

Onondaga-Madison School Boards Association Board Member of Achievement Honoree



Pat Mouton was one of the strongest advocates for the Liverpool Central School District through a variety of roles – as a parent, as a teacher, as a member of the Board of Education and finally as Liverpool’s Board President.

Pat devoted her entire professional and private life to education. She taught English in Liverpool High School for 19 years. Prior to that, she taught nine years in the neighboring district of North Syracuse.

During her teaching career, Pat was named a USA Distinguished Teacher by the Presidential Scholars Committee and received the Outstanding English Teacher of New York State award on two separate occasions. She was twice named a National Endowment for the Humanities scholar and delivered scholarly presentations at the Philadelphia Classical Society, the New York State English Council, the New York State Council for the Social Studies, the Central New York Librarians Unlimited, The English Speaking Union of Syracuse and Syracuse University.

After retirement, Pat decided to serve the community in a different way by joining the Liverpool Board of Education in 2002. As an eight-year member of the board, she served as a liaison to three District elementary schools: Long Branch Elementary, Wetzel Road Elementary and Liverpool Elementary.

Pat was elected Board President in July 2009. In February 2010, The American Dairy Association and Dairy Council honored her with the Universal Breakfast Champion Award because of her support of the District's universal breakfast program and because she knew that good nutrition goes hand in hand with student learning.

Pat led the Board during very difficult times. Facing cuts in both state and local funding, she joined a committee of educators that lobbied the Onondaga County Legislature for fair distribution of sales tax revenue to Central New York school districts. She also abhorred censorship and, despite dealing with angry community members at times, Pat made sure everyone had the opportunity to share their opinions with the Board of Education. Sadly, Pat collapsed toward the end of a particularly difficult board meeting on March 15, and later passed away.

Pat's fellow board members have nominated her for the New York State School Boards Association's Everett R. Dyer Award for Distinguished Board Service. This fall, the District will rename the LHS library in her honor, a fitting tribute to a woman who absolutely loved books and would often recommend a "good read" to anyone she met. In addition, Pat's personal collection of books dealing with folklore and mythology will be donated to the library for student use.