

Resolution of sales tax lawsuit.

Jody Siegle, Executive Director, Monroe County School Boards Association



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On Tuesday, September 9th, the Monroe County Legislature passed a plan to repay Monroe County's school districts the sales tax revenues that were diverted from the schools as part of the County's F.A.I.R. plan enacted 50 weeks earlier. The settlement agreement provides that the County will:

- * Resume the normal payment of the shared sales tax revenues beginning with the County's new fiscal year in January 2009;
- * Repay over five years, beginning in January 2010, all the money withheld from the schools during 2008 plus interest;
- * Pay the legal fees the schools generated during this legal dispute.

Recognizing the significance of the Appellate Court's 5-0 ruling in favor of the school districts' position that the law creating the Medicaid Intercept did not change the County's continuing obligations to comply with their tax sharing agreements, the County approached the schools in a desire to resolve this situation.

Understanding the fiscal problems that would ensue for the County if the County were forced to immediately refund the \$29 million that had been withheld and used in other ways, the school districts agreed to a plan that would enable the County to budget to pay back the money. As residents of the County too, the school negotiators sought a solution that would work well for all the parties.

Now all that remains is for each of the 24 districts involved in the lawsuit against the County to approve the settlement agreement. It is anticipated that those votes will take place at school board meetings in September and October.

One other outcome of this dispute is the County government had learned a great deal about the schools they did not know before. County leaders have gained a new understanding of how schools budget and the role of mandates in determining school spending. Maggie Brooks, the County Executive, has committed to partnering with the schools in the future as we all work to solve the fiscal issues facing our community.

Monroe County Education Coalition

.....Representing 60,000 Members
.....A force in our community

See next page to learn more about your Monroe County Education Coalition.

The November 2008 elections will be pivotal for public schools and for those who work in them. If you haven't yet, PLEASE register to vote!

In order to vote in the November 4 General Election you must be registered.

Note the following deadlines:

**if registering by mail, application must be postmarked by October 10, 2008
in person registration deadline is October 10, 2008; go to your local board of elections**

change of address must be filed by October 15, 2008

Call 1-800-FOR VOTE if you need an application.

For additional information, go to website: <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/voting.html>

MCEC BULLETIN

Monroe County Education Coalition
Working Together To Support Public Education

September 2008

MCEC helps you as you help students learn.

Your Monroe County Education Coalition is here to support your good efforts.

The Monroe County Education Coalition (MCEC) works to –

- * Increase community support for our excellent local public schools
- * Increase awareness of issues that affect children's ability to learn
- * Seek state funding to support public education and education reforms
- * Secure a continued fair share of Monroe County sales tax revenues for school districts.

Your MCEC:

- * Publishes an electronic newsletter regularly on current issues. Access newsletters at http://www.mcsba.org/mcec/news_issues.htm.
- * Develops POSITION STATEMENTS on important issues such as expensive mandates, state aid, and sales tax distribution. Access position statements at <http://www.mcsba.org/mcec/index.htm>.
- * Seeks meetings, as appropriate, with leaders of other governmental entities to present our recommendations in support of public education.

How can MCEC better help you?

Please forward your suggestions for MCEC initiatives or strategies or your general comments to
Judy_Wadsworth@boces.monroe.edu.

Genesee Valley
PTA

Monroe County
Federation
of Teachers

NYS United
Teachers

Monroe County
Association
of School
Business Officials

Monroe County
Council of
School
Superintendents

Monroe County
School Boards
Association

School
Administrators
Association
of NYS

2008-09 MCEC Board

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Barbara Shapiro, Monroe County Federation of Teachers

Jody Siegle, Executive Director, MCSBA

Judy Wadsworth, Ass't to Executive Director, MCSBA

Mary Williamson, Genesee Valley PTA

MCEC

Monroe County Education Coalition

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