Congratulations to Maureen Cotter, this year’s Outstanding School Committee Leadership Award winner. Maureen currently serves as Vice Chair of the South Kingstown school committee and presented her with the award. Superintendent of South Kingstown Schools, Dr. Kristen Stringfellow, remarked on Maureen’s accomplishments throughout her over 20 years on the school committee and presented her with the award. Former Massachusetts State Secretary of Education David Brousseau, Jim Cotter, Maureen Cotter, John Saviano, RIASC President (Pictured Left to Right) have identified the core skills that effective boards need to ensure that all students achieve at high levels. Meeting was well attended and many members received recognition for all their professional development endeavors.

NSBA has recently revised the Key Work of School Boards which together form a framework for effective school governance. This is called the Key Work of School Boards. With these skills, boards can guide their vision to fruition by exploring, questioning, assessing, and working with others to improve outcomes for today’s students as well as America’s next generation. NSBA’s revised Key Work of School Boards is now available at www.nsba.org/board/key-work.

The RIASC Board met and approved a policy for its voluntary professional development program for school committees. Committees created the Leadership Academy, a 2-year training and professional development program for school committee members who have demonstrated a commitment to public education, ongoing professional development, and the leadership of their local school committee. In 2004 The Rhode Island Association of School Administrators and Councilors (RIASC) has sponsored the Leadership Academy for school committee members who have demonstrated a commitment to professional development and leadership in their local school committee. Over 200 members have graduated from the Leadership Academy. The form can also be obtained by visiting our website at www.riasc.org and linking to the Leadership Academy.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RIASC members who attend will be granted professional development hours toward RIASC credentials. RIASC is in the process of updating the Teacher Contract Database. Please forward me your electronic teacher contracts as soon as it is available. You can also obtain teacher contracts through the RIASC Teacher Contract website at www.teachercontract.org. You may also elect to subscribe to the Teacher Contract newsletter which is distributed several times a year.

External training is defined as sessions that have relevance to your role as a school committee member, but are not sponsored by RIASC. In order to qualify for external training credit, a Request for Approval must be submitted to the RIASC Office. A Request for Approval is available at the RIASC website at www.riasc.org. You may also elect to subscribe to the RIASC newsletter which is distributed several times a year.

External training sessions are the RIASC Board-approved sessions that have relevance to your role as a school committee member. According to State law, Rhode Island school committee members must engage in six hours of professional development annually. Did you know RIASC offered over 80 hours of professional development opportunities to members in 2015 and overall members have accrued over 8,000 professional development hours?

In 2004 The Rhode Island Association of School Administrators and Councilors (RIASC) was formed in an effort to address the needs of school committee members in Rhode Island. RIASC includes members from school districts across the state.

RIASC will be sponsoring sessions at its 2016 Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Massachu...