

## *December 2007*

### *Collaboratively Speaking*

Recently, I had the opportunity to listen to Paul Reville the new chairperson of the Mass Board of Education. He gave a keynote address at the annual MASS/MASC conference. I was struck by several messages that he articulated. First, he encouraged us to “Celebrate our Successes”. Oftentimes, we get mired in our day-to-day routine, the problems we encounter, the disappointments that we face, and the difficulties with which we are presented. For the last several months, I have had the opportunity to visit with some of you and become aware of what all of you do. I can say with great confidence that you have much success for which you can celebrate. The opportunities, encouragement and support that you provide to so many developmentally and physically challenged young people and adults each day are a cause for much celebration and gratitude.

Second, he spoke about teaching and learning and what it takes to get our students to meet rigorous academic standards. He went on to say, “what do we mean by quality teaching and what do teachers need to improve their craft.” Our collaboratives respond continually and effectively to that challenge with a variety of professional development programs that increase the knowledge base and expand the instructional repertoire of thousands of teachers in our member districts.

Third, he spoke about the importance and efficacy of providing “wrap around services and supports to meet student needs.” Here again, you, in each of our collaboratives, effectively organize and provide a wide array of services for students in your programs and throughout your member districts. I am encouraged by Chairman Reville’s comments. I think he gets it!!!. With his vision and the capacity that you have developed within your organizations, a strong working relationship can be forged that will promote effective student growth and enhance the skills of teachers across the Commonwealth. I am in the process of trying to arrange a meeting with him to begin to solidify that relationship. As we enjoy this season of light and the holidays ahead take time to celebrate your many successes. You deserve it! Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy New Year!

*Best wishes, Steve*

Reminder- The next general membership meeting is scheduled for January 7 and will feature Acting Commissioner of Education Jeff Nelhaus.