

MANS&C

QUARTERLY

Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges

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e-newsletter

FALL 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MANS&C: A Strong and Unified Voice on Beacon Hill



As the legislative session winds down on Beacon Hill, I'm pleased to report that MANS&C once again has had impressive success in stopping bills that would have been costly to our institutions and challenged our independence.

In public hearings and meetings throughout this two-year session, our experienced legislative counsel, John J. Spillane, has persuasively represented MANS&C members by educating state legislators on the negative

impact of these bills and extolling the many benefits we provide our communities.

John also extends our influence on important legislation through his collaboration with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts (www.AICUM.org).

By working together, each of our organizations is stronger.

Lawmakers don't always know the scope of the benefits independent schools and colleges bring to our cities and towns. When he was the guest at a MANS&C board meeting at Cushing Academy in February, State Rep. Stephen L. DiNatale was impressed with the academy's emphasis on globalism and technology. He saw the benefits of dovetailing our institutions' creative programs and intellectual capital with the needs of the community.

To supplement John's work on our behalf on Beacon Hill, it is important for each of us to also educate our state senators and representatives about the contributions we make. Milton Academy, for instance, which is featured this issue, provides extensive financial aid to its local students. Their attendance also represents significant savings to the municipal budget.

Community Impact Statements such as Milton Academy's Town and Gown Report are great tools for these conversations. MANS&C has other examples on our website, www.mansac.org, as well as helpful hints on how to create them.

Assistance with Community Impact Statements is just one of the expanded services MANS&C provides to our members. This spring we established an Advocacy Network, with representatives at each member institution who will make immediate contact with their legislators when quick action is needed on important bills.

Members also have access to the state's top legislative leaders at board meetings and our annual Government Relations luncheon. Important news is distributed via email, the social media, on our website and in the MANS&C Quarterly.

This year MANS&C is celebrating 60 years of service to the non-profit schools, colleges and universities of Massachusetts. Our unique broad-based membership, along with our strong collaborations, allows MANS&C to represent our member schools effectively and consistently for a small membership fee.

I'd like to welcome our new members and thank everyone who has renewed their MANS&C membership in our current drive. If you haven't sent in your membership form yet, please do so as soon as possible.

A new legislative session opens in January and a large, collaborative membership base will once again give us a strong, unified voice on Beacon Hill.

Best regards,

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MANS&C is Successful as Formal Session Wraps Up

The formal session of the Legislature ended July 31 with a flurry of last-minute activity. Thanks to the efforts of Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane and our members, no bills of concern to MANS&C members were passed.

Most of these bills were sent to study, effectively shelving them for the rest of the

session. Others remain in committees and are unlikely to emerge due to the election and other more pressing matters facing lawmakers in the waning weeks of the session.

In order to be considered in the current, informal session, which runs through the end of the year, there must be no opposition to bringing them to the floor.

Legislative Report cont. on page 2

Spillane will continue to keep a close eye on all of these bills in the coming weeks.

Two particularly troublesome bills were sent to study, **House Bill 3003** and its companion, **Senate Bill 790**. The two measures would have placed additional, burdensome reporting requirements on non-profit colleges and universities, as well as their trustees or directors.

Senate Bill 1847, which purported to promote livable communities and zoning reform – but gutted the Dover Amendment in the process – also was turned aside.

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 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. Some refer to public schools but, if passed, may have had long-term implications for nonprofit institutions. Bills sent to study include the following:

- **HB 157** – Established a special commission to study the costs of mandatory school transportation incurred by public school districts.
- **HB 175** – Mandated asthma screening in public schools and at the request of parents in private schools.
- **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 1480** – Established a program within the state Public Health Department to provide standards for the location, operation and maintenance of high containment biological research laboratories.
- **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.
- **HB 3241** – Created a funding mechanism for the reimbursement of lost taxes and municipal services to local municipalities by non-profit entities.

The following Senate bills, opposed by MANS&C, also were effectively killed:

- **SB 668** – Held parents of children ages 7 to 18 civilly liable for bullying and cyber bullying.
- **SB 790** – Required private colleges and universities to report the names of all employees and consultants who made more than a certain dollar amount and required trustees or board members to file reports covering the preceding fiscal year.
- **SB 1440** – Placed restrictions on the sale or conversion of tax-exempt property to residential, commercial or industrial use.
- **SB 1555** – Established a commission to investigate the use of payments in lieu of taxes.

Three bills that provide for public inspection of campus police logs are currently with the Senate Ethics Committee.

The House Ways and Means Committee has bills that involve pricing formulas for special education students, mandate seat belts in school buses, mandate CPR certification for coaches and establish a commission on for-profit colleges, universities and proprietary schools.

Bills involving school bullying are with the House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading.



Innovations Make Cushing Library a Center of Campus Activity

Critics were shocked when Cushing Academy reinvented its Fisher-Watkins Library as a center for digital learning. Today – three years later – the change is a great success.

Headmaster James Tracy calls the new library a “digital agora.”

“In the past, you would see two or three students in the library on a busy day. Now there are 100 or more,” Tracy said. “It’s the most popular spot in the 43 buildings on our campus.”

Instead of traditional stacks of books, the library now makes web-based books and databases available to student laptops and e-readers. A “Cyber-café” has replaced the circulation desk, and librarian-monitors are available to help – in person and online.

“Cyber carrels” are available, as are quiet study rooms. Comfortable chairs are clustered at one end of the room in an open classroom arrangement. And a faculty lounge in the building facilitates informal meetings between teachers and students.

Students also make use of the library’s Kindle e-readers for recreational reading, which has increased ten-fold, according to Tracy.

Some printed books remain in the library and are still used in classes, but the emphasis is on providing students with the technological skills and resources they will need to succeed in college and in life in the 21st century.

“We went from 20,000 books to several million,” Tracy said. “Every student who has access to digital tools can have access to all of human knowledge.”



GOOD NEIGHBORS

Milton Academy Enhances the Quality of Life in its Community

Chartered in 1798 by the commonwealth of Massachusetts, Milton Academy has a mutually beneficial relationship with its town, with a commitment rooted in a spirit of citizenship and responsibility. The social and economic benefits the academy provides to the town of Milton are outlined in its comprehensive Town and Gown Report for 2012.

Economic Contributions

One of the area's largest private employers, the academy employs 570 people. More than 35 percent of them live in the town of Milton.

The academy has spent \$1.6 million with local contractors, businesses and vendors over the last four years. In addition, local businesses are patronized by more than 2,000 parents, alumni and other guests who visit the campus every year, as well as nearly 1,000 prospective students and their families.

Cushing Library cont. from pg. 2

Cushing's innovative library and educational model have attracted the attention of schools and colleges worldwide. Tracy has received calls from the Harvard Law School, Syracuse University, the University of Virginia libraries and other institutions, and he regularly speaks before educational groups about the changes happening at his school.

The innovations are part of Cushing's long tradition of embracing the best of the future, Tracy says in his welcoming letter on the school website.

The academy was founded in 1865 as a coeducational boarding school, more than a century before many other schools went co-ed. Cushing also was one of the first private schools in the country to recruit foreign students and to support and mainstream students with learning differences.

"Cushing is once again the model that other schools emulate as the best of the new, woven seamlessly into the rich tapestry of tradition," Tracy said.



In the 2011-12 school year, 208 local students attended the academy, representing an annual savings of \$2.4 million to the town of Milton. This year, 35 students who live in Milton received nearly \$885,000 in financial aid from the academy.

Over the last two-and-a-half years, Milton Academy has paid about \$900,000 to the town of Milton. In addition, the academy:

- › Provides 24-hour security to its campus area and hires local police details for major campus events.
- › Maintains town sidewalks surrounding the campus and clears streets and sidewalks during snowstorms.
- › Manages its own waste and recycling program and paid more than \$75,000 last year for trash removal last year; alleviating pressure on the town waste-management program.
- › Donated \$25,000 to the town for computers and IT upgrades.
- › Provided nearly \$43,000 in grants for guardrail and sidewalk construction projects.
- › Uses its own well water for all irrigation and cooling towers on campus.
- › Supports the efforts of its staff members who volunteer with various local agencies, including the police and fire departments.

Milton Academy also offers its facilities and programs to local youth sports leagues and organizations at reduced rates or free of charge. Residents can enjoy free open skating at the Roberts Rink and free use of its outdoor tennis courts. And the academy's college fair and Nesto art gallery are open to the public at no cost.

Ice time and Pool and Tennis Club memberships have been donated to local fundraisers. In addition, the academy's Dining Services has provided food to the Milton Food Pantry, and beverages were given to the Milton Green Home Fair.

A wide range of academy programs also benefit Milton residents. One of them, the Saturday Course, is an enrichment program for talented and academically motivated students in grades 4 through 8. The program enrolled 56 local students in the 2011-12 school year.

Community Service

Through Milton Academy's Community Service Program, students are involved in a wide range of meaningful service opportunities and special events. Roughly 250 academy students volunteer every week at more than 30 organizations in the Milton and Greater Boston area. They tutor in local schools, assist the elderly and help out at the Milton Animal Shelter, among other things.

In addition, more than 200 students, faculty, staff and parents are involved in the Greater Boston Food Bank, Special Olympics tournaments, the Red Cross Blood Drive, the town of Milton Green Day and Green Homes Fair, and much more. The Middle and Upper Schools also participate in the biennial Community Service Days at local elementary schools, Milton Hospital and other locations.

In May, academy seniors spend 20 to 40 hours per week doing service and research internships in local public schools and other locations.

To read the complete Town and Gown report, please go to <http://www.milton.edu/about/milton/upload/TG2012.pdf>

MANS&C regularly features brief sketches of schools, colleges and universities that provide significant social and economic benefits to their communities. To nominate your institution for an article, please contact MANS&C Communications Specialist Ann Hall at annhall68@verizon.net.



Board Announces Upcoming Meetings

The MANS&C Board has announced its meeting schedule for the 2012-13 year. All members are encouraged to attend.

- › Dec. 6, 2012, noon to 2 p.m. Stonehill College, Easton
- › Feb. 12, 2013, noon to 2 p.m., Dexter & Southfield Schools, Brookline
- › May 2, 2013 Annual Meeting, noon to 2 p.m. (tentative)

Anyone interested in attending should contact MANS&C President Julaine McInnis at 781-545-5544, x-115 or jmcinnis@inlyschool.org.

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