

October 2020

# MANAGING YOUR FACILITIES

Newsletter for the National School Plant Management Association



**Keith W. Watkins, CDF, NSPMA President**  
Assistant Director of Facilities  
City School District of New Rochelle, NY

## *What We Become!*

The past five months have certainly been what seems like a never ending roller coaster ride. In my almost 30 years of public school facilities related management, I have never seen such unrest, panic, fear, and confusion. In facilities management we have been taught to not reinvent the wheel, reach out to those who have experienced similar issues, and to use the resources around us. Well, many of us are still looking for the COVID-19 playbook! The good news is, by being a member of NSPMA and some of our own state professional associations, we have managed to implement some very successful

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"I've heard that we don't grow personally or professionally unless something is challenging to us. If that's true, we have all just experienced a significant growth spurt!"

programs and protocols to create very safe and clean school environments. I think the saying, "It's what you learn after you know it all that's most important", really applies here.

So welcome to the new normal! Many things will never be the same related to education, and a huge portion of that involves facilities management. How about some of the 2020 terminology that will be with us for years to come. Terms like, social distancing, quarantine, Zoom, High MERV filtration, antimicrobial coatings, electrostatic, ATP meters, particulate meters, temperature scanners, hand washing, virtual, Microban, High frequency touch points, Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization, polycarbonate barriers, face masks, face shields, N95, gowns, respirators, hand sanitizer, 20 seconds, photocatalytic, air scrubber, UV-C, airborne, droplets, EPA List N, WHO, CDC, DOH, dwell time, disinfectant, sanitize, deep clean, ventilation, just to name a few. As if we didn't have enough to do already!

I've heard that we don't grow personally or professionally unless something is challenging to us. If that's true, we have all just experienced a significant growth spurt! I can only relate it as trying to drink from a fire hose. You have two choices, you can either drown, or stay afloat and focus on why you were hired to lead in your facilities management position. Currently, the world we coexist in is going through some significant political, cultural, medical and environmental challenges. Now more than ever we need to stay focused on creating the safest and cleanest environment possible. I continue to challenge you to be the best you can be, and be the change you want to see.

I have never been more honored to be part of this amazing association. As your NSPMA President, I have seen the growth of many, the humbling of some, and repetitive gestures of kindness and support by the majority. I continue to pledge my dedication to NSPMA and its membership through these extremely difficult times, and beyond. As an example of our continued growth, I would like to congratulate Dr. John Bailey, who was recently appointed as the NSPMA Executive Director. John's proven work ethic and dedication will continue to be a driving force in the success and growth of our association. We look forward to great things in the future, congratulations again John!

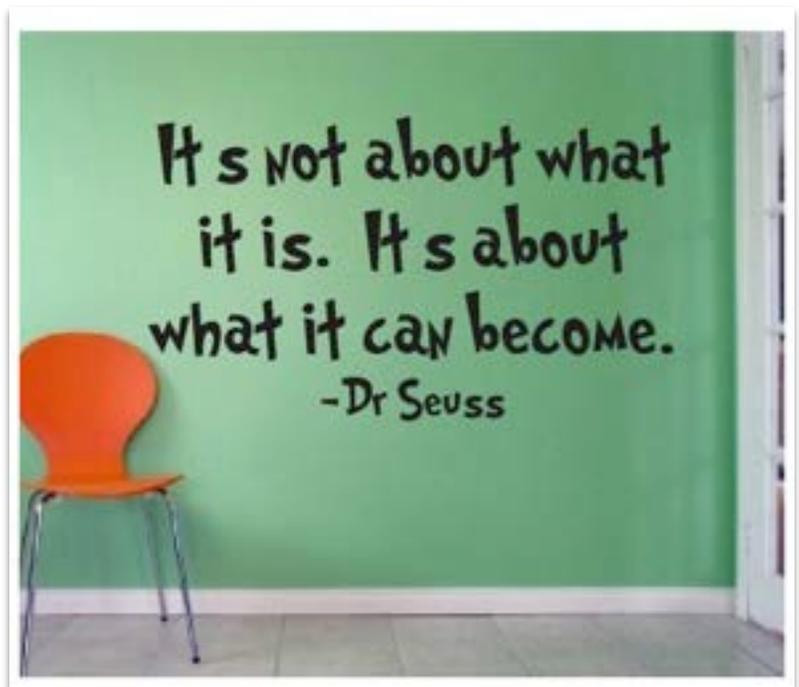
I wish you all the best as you begin the new school year, and reopen your school buildings in many different facets to welcome back our students, teachers and community. I encourage you all to be patient, flexible and supportive, as returning to our buildings will be a new experience, all over again.

*Thank you for all that you're doing and will continue to do as Facilities Professionals!*

*We are stronger and better together!*

Sincerely,

Keith W. Watkins, CDF – NSPMA President





**REGISTRATION**  
**NOW OPEN!**



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE SCSPMA PRESIDENT

On behalf of the South Carolina School Plant Management Association, I would like to welcome everyone back to beautiful Myrtle Beach, SC for our 2021 joint conference with the National School Plant Management Association. We are delighted to have our neighbors from across the country.

This past year has taken us into unfamiliar territory. In accordance with CDC and SCDHEC guidelines, we became innovative and developed safe and sanitary conditions and established protocols for the return of our students. This conference will allow us to share our experiences we have faced since our time here together last February 2020 with the changes and precautions setup within your School Districts. Without School Plant Management, our children would not be able to return to brick and mortar schools and function properly. We have had to adjust to social distancing, virtual meetings, PPE and health monitoring in our ever changing climate. I hope that we will be able to learn from each other through networking with our attendees and vendors to continue to keep our facilities and workspaces safe and healthy. Our Vendors offer many products and services designed for this changing environment.

As leaders coming together we have one common interest and goal, to maintain our schools and facilities and to enhance the learning environment for our present and future generations. We are essential!

I want to thank each and every one for your attendance. Without your input and commitment, SCSPMA would not be able to accomplish tasks to keep you educated, informed and proactive in fundamental School Plant management practices.

Thanks again for your attendance and continued service to the school children of our great nation.

Best Regards,

Timothy Anderson

2020 SCSPMA President



## 2020/21 AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

NSPMA is pleased to announce the following award programs for 2021. The deadline all all of the programs except the student scholarship program is December 1, 2020. The scholarship application is due December 15, 2020.

### **FACILITY MASTERS AWARD PROGRAM**

In 2003, a program was created that identified the best practices of a high performing maintenance organization. This document, **Planning Guide for Maintaining School Facilities**, was conceptualized and developed by the School Facilities Maintenance Task Force of the National Forum on Education Statistics. The deadline to submit this application is December 1, 2020. For additional details and an application, click [here](#).

### **PAT COCHRANE MEMORIAL AWARD**

The Pat Cochrane Memorial Award is given each year in honor of Pat Cochrane, a former board member of the National School Plant Management Association. Pat always challenged the Association to look ahead, his vision of growing NSPMA to be a leader in the K-12 facilities area was always first on his mind. Training and outreach to its members was a priory for Pat in his position on the NSPMA Board. Each year this award is given to someone in the association who exhibits leadership skills, passion and a vision for the k-12 facilities in America. This application is due December 1, 2020. For details and application, click [here](#).

### **NATIONAL SCHOOL PLANT MANAGER AWARD**

Do you have someone that has excelled and deserves recognition for excellence? As a member you can fill out a form and submit this to the Board! Nominations are due December 1, 2020. For more information on this award click [here](#).

### **NATIONAL SCHOOL PLANT MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

The National School Plant Management Association seeks to assist students who are continuing their education by offering scholarships to those pursuing a Technical/Trade Certification, Associates or Bachelor of Facilities/Engineering degree.

Any graduating senior, college freshman, sophomore, or junior is eligible to apply for a scholarship. The total number of scholarship awards is based on available funding capabilities of the NSPMA Scholarship Trust Fund. Awards are based on the selection criteria of financial need, academic achievement, co-curricular participation, community service, and essay response. Individual scholarships may range from \$500 up to \$1,500 depending on the candidate's interest, evaluation results, and recommendation from NSPMA Scholarship Committee. The deadline to submit an application is December 15, 2020. For additional details and scholarship click [here](#).

### **NSMPA MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP**

NSPMA seeks to assist a qualified member who plans on continuing their education by offering a scholarship to an NSPMA member pursuing a Technical Certification, Associates or Bachelor degree to further their School Plant/Facilities Management Career. This scholarship application is due December 1, 2020. For additional details and the scholarship application click [here](#).

# Arkansas' School Facility Partnership Program

“A Path to Adequacy and Equity”

**Mike Mertens**

NSPMA Ex-Officio, Special Projects: Assistant Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators

On November 21, 2002, the Arkansas Supreme Court affirmed in the Lake View School court case that educational facilities serving the public school system in Arkansas were both inadequate and unequal, and violated the state constitutional guarantee of a free, adequate, efficient, and substantially equal public education for Arkansas children. The court charged the Governor and the state General Assembly with the responsibility of correcting these defects in public policy.



One of the first initiatives in this process was a statewide educational facilities study. Such a study was determined by the Arkansas legislature to be an integral component toward satisfying the requirements imposed by the Supreme Court's decision in Lake View. The facility assessments began in June of 2004 and by September of the same year 83 million square feet of school facilities had been assessed. The final report back to the legislature included a comprehensive assessment with associated costs and specific recommendations that represented a broad scope of work to improve public education facilities across the state.

This answer to this statewide facility upgrade was the creation of the Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities Program requiring every district to bear some or all of the cost of repair, renovation or construction of its facilities and to develop a district ten-year facilities master plan detailing immediate, short-term, and long-range facility needs. Newly approved funding by the state Legislature represented the state's share of the cost of the local district building projects. The state's share is determined by a district's student enrollment and its local property tax wealth, with wealthier districts qualifying for smaller percentages of state building aid. Poorer districts were able to access up to 70% of the cost of a new or renovated facility through the Partnership program.

In collaboration, local school districts and the state have invested approximately \$3.8 billion to upgrade academic facilities since the inception of the Partnership Program in 2006-07 (\$2.3 billion locally and \$1.5 billion from the state). Investing in school facilities not only meets the needs of students but also is a tremendous economic investment that creates jobs and supports Arkansas construction trades.

There are still facility needs in the state, especially in economically depressed areas in certain parts of the state plagued by declining student enrollment. The Facility Partnership Program will continue to be a valuable resource for school districts across Arkansas as they continue to update and modernize their facilities.

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