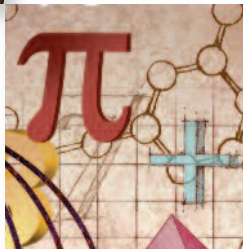
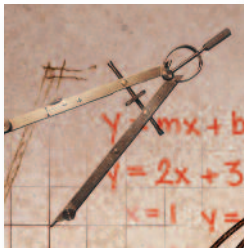


FROM THE EDITOR

An Aggressive Agenda



Between stimulus funding and the “Race to the Top” grants that will be handed out over the next couple of years, there is no question that the Obama administration is taking an extremely active role in public education.

In September’s edition, we focused on teacher issues in our cover package (“The Quest for Quality”). This month, we look at the critical area of math and science education in “From STEM to Root.”

As Senior Editor Lawrence Hardy notes in his story, “In this ‘race’ to strengthen the public schools with cutting-edge reforms, science and math education is expected to lead the way.” Larry goes on to look at what must occur for that to happen in this interesting and compelling story.

Meanwhile, interspersed throughout, Senior Editor Naomi Dillon looks at challenges districts face as they work to improve students’ STEM skills. And two famous outsiders—former astronaut Sally Ride and oceanographer Robert Ballard—weigh in on programs they are promoting to help do the same.

Then, at the end of the package, Patte Barth of NSBA’s Center for Public Education weighs in with “Core Curriculum 2.0,” a look at the research on the skills needed for 21st century education—technology, innovation, problem solving, teamwork, and more. As Barth concludes, U.S. schools do not need to scrap what they have and start over in the race to be globally

competitive, but they do need an upgrade.

That’s not all you will find in this month’s issue. In our Up Front section, we debut Mike Resnick’s new monthly column, “On the Hill.” In each issue, Resnick—NSBA’s associate executive director for advocacy and issues management—will take a look at what is happening in Washington that affects local school districts.

Also, we also are fortunate to have an essay by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan that explains his position on mayoral control and partnerships. The story, “It Takes A City,” appears on Page 30.

After that, take a moment to read our special report on Facilities and Maintenance, led by Associate Editor Joetta Sack-Min’s feature, “The Hot Iron” (Page 34). Joetta examines how incentives can help you save big bucks on maintenance, even in a flagging economy.

Finally, I’d like to point your attention to the first in a year-long series of stories on the green school movement. The story is written by Rachel Gutter of the U.S. Green Building Council, and will be one of six that we will feature on this phenomenon.

I hope you enjoy the variety of stories you find in October. As always, we love to hear your feedback about the magazine. If you have a moment, please send us your comments to editor@asbj.com.

Until next month...

Glenn Cook, Editor-in-Chief