



June 19, 2017

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## PA Principals Association Holds Principal Advocacy Day 2017 in Harrisburg

(Harrisburg, Pa.) — A delegation of principals, education leaders and staff from the Pennsylvania Principals Association was on hand at the Capitol today for **Principal Advocacy Day 2017 (#principaladvocacyday17)** to meet with legislators to address several important issues that are at the forefront of education in the commonwealth. These include: Increase Basic Education Funding Using the Fair Funding Formula; Revise Act 82 – Educator Effectiveness Law; Support Pre-K Education; and Address Pennsylvania’s Pension Crisis.

A rally was held from 12-1 p.m. in the Main Rotunda where board members from the PA Principals Association spoke on behalf students in Pennsylvania schools and public education: Jessica Quinter, elementary principal, Juniata Valley School District; Dr. Melissa Patschke, elementary principal, Spring-Ford Area School District; Christopher Gegaris, high school principal, Crestwood School District; and Dr. Bill Ziegler, high school principal, Pottsgrove School District. Paul Healey, Ph.D., executive director, and Dr. Joseph Clapper, assistant executive director, of the PA Principals Association, spoke as well. PA Principals member, Dr. Ann Gaudino, associate professor, educational foundations, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, attended the rally with a group of nine students from her graduate curriculum and instruction class, most of whom are teachers. “It was very interesting to come and hear so many different perspectives that I normally wouldn’t hear in my position. It’s given me a new way of thinking,” said Shana Montgomery, graduate student and intermediate consultant with the Capital Area Intermediate Unit

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*Our mission is to ensure a quality education for every child by comprehensively supporting the educational leaders of our schools.*

**PENNSYLVANIA PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION**

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*Affiliate of the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals  
Serving and Supporting Principals, Assistant Principals and Other Educational Leaders*

## **Pennsylvania Principals Association Holds Principal Advocacy Day 2017 in Harrisburg**

Page 2 of 2

In her remarks, Ms. Quinter alluded to the fact that after completing her eighth year as principal, she has felt firsthand the implications of educational decisions made at the state and federal levels that present challenges to the quality experience we desire for our students. “From decreases in funding and ultimately the number of staff members and programs, to increases and mandates, accountability measures, we are constantly challenged to do more with less,” she said.

High school principal, Mr. Gegaris, shared the following, “Pennsylvania principals are leading schools under the highest of performance expectations. Pennsylvania principals are accomplishing more with less each year. It is my hope that this trend will someday soon come to an end, so Pennsylvania school leaders can actually celebrate success knowing that the funding to run our school will be there.”

In his remarks, Paul M. Healey, Ph.D., executive director of the PA Principals Association., said, “We applaud and are encouraged by the efforts of PDE [Pennsylvania Department of Education] and the involvement of stakeholder groups in the formulation of PA’s ESSA [Elementary and Secondary Schools Act] plan which is due to the federal government in the fall. This plan will serve as our roadmap for the future and aims to ensure a fair and equitable system for all students.”

“While we are encouraged by these efforts, we are disheartened by other actions which are counter to the work and recommendations from the ESSA stakeholder groups. One such example is Senate Bill 756, which suggests a new assessment system and the evaluation of teachers and principals. On the teacher and principal evaluations, yes the system is not perfect, but SB 756 and the recommended components make the system even worse and is clearly a step backward,” he continued.

Dr. Healey closed with, “The PA Principals Association stands ready to work collaboratively on these issues with our educational partners, PDE and the legislature to enhance the educational programs for students and to put policies and practices in place to attract and retain effective teachers and leaders in every school.”

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***About the PA Principals Association:*** The PA Principals Association membership of approximately 3,800 is comprised of elementary, middle level and secondary school principals, assistant principals and other educational leaders and is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

***The Mission of the Pennsylvania Principals Association:*** To ensure a quality education for every child by comprehensively supporting the educational leaders of our schools.

***The Vision of the Pennsylvania Principals Association:*** To be the best service organization of its kind in the United States.

