

BOCES Annual Meeting

► Thursday, April 5

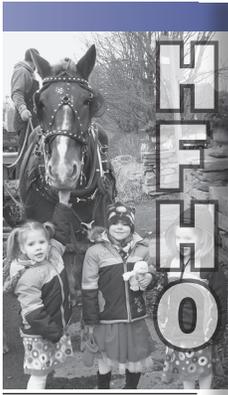


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“Let us commit once again this year to work closely together to provide our students the very best education that New York state can provide.”

– John B. King Jr.
Commissioner of Education



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Community Partnership Award winner Herkimer County Community College was instrumental in making our new Information Technology Academy a reality.

Pre-meeting events

- ▶ Reception hosted by the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES culinary and hospitality program.
- ▶ Display featuring artwork from students in component school districts.
- ▶ Entertainment provided by the Frankfort-Schuyler Show Choir.
- ▶ Community Partnership Award to be presented to Herkimer County Community College.

Annual Meeting Agenda

The Annual Meeting reception will start at 6:15 p.m., with the following meeting agenda beginning at 7 p.m.

I. Call to Order

- ▶ Pledge of Allegiance
- ▶ Approval of 2011 Minutes
 - Mr. Michael Button, Chairperson, Frankfort-Schuyler CSD

II. Welcome and Introductions

- ▶ W. Lee Bynon, President, BOCES Board of Education

III. Presentation of BOCES Annual Report and Budget Highlights

- ▶ Mark Vivacqua, District Superintendent

IV. Introduction of BOCES Board Candidates

- ▶ Respective Component Superintendents
- ▶ Candidates will address the audience:
 - Thomas Shypski, Richfield Springs Central School
 - William Dodge, Little Falls City School
 - Michele Szarek, Poland Central School

V. Adjournment

- ▶ Mr. Michael Button

MINUTES FROM 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. Mark Domser, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The notice of Annual Meeting and the 2010 Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed.

Harry Reeder moved and John Cipriano seconded a motion to approve the 2010 Annual Meeting minutes. All members present voted in favor.

W. Lee Bynon, BOCES Board President, welcomed everyone and introduced the BOCES Board of Education. The Poland Middle School Band was thanked for providing this evening's entertainment and students in the Culinary Hospitality program were recognized for catering the reception.

President Bynon informed those in attendance that Mr. Bertolini is not seeking re-election and Mrs. Brockway is resigning her position on the BOCES Board. Both were recognized for their board service.

President Bynon introduced Mark Vivacqua and Mark Deierlein to present the BOCES Annual Report and Budget Highlights. The board goals & objectives were highlighted.

Mr. Vivacqua informed the audience that Jay Countryman withdrew his board nomination. A vacancy exists for a one-year term. A special election will be held.

Three candidates have been nominated for three three-year terms on the BOCES Board.

At this time, the candidates seeking a position on the BOCES Board were introduced and given an opportunity to speak on behalf of their candidacy. The 2011 candidates include: William Miller [Owen D. Young], Lawrence Thibault [Mount Markham] and Scott Tranter [Poland].

Mark Conley moved and Alicia Brockway seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. All members present voted in favor.



Members of the BOCES Board of Education. First row: Thomas Shypski, Daniel Voce, Daniel LaLonde, William Miller. Second row: W. Lee Bynon, Scott Tranter, William Dodge, Lawrence Thibault, Michele Szarek.

A letter to our local Boards of Education

Dear component board members,

Between the time this letter was written and when it is read at the Annual Meeting, the state will very likely have passed its second on-time budget in a row. It is also likely that the budget will represent the second year of the systematic de-funding of our low wealth schools. Only in working together, through cooperative planning and strategic advocacy, will we be able to weather this storm. The Annual Meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss how BOCES factors into the planning for all component districts.

Every board of education has reviewed the BOCES budget, and this is the formal last review before voting on April 25. We will also hear from the candidates for the BOCES Board and learn about programmatic updates. Just as important, we will take time to celebrate our most precious resources – our students – and to

benefit from the fellowship of our colleagues among the 12 districts within which we are privileged to work.

Thanks to the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District and President Michael Button for serving as guest host and chair of the Annual Meeting and for providing the evening's entertainment. We are also continuing the student art show as a new tradition that started last year. Thank you for your continued support of the BOCES and for all that you do for our students.

Respectfully,

W. Lee Bynon, President BOCES Board of Education

Mark Vivacqua, District Superintendent & CEO





2012-13 Tentative Budget Summaries

Summary of Tentative Administrative Budget

Personal Services	\$626,456
Fringe Benefits	\$282,013
Equipment	\$4,500
Supplies and Materials	\$33,500
Revenue Note Interest Expense	\$50,000
Total Contract Expense	\$258,995
Retirement Benefits	\$1,143,436
Net Transfers (other than capital)	\$146,360
Total Administrative Budget	\$2,545,260

Summary of Tentative Program Budget

Career and Technical Education	\$4,473,782
Instruction of Students with Disabilities	\$3,543,901
Itinerant Services	\$2,955,101
General Instruction	\$534,174
Instructional Support	\$982,081
Total Program Budget	\$12,489,039

Summary of Tentative Capital Budget

Rental of Facilities	\$428,187
Transfer to Capital Projects Funds	\$1,394,188
Total Capital Budget	\$1,822,375

Compensation of District Superintendent

State Salary	\$43,499
BOCES Salary	\$120,414
Annualized Benefits	\$18,738
Total Compensation	\$182,651

Administrative and capital budget primers

Administrative Budget Primer

BOCES operates with the collective support of its component school districts; the districts must pay an administrative assessment to cover the administrative portion of the total costs of operating BOCES.

A district's responsibility or level of ownership of the administrative budget is determined by its student population. The number used is resident weighted average daily attendance [RWADA]. Each district's proportion of the total RWADA for all 12 districts is their portion of the administrative budget responsibility.

A defeat of the administrative budget for failure to secure a majority

among those voting will result in the adoption of the previous year's budget, excluding costs associated with retirement and retiree health insurance.

The administrative budget, as submitted by a BOCES, is reviewed by others at the State Education Department for its compliance with law and regulation.

Upon approval, the administrative budget is static. This means that, unlike program budgets maintained by BOCES, the administrative budget does not fluctuate because of district requests.

The categories that make up the administrative budget are prescribed

by law and, therefore, are consistent BOCES-to-BOCES throughout New York state.

Capital Budget Primer

An estimate of the rentals, capital expenditures and debt service of the BOCES is presented along with the BOCES Administrative Budget.

State legislation, which gave component boards the right to vote on the administrative budget in 1994 purposely exempted the capital budget from a vote.

Were the capital budget fixed, BOCES would be unable to respond to mid-year district requests requiring additional classroom rentals, such as special education classes.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

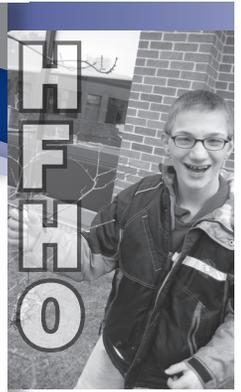
The first phase of the BOCES capital project was completed this fall. The total bond amount authorized by the voters was \$17,025,000. After the project design, the cost was estimated at \$14,250,000, which was borrowed through the Dormitory Authority of New York. Construction costs were favorable at bid time, and the project was completed approximately \$3 million under budget.

Over the next two summers, BOCES will be completing additional renovations. This final phase utilizes the unspent \$3 million and seeks to complete work initially identified in the original project scope but deleted due to cost concerns. Major components include paving the entrance road and bus circle, renovating many bathrooms and reconstructing two classroom areas. One classroom area is in the special education wing, and the other is in the Career and Technical Education wing.

An element that will likely draw the most attention is reconstruction of the lobby area and nurse's suite. Unfortunately, the planetarium has not been utilized by component districts for some time, and given the age

of the stargazer, which has undergone several repairs and is currently not functioning, we can no longer justify spending the resources necessary to maintain it.

Therefore, the planetarium will be dismantled and the area reconfigured to allow for much needed lobby space and an appropriately sized nurse's suite. The lobby has been designed so as to double as additional conference space, which is also sorely needed.



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A letter from the State Education Department Commissioner

To members of the Cooperative Boards of New York state,

On behalf of the Chancellor and the Board of Regents, thank you for your continued efforts and dedicated leadership in the implementation of the Regents Reform Agenda. Our shared goal of ensuring that every student is college and career ready has never been more important given the competition that our students will face as they enter the 21st century workforce. Committing ourselves to the implementation of this agenda in disciplined fashion despite the fiscal and political challenges will send a very clear message to our students, parents and communities of what matters most in our schools, namely instruction based upon the Common Core Standards; a comprehensive, data-rich assessment system that allows us to watch closely the progress of our students; and an effective performance management system that provides targeted professional development. Taken together, these initiatives provide a powerful instructional cycle that is focused on continuous improvement in both teaching and learning.

Our Network Team Institutes, which are attended by BOCES and district staff, are the linchpin to effective implementation of these initiatives. However, to be successful in this endeavor, all districts will have to engage in this work to ensure that every member of the school community is fully informed of the tools, resources and training needed to bring about the changes needed to put all students on a path to college and career readiness.

The Regents, Department staff and I all understand just how trying the fiscal environment is and have deep admiration for the focus that districts and BOCES have on the work before us. Let us commit once again this year to work closely together to provide our students the very best education that New York state can provide.

I am thankful for and honored by your continued commitment to our students and their future.

From,

John B. King, Jr., State Education Department Commissioner



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ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Awards this year

- ▶ The career awareness class was named District Volunteer of the Year by the New York State Health Facilities Association Inc.
- ▶ Regional Learning Academy student Karly Masenbrook (Oppenheim-Ephratah) was a Herkimer County Community College Science Fair winner.
- ▶ Even Start and External Diploma Program student Jennifer Delgado was recognized as a New York State Adult Student of the Year.
- ▶ BOCES students took 41 prizes at the District 7 Future Business Leaders of America competition, and BOCES had 17 medal winners at the regional Skills USA competition.



Herkimer BOCES Regional Learning Academy student Karly Masenbrook, of Oppenheim-Ephratah, with her award-winning project for the Herkimer County Community College Science Fair.

By the Numbers

450 - Hours of instruction provided by the BOCES Network Team to teachers and administrators on Common Core and APPR.

113 - Students enrolled in on-line classes through the Virtual High School Program in a range of courses for both credit recovery and accrual.

100 - The percentage of June 2011 special program graduates who transitioned to adult services, gained competitive employment, or entered community college.

93 - The percentage of adult students who took and passed the GED.

90 - Adult students enrolled in the LPN program.

86 - The passing rate thus far for students enrolled in the Regional Learning Academy. These are students identified by their schools as at risk of dropping out.

45 - Students trained in the new certified nursing assistant program. Approval to provide personal care assistant and home health care aide training is pending.

21 - AP courses available via the EDISON (distance education) program for next year.



FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Transparency and efficiency

The Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES has placed itself on sound fiscal footing through several years of both increased transparency and efficiency.

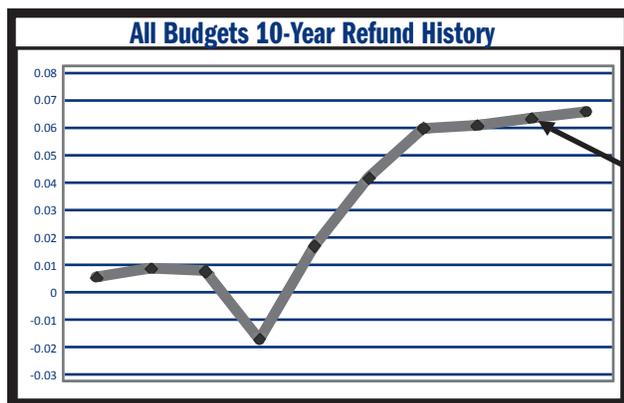
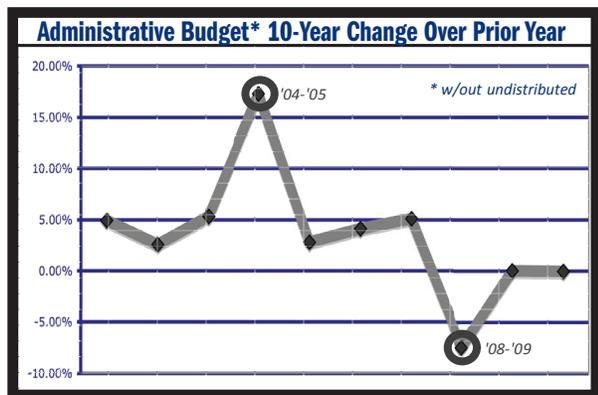
There is no better illustration of transparency and efficiency than in the administrative budget. In the 2004-05 budget year, the deputy superintendent position was moved to the administrative budget. Previously, the salary and benefits for this position were scattered among the various program budgets. The shift did not reduce total costs because the administrative budget increase was offset by decreases to

program budgets. It, however, did make actual central administrative costs more transparent and made this position subject to validation or rebuff within the budget vote. In the 2008-09 budget year, the position was then eliminated in the interest of lowering the total cost of central administration. In regard to instructional staffing, central administration was reduced by 25 percent

Efficiencies gained through administrative and other reductions in staff, coupled with component schools' increased use of the BOCES, have resulted in improved fiscal

health. This can be seen in an examination of refunds of the past 10 years. The average return to the districts, below 1 percent for the initial five years, has been in the 6 percent range in the last four years.

As we head into yet another year of limited revenues, the BOCES can act as a relief valve in providing low-cost alternatives to depleted local programming. The key will be to capitalize on the current investment by fully utilizing capacities and thereby increasing economies of scale. The greater the use of BOCES will result in a greater return on investment.



w/out DASNY

District Superintendent
Mark Vivacqua

Assistant Superintendent
Laurie Hedges

Executive Director of Business Operations
Mark Deierlein

Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.

Bryon Ackerman,
Editor.



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Voting Information

Members of all component boards of education will vote on the 2012-13 Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES administrative budget on Wednesday, April 25.

Voting will take place in each district. After board members cast individual votes, each school board will file a single majority vote.

Component boards will also vote on three BOCES Board of Education seats, which are all for three-year terms.

Nominees for the board seats must reside in the following districts: Frankfort-Schuyler, Little Falls, Mohawk, Oppenheim-Ephratah, Richfield Springs or West Canada Valley.

Herkimer ■ Fulton ■ Hamilton ■ Otsego BOCES Annual Meeting



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Thank you!

A SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT TO ...

Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their contributions to the Annual Meeting.

Entertainment:

The Frankfort-Schuyler Show Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Shelley Ceglia.



Refreshments:

Students from the BOCES culinary/hospitality program and instructors Jeanni Romanowski and Terry Barr.

Art Display:

Art teachers and students from our component school districts, with special thanks to Donnalyn Schuster, of Frankfort-Schuyler High School, for coordinating the project.

