



MANS&C

The Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges

Annual Meeting Speaker Urges New Approach on Attempts to Tax Endowments



State Rep. Theodore Speliotis speaks with MANS&C Board Member Bobbi Whiting of Shore Country Day School

Instead of being defensive, State Rep. Theodore Speliotis is urging nonprofit schools, colleges and universities to take the offense when legislators want to tax their endowments.

“The focus should not be on the institution – it should be on the donors,” he said in remarks delivered May 21 at the MANS&C Annual Meeting in Boston.

Speliotis noted that the taxation bills now under consideration on Beacon Hill focus only on educational institutions. “What incentive will a donor have if [an endowment] is taxed?” he asked. “They’ll find another means for their funds. That pool would just dry up.”

He proposed asking lawmakers, “Are you as a legislature offering to replace that money?”

Recalling his own family’s experience, he pointed out that scholarships provided through endowments can make college a reality for people who could not otherwise afford it. As a result, generations of people can be elevated.

Speliotis is chairman of the influential House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, which reviews all bills before they go to the floor for debate.

The veteran lawmaker is considered one of the most effective, approachable and informed legislators on Beacon Hill. A Democrat, he represents Middleton, Peabody and his hometown of Danvers.

Speliotis has a degree from Northeastern University and is certified to teach. He also is a former director of State Relations for Northeastern and was a member of the Governor’s Task Force on School Violence.

MANS&C Opposes Bills Affecting Biolabs, Real Estate Transactions, PILOTs

Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane recently stated MANS&C’s opposition to major bills that would draw local government into certain real estate transactions, open the door to PILOT programs and add unnecessary, burdensome regulations on college and university labs.

Two similar bills, **House 2513 and 2492**, would give communities a 120-day right of first refusal when nonprofit schools and colleges want to sell or convert tax-exempt property for residential, commercial or industrial use.

In testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Revenue, Spillane said the bills would have a chilling effect on private real estate transactions, forcing them to become overwhelmingly public in nature. “Commercial real estate development does not work in this way,” he said, “especially when a real estate transaction between private parties is in its formative stages.”

Spillane pointed out that as a rule, nonprofit schools and colleges already share information about strategic initiatives involving real estate with local

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The MANS&C Annual Meeting on May 21 was a tremendous success!

In addition to the MANS&C members and guests who attended, we welcomed a number of corporate partners and friends who are in the process of becoming Sponsorship Members.

This relatively new membership category enables corporate partners to network with MANS&C members and learn about new regulations and pending bills that would affect our institutions. They are a strong and welcome addition to our organization.

We had a near-capacity crowd at the Hampshire House in Boston and an engaging guest speaker, State Rep. Theodore Speliotis, who offered valuable insight on how to approach a particularly vexing issue – bills that threaten to tax our endowments.

One of Beacon Hill's most senior and influential legislators, Rep. Speliotis also graciously spent time talking one-on-one with members. He showed an understanding of our institutions' concerns and a willingness to listen.

The opportunity to meet with Rep. Speliotis and other key legislators is only one of the many benefits of MANS&C membership. We've been representing the interests of nonprofit schools, colleges and universities at the State House for more than 60 years and have an enviable record in turning back troublesome bills. We also keep our members up-to-date about issues of concern.

MANS&C's annual membership campaign is about to get underway. I hope you will renew your membership or sign on as a new member. With your help we can remain a strong and vital voice for nonprofit schools, colleges and universities in Massachusetts for many years to come.

Best Regards,

Julaine McInnis, MANS&C President
781-494-7707
jmcinnis@ursulineacademy.net



John J. Spillane

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government and consider them potential buyers.

Senate Bill 1451 would allow local communities to impose real estate taxes on nonprofit schools, colleges and universities. In testimony before the Committee on Revenue, Spillane pointed out the institutions' constitutionally embedded right under current law to be exempt from taxes on real estate that is dedicated and utilized for educational purposes.

He noted that PILOT programs not only drain vital resources from operational budgets, they also dismiss the social and economic contributions that nonprofit schools make to their communities. They navigated through the same economic storm that municipalities faced over the last few years and do not have unlimited resources, he explained.

Mandatory PILOT programs could result in a cutback of community services and possibly school closures, reductions in student financial aid and a loss of jobs, all of which would have a negative effect on local communities, Spillane said.

House Bill 1945 is another attempt to stop Boston University's embattled level 4 biolab from opening. Spillane said the process also imposes additional regulations on Level 2 and 3 labs that are currently in operation or being planned on many campuses.

He called the proposed regulations, "onerous and expensive" and said they would take away the competitive advantage nonprofit colleges and universities have in Massachusetts. The institutions' ability to attract resources in the cutting-edge life sciences industry also would be adversely affected.

MANS&C 2015 Annual Meeting

MANS&C members and guests gathered on May 21 at the Hampshire House in Boston for the organization's Annual Meeting. The meeting featured an address by State Rep. Theodore Speliotis, chairman of the House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

All photos are identified from left to right.



Jackie Wright and MANS&C Treasurer Rick Saul, both of Dexter Southfield



Rob McCarron of AICUM and Charles Breslin of Dana Hall



Dennis Marasca and Jon Wasserman of the Rivers School, and Steve Nadeau of 360 Corporate Benefit Advisors



Cindy Laba of Beacon Academy and Chris Miller of Gann Academy



Meredith Mooney of Boston University



Sam Daume of Fred C. Church, MANS&C Board Member Bobbi Whiting of Shore Country Day School, former MANS&C President Debbie Martin Andrews



MANS&C Board Members Todd Vincent of Dexter Southfield and Bill Stephenson of Thayer Academy



Loretta Stokes and Betsy Smith, both of Shore Country Day School

Members Elect New Board, Officers at Annual Meeting

MANS&C members elected a slate of officers for the 2015-16 year and added a new board member at the organization's Annual Meeting on May 21.

OFFICERS

- President – Julaine McInnis, Ursuline Academy
- Vice President – Jeanne Finlayson, Stonehill College
- Treasurer – Richard D. Saul, Dexter Southfield
- Clerk – Timothy Parson, Beaver Country Day School

BOARD MEMBERS

- Alan Clarence, the Fay School (new member)
- William J. Conley Jr., College of the Holy Cross
- Michelle Consalvo, Boston University
- Linda C. Deasy, Lawrence Academy
- William Stephenson, Thayer Academy
- Todd A. Vincent, Dexter Southfield
- Roberta B. Whiting, Shore Country Day School

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-16

The Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges (MANS&C) 20 Newton St. | Brookline MA | 02445-7498

Julaine McInnis **President**

Business Manager
Ursuline Academy
85 Lowder St.
Dedham, MA 02026
781-494-7707
jmcinnis@ursulineacademy.net

Jeanne M. Finlayson **Vice President**

Vice President for Finance
Stonehill College
320 Washington Street
Easton, MA 02357
508-565-1337
jfinlayson@stonehill.edu

Richard D. Saul **Treasurer**

Business Manager
Dexter Southfield
20 Newton Street
Brookline, MA 02445
617-522-5544
rsaul@dexter.org

Timothy Parson **Clerk**

Director of Finance & Operations
Beaver Country Day School
791 Hammond Street
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-2300
617-738-2744
tparson@bcdschool.org

Alan Clarence

Director of Finance & Operations
The Fay School
48 Main Street
Southborough, MA 01772
508-490-8211
aclarence@fayschool.org

William J. Conley Jr.

*Dir., Administrative Services,
Acting Affirmative Action Officer*
College of the Holy Cross
1 College Street
Worcester, MA 01610-2395
508-793-3423
wjconley@holycross.edu

Michelle Consalvo

*Exec. Dir. of Government
& Community Relations*
Boston University
121 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215-1714
617-353-9095
consalvo@bu.edu

Linda C. Deasy

*Director of Finance
& Business Operations*
Lawrence Academy
26 Powderhouse Road
PO Box 992
Groton, MA 01450
978-448-1515
ldeasy@lacademy.edu

William Stephenson

Business Manager
Thayer Academy
745 Washington Street
Braintree, MA 02184
781-664-2519
bstephenson@thayer.org

Todd A. Vincent

Headmaster
Dexter Southfield
20 Newton Street
Brookline, MA 02445
617-522-5544
tvincent@dexter.org

Roberta B. Whiting

Chief Financial Officer
Shore Country Day School
545 Cabot Street
Beverly, MA 01951
978-927-1700
bwhiting@shoreschool.org

MANS&C STAFF MEMBERS

Legislative Counsel

John J. Spillane
23 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609-2713
508-756-4342
spillanejj@spillanelaw.com

Communications Specialist

Ann Hall
annhall68@verizon.net

Webmaster

Brad Solomon
brad@bradsolomon.net

LIAISONS TO THE BOARD

AICUM

Robert J. McCarron, Esq.
www.aicum.org