

**MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS**

**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**



**THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019  
ROYAL PLAZA HOTEL  
MARLBOROUGH, MA**

# President's Annual Spring Meeting

May 16, 2019  
Royal Plaza Hotel  
Marlborough, MA

## PROGRAM

- 8:00 a.m. Registration Opens  
Coffee and Danish
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions – Eric Conti, President
- 9:10 a.m. Sponsor: Renaissance Learning – Chris Rudderow, Vice President of Operations  
Diane Houle, District Account Executive
- Sponsor: Right at School – Daniel Carter, Director of School Partnerships
- Table Sponsors: Apple, Insight Workforce, The Language Bank,
- 9:15 a.m. **KEYNOTE: Perspectives: What Experiences Our Students Need for Future Employment & Civic Life**  
Dr. Udit Batra, CEO – Millipore Sigma
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Presentation of Distinguished Service Award
- 10:20 a.m. **Mapping Our Way Forward**  
Presenter: Commissioner Jeffrey Riley, DESE
- Sponsor: The Analytics Platform - Paul Miniutti
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
- 12:45 p.m. Awards  
Presentation: President's Awards  
Presentation: Ten, Fifteen, Twenty and Twenty-Five Year Awards  
Presentation: Retirement Awards



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- Dan Mair, Superintendent, Germantown Hills School District, Illinois



**Distinguished Service Award**  
**Jack McCarthy**  
**Executive Director, Massachusetts School Building Authority**

Since January 12, 2012, Jack McCarthy has served as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Prior to MSBA, Jack served in the Inspector Generals' Office as Senior Assistant Inspector General.

Jack's long time commitment to public service includes roles as Deputy Chief of the Norfolk County Sheriff's Department, Moderator for the Town of Norwood, and Chief of Staff at the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

He is a proud graduate of Boston Latin School followed by his academic achievements at Boston College and Juris Doctorate degree at Suffolk University.

In his current role as Executive Director of MSBA, Jack has earned a reputation as someone with great integrity, honesty and being forthright in carrying out his responsibilities. MSBA, with its limited resources, makes critical decisions about school building projects. For all of us, these decisions need to be made, after careful deliberation, with clear policies and thoughtful decision-making. Jack has welcomed the input of M.A.S.S. and many superintendents, as he executes the work of MSBA. He takes a pro-active role in providing M.A.S.S. webinars, attending our annual Summer Executive Institute and welcoming us into deliberations with him when there is an issue or concern.

Jack has been a true champion of K-12 education and a friend to superintendents. He listens to our concerns and gives careful consideration in handling school building and renovation issues with integrity for the best interests of our communities and students.

M.A.S.S. is proud to present the 2019 Distinguished Service Award to Jack McCarthy.

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**President's Award**  
**Darcy Fernandes**  
**Superintendent of Schools, Athol-Royalston Regional School District**

Darcy Fernandes is currently the Superintendent of Schools for the Athol-Royalston Regional School District where she is working to turn around two schools within the district. She continues to support the work of recruiting and developing teacher leaders across the district, as well as, using data to improve student learning and instruction.

Between 2013 – 2017, Darcy was the Assistant Superintendent of Randolph Public Schools, a designated level 4 school district. Darcy along with principals, teachers and the superintendent worked diligently to turn around the district implementing a data decision-making process and incorporating teacher leader coaches in schools. The result of the work was the district was removed from level 4 statuses. Darcy's deep commitment to use data to drive decisions and inform practice has been a hallmark to her work which included turnaround work in Brockton and New Bedford.

Darcy is also recognized for founding a program called **Bridges** with the President of Bridgewater State University where 150 students each year received college readiness training and academic support in math, science and ELA. Students recruited for the program were identified as at-risk students. The program is still in existence today.

Darcy's personal core values are demonstrated daily in her work where she truly believes all children can learn and all families want what is best for their children. Darcy has spent her career working in district with high numbers of low-income families and many of the districts she has worked in have had a high number of minority and ELL students in them. She is a constant advocate for the disenfranchised.

While in New Bedford she earned the honor of Woman of Year from the Standard Times and this spring Darcy made an impact on her colleagues by presenting at the M.A.S.S. Women Education Leadership Network Conference. Darcy has also been a member of the DESE Influence 100 Committee, designed to promote leaders of color in school systems. She has been semi-finalist for teacher of the year and received the teacher of year award for community service learning from the State of Massachusetts. Darcy was inspired by her mother who instilled the value of leadership, courage, hard work and advocacy for civil rights. Characteristically, Darcy has shown her presence at many of our meetings where she is unabashed in her sharing opinion and keeping students as the main goal of all our work.

M.A.S.S. is proud to present the 2019 President's Award to Darcy Fernandes.

**President's Award**  
**Dr. Bonny Gifford**  
**Superintendent of Schools, Dartmouth Public Schools**

Bonny Gifford is completing her fourth year as Superintendent in the Dartmouth Public Schools. Previously she served as Superintendent in Falmouth, Assistant Superintendent in Nauset and as a Middle School Principal in Fairhaven. Her administrative and teaching experiences span a journey of 29 years.

Bonny was a leader in the New Superintendents Induction Program. She possessed the unique ability to blend the educational vision that was the foundation for her Theory of Action for the District with a common sense understanding of the need to build relationships with key stakeholders and to develop the capacity of the leadership team to make the vision a reality.

Bonny continues to take a leadership role through her many contributions to the work of our Association. She has recently been re-elected as the M.A.S.S. Executive Committee Member for Region IV serving the South Shore and Old Colony Roundtables. She has served as the Chair of the Old Colony Roundtable. She represents this Roundtable on the Governing Board for the Southeast Collaborative Regional Organization. She served in this capacity during her tenure in Falmouth and Dartmouth.

Bonny is a leader on the M.A.S.S. Professional Development Committee. She is the Chair for our Sub-committee responsible for developing the annual plan for Association webinars. She is a key contributor to the planning of the Annual Executive Institute. Her attention to detail and her high energy are invaluable to the work of this Committee. Bonny is best described as a “doer” and we appreciate all that she contributes.

Bonny Gifford is a talented educational leader who consistently reaches out to her colleagues engendering support and offering guidance. Her perspective and her humor have been greatly appreciated by many of our members.

We are pleased to present her with the 2019 M.A.S.S. President's Award.

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**President's Award**  
**Patrick Larkin**  
**Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Burlington Public Schools**

Patrick Larkin is in his seventh year as the Assistant Superintendent for Learning for the Burlington Public Schools. Prior to this role he served as High School Principal in Burlington and Peabody, where he served 15 years as a building level administrator. In 2012, he was selected as one of three national Digital Principal Award winners by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Patrick's roots are in the Mendon Upton School District where he attended school, taught, and began his administrative career.

When Principal at Burlington High School, Patrick initiated one of the first one-to-one iPad implementations in the country. This bold decision involved many community conversations about how instruction can and should change, given the tools that are available. This initiative required significant professional development. Patrick extended these opportunities far beyond Burlington. Many educators from across the state attended the one-to-one conference days in Burlington.

It is this commitment to collaboration that is a common thread throughout Patrick's work and stands out in his current role of Assistant Superintendent. The commitment to collaboration requires a commitment to communication. Patrick is an avid blogger and a proponent of social media to better engage teachers, students, and parents in the education process. With this in mind, he has played a key role in the redevelopment of the Burlington Public Schools website to meet standards of accessibility for all members of the school community. In addition, he maintains the district's social media accounts to help amplify and communicate the work of staff and students to the broader community.

I am especially pleased to recognize Patrick because I could not have taken on the responsibilities associated with the M.A.S.S. Presidency without knowing that the learning in the district was in good hands - better hands than usual.

M.A.S.S. is proud to present the 2019 President's Award to Patrick Larkin.

**President's Award**  
**Dr. Barbara Malkas**  
**Superintendent of Schools, North Adams Public Schools**

Barbara Malkas has served as Superintendent in the North Adams Public Schools for the past three years and in the Webster Public Schools for the previous four years. She has served as an educator for over 32 years in the roles of science teacher, school administrator, district administrator, deputy superintendent, and superintendent. In each of her districts and roles, she has strived to improve the quality of education for all students, particularly those representing underserved populations.

Her own experiences in education contribute to her belief that education is the key to lifelong satisfaction and meaning. She is forever grateful to those early teachers in her own life who encouraged and assured her that it was okay to be the “smart girl”, even in the 1960s and 70s.

Dr. Malkas completed the New Superintendents Induction Program in 2015. She made an important contribution to this Program through her well-developed Strategy for the district, her thoughtful presentation of Problems of Practice and her strong commitment to the importance of the leadership team.

She currently serves as a member of the M.A.S.S. Executive Committee where she consistently advocates for the unique needs of our students in Western Massachusetts. She served as the Berkshire County Representative to the Superintendents' Advisory Council where she often reminded the Commissioner in a clear and professional manner of the unique conditions in Berkshire County.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Dr. Malkas is the Board President of the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to preventing environmental causes of breast cancer through education, research advocacy and changes to public policy. Through her involvement with this organization the *Let's Talk Prevention: Actions You Can Take* environmental education program was designed with four high school modules and a middle and elementary grades modules are in development.

We are pleased to present her with the 2019 M.A.S.S. President's Award.

**President's Award**  
**Scott Morrison**  
**Superintendent of Schools, The Tri-Town School Union**

Scott Morrison is in his third year as the Superintendent in the Tri Town School Union - a PreK through grade 6 school district including the Towns of Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield. Prior to this role he served 8 years as the Director of Curriculum and Technology in the Manchester Essex Regional School District. Scott was also an elementary principal at the Bancroft School in Andover for 8 years.

Scott has always had one foot in the present and another foot in the future. He has been a persistent voice encouraging all of us to learn more about extended reality. Scott has immersed himself in the future possibilities of learning and what is most appreciated by his colleagues is that he has not undertaken this journey alone. Scott is coordinating a group of school leaders around the topic of augmented reality with leaders in this field through organizations like Learn Launch. His early adoption of virtual reality training opportunities is something from which we can all learn.

Scott is described by a colleague as “a thoughtful and collaborative member of our North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable. He brings a positive attitude and wit to our planning and prioritizing sessions that are clearly reflected in our presentations. He is a forward-thinking colleague, especially in his ability to connect SEL with the use of innovative technology to create a positive school climate and ensure that students have the skills necessary to be successful.”

At a time when we are re-examining the content, skills, and experiences our students need for success, Scott is a constant force introducing many of us to the possibilities the future holds. As an educator, Scott believes we need to harness this technology and that students must graduate with an understanding of these changes to be intelligent consumers.

Scott represents the next generation of school district leaders. His interest and curiosity, coupled with his intellect and tenacity to shape his ideas with colleagues has been welcomed by many who see his ideas as part of our future leadership.

M.A.S.S. is proud to present the 2019 President's Award to Scott Morrison.



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Steven Hiersche	Beverly Public Schools
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Kathy Smith	Brockton Public Schools
Louise Demas	Cohasset Public Schools
Dorothy Galo	Hingham Public Schools
Maryann Perry	Marblehead Public Schools
Christine Johnson	Northborough/Southborough
Maggie Rizzi	Stoughton Public Schools
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Michael Cozort	Nantucket Public Schools
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Diane J. Caldwell	Medford Public Schools
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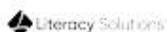
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