, New York, from December 3-6.

Thousands of students auditioned for this prestigious honor during solo and ensemble festivals held throughout the state. Dawn will play the violin with the string orchestra and Whitney will play the viola with the symphony orchestra, while Brendan will play Bb clarinet with the symphonic band. The district congratulates these students, who will have the opportunity to play with the finest studentmusicians in New York State.



# LINDENHURST High School Welcomes the Class of 2019

Student council members and peer leaders were on hand to assist and give tours, advice and moral support to incoming students.



# LONG BEACH

# Musical Achievements Worth Noting

Four Long Beach High School students have been selected to participate in All-State musical ensembles, a prestigious honor that resulted from their New York State School Music Association audition solos last spring.





LYNBROOK Seeing Double! 11 Sets of Twins at Lynbrook Kindergarten Center

Looking around the Lynbrook Kindergarten Center this year, you may think you are seeing double, but your eyes are not deceiving you. There are actually 11 sets of twins in this year's kindergarten class.

# MASSAPEQUA

Berner Middle School 7th-Graders Are Charged Up to Use Chromebooks to Enhance instruction

A new crop of seventhgrade students at Berner Middle School were issued Chromebooks to use as a primary instructional tool during the school year, a move that expands the district's "Learning....Anytime, Anywhere" program into grades 7-9. A Chromebook is neither a laptop nor a computer. It's simply a device that runs the Chrome Web browser, and is used to easily access the Web and all its vast resources. Work is saved automatically in a secure cloud-based environment managed by the district. Students can collaborate and communicate with each other and get immediate feedback from their teacher, which helps customize learning for each student.





# MINEOLA

# A High School Tradition

For more than 15 years now, Mineola High School has held an annual welcome back barbecue to welcome the building's newest students. In addition to getting to know upperclassmen, the event serves to bring freshmen closer with their teachers, the school and district administrators.





# **RIVERHEAD** Unity Day in Our Schools

Unity Day, observed October 21, was celebrated in the Riverhead Central School District's elementary schools. Students dressed in orange and participated in a variety of activities to stand together against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance and inclusion. The event was sponsored by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center and supported by the Riverhead Community Awareness Program.

# **ROCKY POINT**

# Starting Off with a Smile

Rocky Point Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael F. Ring welcomed several Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School students back to school on September 2.



# WEST HEMPSTEAD

# Welcoming the Class of 2019 to West Hempstead High School

The West Hempstead Union Free School District welcomed the Class of 2019 with an orientation led by administrators, upperclassmen and staff at West Hempstead High School. Approximately 120 members of the incoming freshman class spent the day learning how to be successful during their time in high school.



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The Forum can be accessed online at www.scopeonline.us. If you have information about your school district that you would like to share, please send it to Kathy Beatty at kbeatty@syntaxny.com.