

MANS&C

Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges

QUARTERLY

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e-newsletter

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MANS&C: Changing to Meet Your Needs



Sixty years ago, MANS&C was founded by a group of school and college leaders who wanted to ensure that state legislators understood their problems and listened to their opinions.

MANS&C has been successfully carrying out that mission ever since. But in recent years, we have expanded our services to meet our members' 21st-century needs.

We communicate with our friends and members through email and LinkedIn, providing you with up-

to-the-minute State House news and facilitating conversations on topics of interest to nonprofit schools and colleges. Our newsletter is distributed electronically and responses to our member survey, which is currently under way, are collected online via Survey Monkey.

In addition to our work on Beacon Hill, we currently are facilitating collaborations between members and their communities. And we're a valuable source of information for schools and colleges that are creating Community Impact Statements.

One of MANS&C's most exciting new projects is our Advocacy Network, which will include three advocates at each member institution who are willing to make calls to their state legislators. We are fortunate to have a BU graduate student, Eric Gregoire, organizing the network under the guidance of our Legislative Counsel, John J. Spillane.

Updated annually, the network will enable us to move quickly and decisively when troublesome bills or issues arise.

Our membership survey, also underway, will produce valuable information that will benefit John's work at the State House. The survey results also will complement your institution's Community Impact Statement by quantifying the impressive, statewide economic impact of nonprofit schools and colleges.

If you have not already done so, please go to Survey Monkey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MANSAC201112> and fill out the survey as soon as possible. Our website, www.mansac.org, has helpful information about how to create a Community Impact Statement. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,
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Senator Encourages Nonprofit Schools and Colleges To Communicate with Their State Legislators

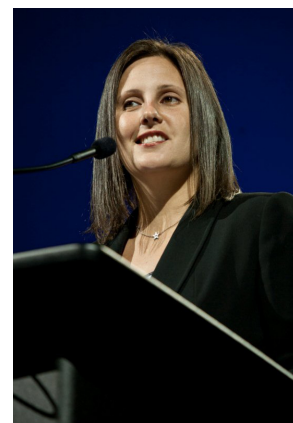
State Sen. Jennifer L. Flanagan is urging nonprofit schools and colleges to maintain lines of communication with their senators and representatives on Beacon Hill.

The senator was the guest speaker May 1 at the MANS&C Annual Meeting which celebrated the 60th anniversary of the organization's founding in 1952. The meeting was held in the Hampshire House in Boston.

Speaking to members and guests, Flanagan said, "People often think of us as the last resort when problems arise but after that, we never hear from them. We're all public servants. We need to know how we can be helpful."

Flanagan, a rising star at the State House, said she promotes education "in all forms."

Noting that she worked for nine years as a House staff member, the Leominster Democrat said she understands that public and private institutions complement one another.



Flanagan cont. on page 3

Legislative Report



A bill that purported to promote livable communities and zoning reform—but gutted the Dover Amendment in the process—has been turned aside at the State House.

Thanks to the efforts of MANS&C Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane, Senate Bill 1847 was set aside for further study, effectively killing it for the current legislative session.

The measure struck out the current language of the Dover Amendment, which gives local planning boards only limited power to derail a building permit application from a nonprofit school, college or university.

The law, which dates back to 1950, stipulates that buildings may be subject to “reasonable regulations concerning the bulk and height of structures and determining yard sizes, lot area, setbacks, open space, parking and building coverage requirements.”

Currently, churches and schools do not need the approval of local review boards for their construction plans. Even though it is not required, however, some schools have voluntarily agreed to requests for local review for the sake of good community relations.

The bill expanded the regulations to cover “the bulk and height of structures, yard sizes, frontage, lot area, building coverage requirements, setbacks, floor area ratio, parking, access and egress, lighting, drainage, landscaping, buffering and open space and similar matters.” A site plan review process also was included.

A number of other bills of concern also were shelved by the various legislative committees Spillane has appeared before on behalf of MANS&C members. These bills include the following:

- HB 157 – Established a special commission to study the costs of mandatory school transportation incurred by public school districts.
- HB 917 – Allowed communities to use monitoring systems to measure speed-limit violations in school zones and in conjunction with traffic signals on school buses and vans.
- HB 2387 – Required seat belts in school buses.

- HB 2513 and HB 2566 – Required private institutions of higher learning with endowments of more than \$1 billion to pay an annual excise of 2 1/2 per cent of all funds in excess of that figure.
- HB 2514 – Required private schools to make payments to their communities equal to what they would have paid in property taxes or to enter into an agreement that provides monetary or non-monetary benefits to their communities.
- HB 2552 – Authorized cities and towns to negotiate payments in lieu of taxes with local charitable organizations based on their assessed property tax value, with an exemption for the first \$15 million. The payments would have equaled the percentage of the municipal budget for police, fire and snow removal and were capped at 25 percent of assessed property value.
- HB 3012 – Required private colleges and universities to pay taxes on all property dedicated to non-academic uses.
- SB 1847 – Gave local communities greater control over building or remodeling projects by nonprofit schools and colleges, and also added a site plan review process.

Several other measures remained alive but not in the forefront of the action, as legislators debated the state budget, healthcare cost regulation and other major issues. Spillane is working to oppose the following Senate bills:

- SB 668 – Holds parents of children ages 7 to 18 civilly liable for bullying and cyber bullying.
- SB 790 – Requires private colleges and universities to report the names of all employees and consultants who made more than a certain dollar amount and requires trustees or board members to file reports covering the preceding fiscal year.
- SB 1581 – Classifies all reports, documentary materials and data submitted or received by campus police officers as public records.
- SB 1582 – Allows for public inspection of campus police logs.

Spillane also is closely watching several bills that do not currently apply to nonprofit schools, colleges and universities but may have future ramifications for our institutions.

New Advocacy Network Assures Quick Action

MANS&C is creating a new Advocacy Network that will enable member institutions to quickly contact their state legislators at a moment's notice when important issues arise at the Statehouse.

The network is being set up by Boston University graduate student Eric Gregoire under the direction of MANS&C Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane.

Gregoire is in the process of contacting the Heads and Presidents of MANS&C member schools and college. He is gathering phone numbers and email addresses for two to three employees at each institution who are willing to serve as advocates.

The advocates should be school employees who are willing to make phone calls to local state legislators when called upon. If the network needs to be utilized, MANS&C will email the advocates and direct them to contact their local state representative and state senator on a specific day about a specific issue.

Gregoire has identified the senate and house district of each institution under the 2012 redistricting.

"We monitor troublesome bills very closely, but issues still can arise with little notice at the State House," Spillane said. "The new Advocacy Network will enable us to move quickly in order to inform our legislators about the potential damage that a proposed bill or budget amendment would cause to nonprofit schools and colleges."

The list of advocates will be updated annually.

Gregoire did his undergraduate work at Fitchburg State University and is currently working an M.Ed. in policy planning and administration, with a subspecialty in higher education. He is an intern in the Office of Government and Community Affairs at BU.

Heads and Presidents who would like to submit the names and contact information for their advocates should email Gregoire at egregoire@bu.edu.

New Officers, Board Members Elected

MANS&C members elected new officers and members of the board of directors at the Annual Meeting on May 1:

President, Julaine McInnis, Inly School

Vice President, William J. Conley Jr., College of the Holy Cross

Treasurer, Beth McWilliams, Hillside School

Secretary (clerk), Tim Parson, Beaver Country Day School

Board Members:

Bruce T. Amsbary, The Rivers School

Rick Bernasco, Winsor School

Michelle Consalvo, Boston University (new member)

Linda Deasy, Lawrence Academy

Jeanne Finlayson, Stonehill College

Christine Rosell, Cambridge Friends School

Judi Seldin, Concord Academy

William Stephenson, Thayer Academy

James R. Tracy, Cushing Academy

Todd A. Vincent, Dexter and Southfield Schools

Roberta B. Whiting, Shore Country Day School

Invited guests to MANS&C monthly board meetings include Carol Peterson and Steve Clem from the Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE) and Robert J. McCarron from the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM).

Flanagan cont. from pg. 1

"You help alleviate the strain on our public schools," Flanagan said. "Some of the opportunities you have are not offered in the public schools. We know that."

"We're always going on about taxes," she added, "but the truth is, there are benefits reaped from institutions that don't pay taxes. We need to utilize your strengths in our communities."

Flanagan outlined some of the contentious issues legislators will be considering in the coming weeks, including welfare reform, the crime bill and healthcare payment reform. The Senate budget was being wrapped up at the time of the meeting and debate was scheduled to begin May 23.

In 2011 Flanagan was one of 48 promising state leaders from across the nation selected for the prestigious Toll Fellowship Program sponsored by The Council of State Governments.

She currently is assistant vice-chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and chairman of the Senate Committee on Steering and Policy. In addition, she is vice-chairman of the Joint Committee on Transportation and the Joint Committee on Public Service and is a member of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Her district includes Ashby, Bolton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Sterling, Townsend, Westminster and part of Clinton.

She served two terms in the House before being elected to the Senate in 2008.



MANS&C Annual Meeting

Members and guests from throughout the state gathered May 1 for the MANS&C Annual Meeting at the Hampshire House in Boston. All photos are identified from left to right.



Jackie Wright of Dexter and Southfield Schools; Chris Rosell of Cambridge Friends School; Kristen Vincent and Susan Saltonstall, both of Dexter-Southfield



Susan Major and Theresa Reddish, The Rivers School; Diane Morris, Commonwealth School

MANS&C Treasurer Beth McWilliams of The Hillside School and board member Judi Seldin of Concord Academy



Betsy Smith, Carol O'Neill
and Loretta Stokes, Shore
Country Day School



The guest speaker, State Sen. Jennifer
Flanagan, and MANS&C Legislative
Counsel John J. Spillane



Kimberly Boyd, The Park School



BU grad student Eric Gregoire and
MANS&C board member Michelle
Consalvo of Boston University

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