
PCSM NEWSLETTER

Leaders in Mathematics Education

February 2006

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SUPERVISORS OF MATHEMATICS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President

- Mary Foley

Many THANKS to all who helped make our 28th Annual meeting a huge success. Members present were given bags and pens courtesy of Harcourt and padfolios from Macmillan McGraw Hill. McDougal Littell and Houghton Mifflin provided breakfast. Prentice Hall hosted a coffee break, and lunch was courtesy of Scott Foresman. Prentice Hall also presented each member with the book *Reference to Mathematics: A Guide for Everyday Math*. We are most appreciative of the generosity of these publishers and their representatives who are always supportive of mathematics education and PCSM. Be sure to thank them when they stop in your district.

The program was outstanding with our own Jim Bohan updating us on the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment and Doyt Jones of Texas Instruments engaging everyone in TI Navigator activities. Doyt filled in for

Please check the date on the mailing label of the newsletter. If the date is 2006 (06) or earlier, it is time to renew your membership. Save money by renewing for three years. If each of us signs up a new member, our membership will double!

Glenda Lappan who was ill and unable to attend. Glenda will be part of the program at our next meeting. Gen Battisto presented awards to Carolyn Marchand, Kathy Hebert, and Phyllis Comer. (See awards.)

Once again I encourage you to identify Mathematics leaders in your districts and encourage them to become members of PCSM. The personal touch is very important, and only you can provide it.

We express our condolences to Lois Barson on the death of her husband Alan Barson. Alan was the first president of PCSM, and he and Lois played a key role in the founding and subsequent success of our organization. A contribution has been made to the MET in his name.

We are looking forward to our next meeting October 26, 2006 at Seven Springs. Make plans now to attend.

Mary Foley

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From the Editor

- Cathy Schloemer

Happy 2006! At this time of resolutions, winter weather, and dreams of spring gardening, I hope you will especially take note of the many excellent professional development opportunities in the months ahead. It is also not too soon to begin to make plans for how you can support PCSM and PCTM at our joint conference in October 2006 at Seven Springs!

Thank you again to Chris Czapski for her continuing assistance with the newsletter. Her careful review of my work and thoughtful suggestions help to make the editorial task less daunting. And thank you to former editor Arlene Dowshen for all of those informative emails. I hope I have not omitted anything important in this issue.

I encourage and welcome your contributions as well. Please send correspondence to me at:

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PCSM 28TH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2005

The 28th Annual Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg, PA. It was held in conjunction with the 54th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of Mathematics. A full breakfast was provided through the courtesy of **McDougal Littell and Houghton Mifflin**.

President M. Foley called the meeting to order at 8:52 AM and welcomed the members present. President Foley introduced the **McDougal Littell** representatives present at breakfast and thanked them for **McDougal Littell's** generosity in providing the meal. She also thanked **Macmillan McGraw Hill** for the portfolios and expressed appreciation for the contribution of pens and bags by **Holt Reinhart and Winston/Harcourt**. Minutes

from the 27th Annual Meeting were approved as distributed on a B. Caboot/C. Marchand motion.

Treasurer and Membership Chair, K. Hebert distributed the Treasurer and Membership Report. It indicated a balance of \$16,909.37 as of October 27, 2005 and a paid-up membership of 120, with 22 people who have not yet renewed. The report was approved on an A. Massey/A. Dowshen motion.

NCTM Representative Ann Massey expressed continued concern about apparent domination of delegate caucuses by members of the NCTM Board. She has sent a letter to NCTM Executive Director Jim Rubillo about the problem. There were fewer proposals for resolutions this year and not a lot of discussion.

New Newsletter Editor, C. Schloemer, was congratulated on having just published her first issue. She encouraged submissions for publication.

Awards Chair, G. Battisto, asked that nominations for awards be forwarded to her. She noted that this is the second year in a row during which she has received no nominations for the supervisor hall of fame award.

Under old business, the need for a constitutional revision was brought up. Before we make a decision about constitutional changes regarding dates or places, PCTM plans to go through a complete cycle of meetings.

President Foley indicated that nominations are needed for Secretary and for President- Elect.

The business meeting was adjourned on a C. Marchand/A. Dowshen motion at 9:07 AM.

The first presenter at the general session was Jim Bohan who was introduced by G. Battisto. Jim is an Assessment Specialist at Lancaster-Lebanon IU-13. His topic was The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment.

A coffee and pastry break was provided through the courtesy of **Prentice Hall**.

The next two speakers were unable to appear due to illness. Substituting for them, B. Caboot introduced Doyt M. Jones from Texas Instruments. He conducted a hands-on demonstration of the tool support content of the TI-84 graphing calculator.

Luncheon was provided through the generosity of **Scott Foresman**. President Foley thanked them for the luncheon and the other companies for their generosity in providing support for the meeting.

Awards Chair G. Battisto presented the Past President's Award to Carolyn Marchand and the Outstanding Service to PCSM Award to Katherine Hebert. Phyllis Comer was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Supervision Award *in absentia*. G. Battisto asked those present to think about who should receive awards and to send nominations to her.

Respectfully submitted,
John S. Mowbray, Secretary

PCSM ANNUAL AWARDS

At the PCSM 2005 Annual Meeting in Harrisburg on October 27 three members were honored by their peers. The **Past President Award** was presented to Carolyn Marchand who very ably served as PCSM president for a two-year term. In addition to her leadership of PCSM, Carolyn was the driving force in bringing the PCTM Annual Meeting to Erie in 2004. Carolyn was the PCSM representative for NCTM prior to being President- Elect and then President. The Past President Award represents the gratitude of the membership for so many years of service.

Kathy Hebert was honored with the **Outstanding Contributions to PCSM Award**. Kathy is currently the Treasurer and Membership Chair of PCSM. Members receive their annual membership directory as a result of Kathy’s efforts. She is retired from her position as mathematics supervisor in the Penn Delco School District and continues her professional contributions as an adjunct professor at Widener University. As a mentor for teachers at the Toby Farms Elementary School in Chester, Kathy is helping improve mathematics content knowledge among elementary teachers. PCSM commends her for her extensive contributions to PCSM.

The recipient of the **Outstanding Contributions to Supervision Award** was Phyllis Comer. It was regrettable that Phyllis was involved in an accident and unable to accept the award in person. She is a leader of the Gifted and Talented program in the Woodland Hills School District. She is responsible for creating educational opportunities for students in the school environment and in the community. Phyllis serves as a board member for the Teacher Excellence Center in Southwestern Pennsylvania, which provides professional development opportunities for teachers through its Act 48 approved mathematics workshops. PCSM salutes her for her leadership.

Thanks to the individuals who responded to the call for award nominations. There were no nominees for the Hall of Fame Award. Members are encouraged to consider worthy colleagues and plan to make a nomination for next year. Any questions about awards may be directed to Gen Battisto at 570-839-7152 or genb@pnpa.net.



Remember, as of September 30, 2005, the Eisenhower Network of Mathematics and Science Regional Consortia is no longer operating. Many of the Consortia parent organizations continue to provide professional development, information, resources and technical assistance to K-12 educators in mathematics and science. For more information, visit the Network archive website <<http://www.mathsciencenetwork.org>> that contains links to each of these organizations and learn about available products and services. Also, the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC) offers subscription-based services at its new site: <<http://goENC.com>>. (From Marc Kaufman, TERC)

NUMB3RS

Are you a fan of the CBS show, “NUMB3RS”? Texas Instruments (TI) is leading the "We All Use Math Every Day" mathematics education initiative based on the hit series "NUMB3RS" (CBS; 10:00-11:00 PM, ET/PT). In partnership with CBS and working in association with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), TI has created an educational outreach program promoting the many uses of mathematics. This program includes TI- and NCTM-developed mathematics education activities for teachers and students based on the TV show.

Lessons for students in grades 7-12 that are designed to accompany each episode of "NUMB3RS" are available at <http://www.cbs.com/primetime/numb3rs/ti/activities.shtml> Teachers can view the classroom activities coordinated with each "NUMB3RS" episode on this website a week prior to the show. Teachers can also order a free Teaching Kit at <http://www.cbs.com/primetime/numb3rs/ti/registration.shtml> The mathematics used in each episode of "NUMB3RS" is based on actual FBI cases. Mathematics consultants work with "NUMB3RS" writers throughout production to ensure the accuracy of the mathematics that is used to help analyze and solve crimes by FBI agent Don Eppes (Rob Morrow) and his mathematical genius brother Charlie (David Krumholtz).

Parents are encouraged to watch the show along with their children to actively discuss how math is used in real life. Additional information on how parents can encourage their children in mathematics will be added to the above website in the coming months.

Source: CBS, as reported in COMET (<http://csmc.ucop.edu/cmp/comet/>)

Mathematical Games & Competitions

Do your students enjoy mathematical games and competitions? In the American Mathematical Society game *Who Wants to Be a Mathematician*, high school students compete for cash and prizes by answering multiple choice mathematics questions. The cash prize in each game is donated by the AMS. Other prize donors are: Maplesoft Inc., Texas Instruments, and John Wiley & Sons. The game is a program of the [AMS Public Awareness Office](#) and was developed by **Mike Breen** (AMS Public Awareness Officer) and **Bill Butterworth** (DePaul University).

The archive contains articles about [past performances of the game](#): <http://www.ams.org/wwtbam/archive/>

A video is available of the game played in Danvers, MA at Danvers High School on April 29, 2004. Watching the game, and playing along, is a great activity for a math club or for individuals who want to match wits with the contestants. Each game lasts approximately 30 minutes.
Source: AMS as reported in COMET



High Stakes Testing

As the national debate continues over whether or not high-stakes testing benefits students, key findings of a newly released study funded by the Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice suggest that the pressures associated with high-stakes testing have no real impact on student achievement.

In the 25 states studied, results suggest that increases in testing pressure are related to increased grade retention and drop-out rates. The authors found that of the states studied, states with the highest proportions of minority students implemented accountability systems that exerted the greatest pressure. Thus, the negative impacts of high-stake testing will disproportionately affect America's minority students.

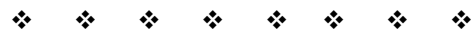
According to Teri Moblo, director of the Great Lakes Center, "This most recent research demonstrates that the pressure to produce high test scores as a result of No Child Left Behind hasn't helped students to achieve more, and has served to limit the depth and breadth of what students are being taught in schools around the country."

Four key findings emerged from the study:

1. **States with greater proportions of minority students tend to implement accountability systems that exert greater pressure.**
2. **Increased testing pressure is related to increased retention and school drop-out rates.** High-stakes testing pressure is negatively associated with the likelihood that eighth and 10th graders will move into 12th grade
3. **NAEP reading scores at the fourth- and eighth-grade levels were not improved as a result of increased testing pressure.** This finding was consistent across African- American, Hispanic and White student subgroups from the 25 participating states.
4. **Weak correlations between testing pressure and NAEP performance for fourth-grade mathematics and the unclear relationship for eighth-grade mathematics are unlikely linked to increased testing pressure.** While a weak relationship emerged at the fourth-grade level, a systematic link between pressure and achievement was not established. For eighth-grade performance, the lack of clarity in the relationship may arise from the interplay of other indirect factors. Inconsistent performance gains in these cases are far more likely the result of indirect factors such as teaching to the test, drill and practice, or the exclusion of lower-achieving students rather than pressure to do well on the test.

Learn more at <http://www.greatlakescenter.org/press.htm>

Source: Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice 9/20/05, as reported in COMET



Upcoming Conferences and Events:

18th Annual T³ (Teachers Teaching with Technology) International Conference

February 24-26, 2006, Denver, CO

Access online registration under "Training" at education.ti.com.

Teachers Teaching with Technology (T³) Regional Conference

March 17 & 18, 2006, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA.

Pre-registration deadline February 27, 2006.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.math.iup.edu/t3/>.

**Teachers Teaching with Technology (T³)
Regional Conference**

March 31 – April 1, 2006, Wilmington, DE
More info at www.k12.de.us/dctm/t3/index.html

**Research for Better Schools (RBS) Regional
Conference**

April 17 & 18, 2006, Philadelphia, PA
For more information, visit: www.rbs.org.

NCSM Annual Conference**Math Leaders Catch the Spirit in St. Louis**

April 24-26, 2006
St. Louis, MO
Find details at www.ncsmonline.org.

NCTM 38th Annual Conference**Asking Questions – Generating Solutions**

April 26-29, 2006, St. Louis, MO
For more information visit: www.nctm.org.

IAS/Park City Mathematics Institute

(Institute for Advance Study)

June 25 – July 15, 2006, Park City, Utah
Visit www.ias.edu/parkcity.

NCTM Regional Conference

October 19-21, 2006, Atlantic City, NJ
For more information go to: www.nctm.org.

**2006 China – U.S. Education Leadership
Conference**

June 27-30, 2006, Beijing, People's Republic of
China.

Visit: [www.globalinteractions.org/Leadership06/
Leadership_home.htm](http://www.globalinteractions.org/Leadership06/Leadership_home.htm).

PCSM Annual Conference

October 26, 2006, Seven Springs Mountain
Resort, Champion, PA

PCTM Annual Conference

October 25-27, 2006, Seven Springs Mountain
Resort, Champion, PA
For more information visit: www.pctm.org.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**Mathematically Sane**

<http://MathematicallySane.com>.

This grass-roots organization provides support for the reform movement in mathematics education in the face of those who still argue for a “back to basics” approach.

A Math Dictionary for Kids

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jeather/maths/dictionary.html>

NCTM Position Papers

For the latest NCTM position papers:

(1) Highly Qualified Teachers

http://nctm.org/about/position_statements/qualified.htm

(2) Computation, Calculators, and Common Sense

http://nctm.org/about/position_statements/computation.htm

(3) Closing the Achievement Gap

http://nctm.org/about/position_statements/position_achievementgap.htm

**Free Online Professional Development
Programming for K-12 Teachers from
Annenberg Media**

A large number of mathematics education workshops are available with Web, video, and print components for individuals or groups.

Go to <http://www.learner.org/>

**Follow-up Report: MSRI Workshop--
Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching (K-
8): Why, What and How?**

Access the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute's (MSRI) second conference in its series, "Critical Issues in Mathematics Education." Top names in mathematics-education research address critical issues of how teacher knowledge affects or limits student achievement.

http://www.msri.org/calendar/workshops/WorkshopInfo/318/show_workshop

