

## This edition of Board 2 Board is dedicated in loving memory to Linda Tharp



In 2014, Linda was the first board member to serve as the 10<sup>th</sup> member on the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education. This was after the Ilion and Mohawk school districts merged to become Central Valley, and the Herkimer BOCES board expanded from nine seats to 10 in order for every district to be represented. Linda was in her third term on the BOCES board, where she represented Owen D. Young Central School District – the community she loved and served since 2009. Linda passed away on June 12. We will miss her humor, her wealth of experience, and her ever-present focus on creating every possible opportunity for the students in our region.



## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education elects leaders, appoints new member

The Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Board of Education re-elected Thomas Shypski to his third one-year term as board president on Thursday, July 8, and elected Michael Clements to his first one-year term as board vice president.

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education members also unanimously appointed Samuel Luce to the board to fill a seat vacated by Daniel Voce, who resigned due to time constraints from increasing demands of his job. Voce served on the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education for 11 years and as the board's vice president from July 2019 through the end of June 2021.

These decisions were made during the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education's annual reorganization meeting, which took place on Thursday, July 8, at Herkimer BOCES.

Shypski, representing Richfield Springs Central School District on the BOCES board, has also served on the Richfield Springs Board of Education since 2004, has been on the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education since 2009 and is now starting his third year as Herkimer BOCES board president. He previously served six years as the Herkimer BOCES board



*Herkimer BOCES Board of Education members Thomas Shypski (top) and Michael Clements (bottom) are sworn in as board president and vice president, respectively, on Thursday, July 8, by Board Clerk Shawn Maxson.*

vice president. Clements, representing Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District on the BOCES board, has been on the Frankfort-Schuyler Board of Education for the past seven years and is now starting his fourth year on the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education.

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## ***Herkimer BOCES Board of Education elects leaders, appoints new member – continued...***

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Shypski, Clements and board member William Miller, at-large representing Little Falls, were also sworn in during the reorganization meeting after being re-elected to the Herkimer BOCES board by component district school boards this spring to serve three-year terms from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024.

Prior to Herkimer BOCES board members appointing Luce on Thursday, July 8, Herkimer Central School District Board of Education members nominated Luce to fill the seat representing their district on the BOCES board. Luce will serve the remainder of Voce's term, which ends on June 30, 2022, and the seat will be up for election in spring 2022 for a three-year term.

Luce has a bachelor's degree in theology, a master's degree in biblical and theological studies and a master's degree in Christian and classical studies. He has served for three years on the board of the International Network of Children's Ministry including two years as board president. Luce is a pastor at

Redeemer Church in Utica and has served as the education director there for 24 years.

The Herkimer BOCES Board of Education reorganization meeting additionally included setting the schedule of meetings for the 2021-22 school year. Board meetings will all take place at 5:30 p.m. on the following Thursdays:

- Sept. 2, 2021 (special meeting)
- Sept. 16, 2021
- Oct. 14, 2021
- Nov. 4, 2021
- Dec. 9, 2021
- Jan. 13, 2022
- Feb. 10, 2022
- March 10, 2022
- April 21, 2022
- May 19, 2022
- June 9, 2022



*Now-former Herkimer BOCES board member Daniel Voce poses with Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood on Thursday, July 8, after Voce resigned from the board due to time constraints from increasing demands of his job.*



*Herkimer BOCES board member William Miller is sworn in on Thursday, July 8, by Board Clerk Shawn Maxson for a new three-year term from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024.*



*After being appointed to the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education, Samuel Luce is sworn in on Thursday, July 8, by Board Clerk Shawn Maxson.*

## Updates from Herkimer BOCES Board of Education meetings

The following updates are from Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Board of Education meetings in April, May and June.

### NYSSBA recognition:

► Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood presented Herkimer BOCES Board of Education President Thomas Shypski with the New York State School Boards Association's Level 4 Board Lifetime Achievement Award. She explained the program is designed to acknowledge school board members who strive to continually expand their governance knowledge and skills.

### Certifying administrative budget vote:

► Sherwood provided the results of the administrative budget vote and board election that was held by component districts on April 21.

► The 2021-22 administrative budget vote was certified by the board as follows:

- The proposed 2021-22 administrative budget in the amount of \$3,291,726 was approved by the Herkimer BOCES component Boards of Education 10-0.
- Three members were elected to the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education to serve three-year terms from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024: Michael Clements, Thomas Shypski and William Miller.

### May guest report:

► Herkimer Town Supervisor Dominic Frank provided an update on the East Herkimer Sewer Project. He highlighted the Sewer District Project Status Report, projected expenses and projected revenue and debt service by sewer unit.

Frank will provide another sewer project update at the end of the summer.

### Featured online: COVID-19 vaccine clinics for students scheduled at local schools

## Student Vaccine Clinics



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

### Building project update (May):

► Herkimer BOCES Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services James Picolla provided very preliminary infrastructure information on the scope of a capital project for both the Remington Educational Complex and William E. Busacker Complex. It was noted that there had been no committee meetings or stakeholder group meetings at this point. The architects and engineers have been reviewing the Building Condition Survey (2015) and the 2017 project development to come up with this scope of work.

► Picolla reviewed the following:

- The project cost and reserve history/projection.
- The scope didn't include much in terms of instructional work at the time; it was mostly infrastructure updates.

- Capital Project proposed schedule and vote dates were provided.

► A lengthy discussion was held relating to the preliminary information. The board requested priority ratings for further discussions and requested energy performance contracts be considered.

### June guest report/building project update:

► Information relating to the proposed capital project was provided. Representatives from BPD Financial Advisors were present and provided an overview of funding options. Intermunicipal agreements (IMA) and DASNY funding were explained, calculations for building aid units were discussed, as well as project aidability.

► Representatives from both BPD and King + King Architects recommend an IMA for the immediate infrastructure



## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

work. An IMA requires a positive vote of all 10 component boards of education.

► BOCES board members emphasized their role in communicating with the component boards and communities about the proposed capital project.

► Discussion was held regarding a Phase 1 project (safety and infrastructure) and Phase 2 (vision-based on stakeholder and committee work). The next steps were to consult with the component superintendents for feedback on a range for the dollar amount of the project and interview for a construction management firm.

► The board noted that some items listed in the scope are things that were identified in 2005 but never made it to the final scope of the last project.

► The board requested a list of the “vintage components” that are in need of repair so that all can see how old some of the equipment actually is.

► Shypski requested a committee be formed once the project is established to help properly communicate the information to the communities.

► Representatives from King + King Architects reviewed the scopes of the proposed projects. It was noted that public relations and communication is key as this project needs to meet the building needs for at least the next 15 years.

### OSC Audit approval and Corrective Action Plan:

► The board voted to accept the Office of the State Comptroller’s Audit dated May 2021 and to approve the Corrective Action Plan.

► Board member Ronald Loiacono provided an Audit Committee report from the May meeting. Topics covered included:

- The addition of GASB-84 to the annual audit.

### Featured online: Foundation celebrates local students with scholarship awards



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

- Elimination of the Trust and Agency Fund (will be included in the General Fund).
- Health Insurance Consortium will become independent and will get its own EIN.
- The Internal Claims Report was reviewed, and new strategies to avoid late fees were discussed.

The Office of the State Comptroller recommended changes, and it was noted that the changes have been addressed and implemented.

### Board member news from their districts:

*The following news was shared by Herkimer BOCES Board of Education members during the Board Forum portion of meetings:*

#### April Board Forum:

► Board member Jane North noted that Central Valley is looking into offering an elementary summer school. North complimented Shannon Gayhart and her class on their efforts to assist in cleaning up the grounds at Jarvis Middle School.

► Board members shared information on how each of their districts are holding end-of-the-year celebrations.

► Information on open board seats was shared.

► Board member James Schmid thanked Culinary Hospitality instructor Dominick Mauro and his students for the wonderful meal that was served to the board prior to the meeting.

► Schmid congratulated Sherwood for being named the recipient of this year’s National Safety Security Protection Association School Leadership Award.

► Schmid reported that Joseph



## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

Gilfus will begin May 1 as deputy superintendent at Dolgeville Central School District. He complimented Theodore Kawryga for doing a marvelous job as interim superintendent.

- ▶ William Miller thanked component boards for their support of his candidacy on the BOCES Board of Education.

- ▶ William Miller shared complimentary comments made by Steven Todd, district superintendent of Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, about Sherwood.

- ▶ Shypski echoed Schmid's comments about the dinner and the National Safety Security Protection Association School Leadership Award.

- ▶ Shypski shared that he is participating in the re-certification process for the Heavy Equipment and Conservation programs and is impressed with curriculum and projects.

- ▶ Shypski concluded by sharing that Richfield Springs Central School District has hired a new high school principal and that there were very few opt-outs for the 3-8 tests.

### **May Board Forum:**

- ▶ Building Construction instructor John Martin and his students were thanked for providing a tour of the program's two-story house.

- ▶ Board members shared information on end-of-the year events and budget and board election results.

- ▶ The virtual Oneida-Madison-Herkimer Counties School Boards Institute (SBI) awards event was complimented, and Jackie Groves, Morrisville-Eaton Board of Education member, was congratulated for receiving the Distinguished Service Award.

- ▶ The Ilion True Value was publicly thanked for donating paint and the Educational Heroes Health and Safety Kit to be used at Pathways Academy.

- ▶ Schmid congratulated students

### **Featured online: Golf tournament to raise money for local scholarships**



*To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.*

named to the National Technical Honor Society.

- ▶ On behalf of board member Linda Sharp, Board Clerk Shawn Maxson reported that the Owen D. Young Central School District budget passed, and that the district is beginning to plan for a capital project and will be holding its Senior Dinner and Junior Prom this year.

### **June Board Forum:**

- ▶ Voce was recognized for his years of service to the BOCES. Voce regrets having to leave the board after 11 years but feels it is a disservice to remain on the board and miss meetings due to his increased work demand. He stated that it has been an absolute pleasure serving on the BOCES Board of Education. He shared that Samuel Luce of Herkimer is interested in joining the BOCES board. Voce noted that Luce is engaging and

open-minded to learn how BOCES operates. The board was expecting to appoint Luce to fill the vacant seat of Voce beginning in July, pending feedback from component boards.

- ▶ The retirees and tenure appointees were congratulated.

- ▶ Board members shared graduation, prom and end-of-year celebration plans.

- ▶ Sports sectional achievements were shared.

- ▶ Clements commended the SBI programs because the information presented is helpful and timely.

- ▶ Herkimer BOCES Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Kathy Fox was wished the very best in her retirement and thanked for her years of dedicated service to the BOCES.

- ▶ William Miller noted he provided an



## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

update on the proposed capital protect to the Little Falls Board of Education.

### NYSSBA update:

► William Miller reported that he presented Alexandria Bay Central School District with the Champions of Change award for their Songs and Signs Education Initiative.

► William Miller stated he is serving on the NYSSBA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and suggested the region hold a meeting for board members on this topic. Sherwood noted that the topic of DEI will be a focus at the superintendents' summer professional development session.

► William Miller shared the dates of the NYSSBA Annual Convention and noted the business meeting will be held virtually prior to the convention.

### NYSSBA Area 5 director nomination:

► North moved and Voce seconded a motion to nominate William Miller for the New York State School Boards Association's Area 5 directorship with a term of office from Jan. 1, 2022, through Dec. 31, 2024. William Miller abstained, all others voted in favor, and the motion carried 8-0.

### Positive thoughts

*The following positive thoughts were shared during recent board meetings:*

► East Herkimer sewer project work to start in the fall; the timing of the project will work well for the Herkimer BOCES William E. Busacker building as the septic system is reaching its "end of life."

► Herkimer BOCES Cosmetology clinic re-opens to community to provide experience to students.

► BOCES cards to send thank you notes or to acknowledge news articles in our region.

► Letter from Dolgeville Board of

## Featured online: School Boards Institute honors 2021 Student Achievement, Distinguished Service winners



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

Education to Sherwood extending its sincere appreciation and gratitude for conducting the district's superintendent search.

► The April, May and June editions of the "Pathways Press" newsletter were shared.

► Sherwood has been selected as the recipient of The National Safety Security Protection Association School Leadership Award. Sherwood added that this recognition is a direct result of the efforts and work of the BOCES Safety Services under the leadership of Coordinator Adam Hutchinson.

► Herkimer BOCES recognizes the Herkimer County Public Health Department workers by awarding them its 2021 Community Partnership Award for their cooperation with local schools through the COVID-19 pandemic.

► Thank you note addressed to Picolla and BOCES from Leanne Alberts expressing her gratitude for the support for her during her health journey.

► Shannon Gayhart's Career Awareness class organized a food drive at Jarvis Middle School for The Feed our Vets program. This is one way the Career Awareness class has learned about being responsible citizens and giving back to the community. Jarvis Middle School was invited to join in on the project. Together, they collected 340 pounds of food and 320 items.

### Roberta Matthews report

*Director of Special and Alternative Education Roberta Matthews provided the following updates on the Pathways Academy at Remington and Special Programs:*

► Skin cancer awareness is being

## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

conducted at BOCES. In classes, as well as with the staff. Patricia Day, office assistant in the Special Programs office and an active member of the Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation, has shared many resources.

► Patricia Wilson and the students at Barringer Road entered an essay contest sponsored by The United Way of the Mohawk Valley. They won the contest, which was a Black History Month book giveaway. The group won five new books.

► Classrooms at Barringer Road Elementary had the opportunity to meet author Ellen Yomans. She is the author of "The Other Ducks" and has written many other children's books.

► Local regions have been asked for feedback regarding in-person instruction. The feedback indicates that choice needs to be more limited with tighter guidelines.

► The Instructional Support Team in collaboration with the Kelberman Center put on an Autism Fair in April. A few staff members who work with children with autism led workshops.

► Counselors met monthly and are looking at "Elevatus Training." This training relates to having conversations with persons with an intellectual disability in the area of relationships and sexuality.

► Pathways continues to support "Anna Strong!"

► Students at Pathways participated in the Catholic Charities TREATY program (Teaching Reconciliation in Education to Administrators, Teachers and Youth).

► Dave Itzo, Pathways assistant principal, and Eric Thomas, Pathways physical education and health teacher, have teamed up proactively to educate students about what sexual harassment is, along with consequences for these types of behaviors.

► Pathways and Special Education students in grades 3-8 completed state assessments in ELA and mathematics.

### **Featured online: Welding students build rocket stoves for project involving welding, pricing, marketing**



*To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.*

► Ilion True Value donated more than \$2,000 of paint to Pathways Academy. These resources will be used to create a space that suits the students at Pathways Academy. Additionally, Ilion True Value donated \$500 in medical supplies to Pathways Academy. The Educational Heroes Health and Safety Kit includes hand sanitizer, germicidal cleaner and painter's tape to mark social distancing.

► Brian Reed, a student in Bryan Cronkrite's classroom located at Frankfort-Schuyler High School received an award in André Short's public speaking class. Brian Reed presented his first "how to" speech and was voted by his classmates for the "Most Useful" presentation.

► Staff and students were preparing for Regents exams, credit recovery and graduations. At Pathways, students in need of credit recovery were participating

in "Credit Recovery Boot Camp".

► Pathways planned to celebrate the end of a successful, yet challenging school year by holding its PBIS celebration day.

► Students at Barringer Road Elementary have been reading poetry. Two students performed a poem by Jack Prelutsky called, "Homework! Oh Homework!" for Matthews.

► Special Programs students housed at Frankfort-Schuyler had the opportunity to work on and keep a flower garden box year-round with support from the Frankfort-Schuyler High School buildings and grounds crew. This group of students are part of the Career Awareness class with Alanna Connolly and Shelley Smith.

### **Mary Kline report**

*Director of Adult, Early Childhood and Outreach Education Mary Kline provided*



## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

the following updates.

### Early Childhood Education:

► Enrollment was open for students for the 2021-2022 Prekindergarten classes and the summer integrated Preschool program. Information was posted on the BOCES website.

► Students at the West Canada Valley PreK had a unique experience. They worked with the agriculture class students, who set up a live feed of their incubator filled with chicken eggs. The PreK classes watched as the chicks cracked their eggs and hatched and then they took a trip to the agriculture classroom to meet the chicks.

► In honor of Memorial Day, the Owen D. Young PreK class walked to the Van Hornesville Memorial Park.

► Two classes studied butterflies. They watched and learned about the butterfly life cycle.

### Licensed Practical Nursing:

► Recruitment for full and part-time classes started, and new videos for the virtual open house were developed.

► A virtual job fair for the LPN program took place in May with potential employers conducting interviews with the students using Zoom.

► The annual survey of past graduates to determine where they are working, salary range, number of times they have changed positions and the value in a Herkimer BOCES LPN certification has been conducted.

► The LPN website has been redesigned to be more user friendly and better able to be viewed using a cellphone.

► The LPN graduation ceremony was held at the German Flatts Town Park.

► The next full-time program began July 6.

### Adult Literacy:

## Featured online: Herkimer BOCES adult nursing students graduate at 57<sup>th</sup> Commencement and Pledge Ceremonies



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

► The last Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) for the 2020-21 school year was given; 10 candidates were ready to test.

► Six of the nine students that took the TASC in March passed all sections of the test and will be issued their High School Equivalency (HSE).

► Three grant proposals for the Literacy Zone, the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) and a new option for Corrections Education for 2022-2027 were completed and submitted to the New York State Education Department.

### Outreach Education:

► 12th-graders completed scholarship applications including the Leah Levy award that is administered by Herkimer BOCES.

► A virtual New York State Migrant Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

was held in May and was conducted in both English and Spanish.

### Community outreach:

► The Herkimer Hunger Coalition is working with BOCES on a new project to purchase and gather items of need for some of our families. Items include personal care, cleaning and personal protective equipment.

► The Herkimer Hunger Coalition has offered to purchase new sneakers. About one hundred pairs will be donated. The coalition is providing 10 new bikes and will be assisting with the purchase of school supplies.

### Stephen Coupe report

*Business Manager Stephen Coupe provided the following updates.*

► The new contract adjustment report format was explained. The WinCap



## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

software will generate this report.

- ▶ Board financials were reviewed.
- ▶ The retirement of Ruth Neff, who has been with BOCES since 2009, was announced to the board.
- ▶ As a result of Neff's retirement, the position of deputy treasurer is open for next fiscal year. Coupe is recommending Jade Wheeler, account clerk, for the annually appointed position.

▶ The tentative Program Budget of \$31.8 million for the 2021-22 school year was shared.

▶ Prior to the end of the fiscal year, the implementation of changes related to Statement 84 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB- 84) will be made. This will eliminate the "Trust & Agency Fund" as a separate fund and require those accounts be placed in the General Fund.

▶ Later follow-up detailed that as part of the implementation of GASB 84, all existing Trust & Agency Fund accounts will be rolled into corresponding accounts in the General Fund.

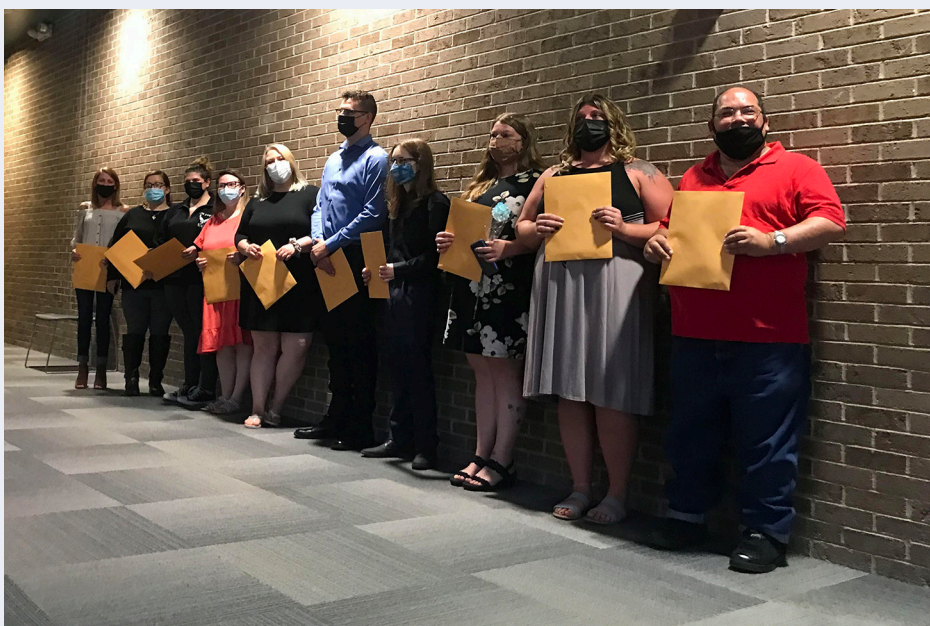
▶ The Office of the State Comptroller conducted an audit of the BOCES online banking activities for the period of July 1, 2019, to Oct. 1, 2020. The audit made five recommendations, and a Corrective Action Plan has been prepared.

▶ Due to the changes from GASB-84, independent auditors, West & Co., requested the consortium deposit their funds under a separate EIN. The consortium will transfer its funds to its own new accounts prior to June 30.

▶ The business office staff worked diligently to prepare for the year-end audit in purchasing, accounts payable, accounting, payroll and district service contracts.

▶ The business office team was commended for their ability to just "do what it takes" to overcome whatever obstacles they are presented with.

### Featured online: Herkimer BOCES honors local adult students



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

▶ One of the items in the Corrective Action Plan from the Fiscal Year 2020 Audit was to review accounts receivable. While considerable progress is being made, BOCES does face some significant challenges.

### James Picolla report

*Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services James Picolla provided the following updates.*

#### Business Office:

▶ The business office continues to function well at this time. With the announced retirement of a senior account clerk and anticipated withdrawal of one district from the Central Business Office, the BOCES is examining each employee's duties and will redistribute work appropriately to maintain equitable workloads and efficiencies in the office.

#### Information Technology:

▶ The IT department continues to implement upgrade and maintenance plans for all of systems.

▶ The infrastructure upgrade plans also include replacement of the edge switches at Remington and the German Street offices.

▶ The expansion of the security camera coverage at both the WEB and Remington buildings continues.

▶ Replacement of several smartboards using the remaining equipment funds from the fiscal year 2021 budget year will be done this summer.

▶ The upgrade projects continue to progress as planned. The purchase of the equipment will be out of the fiscal year 2022 budget; much of the actual work will be done over the summer months.

▶ A quarterly organization-wide email phishing test was conducted. This test



## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

consisted of sending a very convincing email to all employees trying to convince them to click on a suspicious link. The results indicated the BOCES employees are only 1.5 percent phishing prone. The industry standard for education is 29.1 percent.

► The department was successful in granting Ilion police rights to view the outdoor cameras at Pathways.

► The wireless system has been expanded to include outdoor access points to allow access to the network from student work areas. Internal access points have been added to help with coverage inside the Remington building. By the end of the summer, the wireless system will be an Aruba system, replacing the current Cisco system.

### **Operations and Maintenance:**

► The early foundation for a BOCES capital project is being set. A team from King + King Architects and BOCES representatives conducted a walkthrough of both the WEB and Remington buildings. The initial walkthrough of the two buildings yielded a list of potential areas of exploration from the team. Further investigation is required before recommending a final scope and project.

► The gender-neutral signage of all single stall bathrooms has been installed.

► Air vents at the WEB Complex have been cleaned, and air filters have been changed in accordance with the annual maintenance schedule.

► An inventory of all HVAC equipment at both the Remington building and WEB Complex has been taken.

► The exterior lighting work at the Remington building has been completed. The exterior building lights now use LED bulbs and are working properly.

► A second walkthrough of the buildings was conducted with engineers who will be involved in a potential capital project. Specifically, this walkthrough

### **Featured online: Animal-conservation projects teach skills including research, writing, public speaking**



*To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.*

focused on the mechanicals and electrical systems at the WEB and Remington buildings.

► As part of their internship, several students in the Heavy Equipment program assisted with landscaping projects at the WEB Complex.

### **Safety Services - general update:**

► Assistance with resources related to sexual harassment prevention and school climate related activities around sexual harassment has been given to Pathways.

► At the direction of the district superintendent, the Safety Service continued to explore the development of a Community Schools CoSer utilizing the local agency.

► Herkimer BOCES later received word that NYSED approved its Connected Community Schools CoSer for the 2021-2022 school year.

► The Safety Service has been assisting the administration at the Remington Educational Complex deal with potential dangerous and criminal activity occurring after-hours on school grounds. The activity has included unaccompanied minors congregating, graffiti, fights and other issues.

► A plan is being worked on to offer "Stop the Bleed" training to interested districts as an aid-able service.

### **Safety Services - COVID-19 response:**

► The Herkimer County Public Health Department provided free COVID-19 tests to help meet any testing requirements under the state's prom guidance.

► The Safety Service worked to coordinate the scheduling of vaccine clinics at interested component districts and the Town of Webb Union Free



## Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

School District. Herkimer County Public Health has a supply of vaccine doses to administer to anyone ages 12 and older.

- ▶ The Safety Service plans to review district reopening plans to ensure they are in alignment with current New York State Department of Health guidelines.

- ▶ The nurse at the WEB Complex tested the Health Science Careers students prior to their clinical work at Foltsbrook Nursing Home.

- ▶ The Safety Service reviewed the new graduation and prom requirements from the New York State Department of health and provided guidance on these to component districts in a variety of ways.

### **Safety Services - trainings and inspections:**

- ▶ Safety Services Coordinator Adam Hutchinson provided clarification to directors of facility on both lead in water sampling requirements and updates to NYSED visual inspection and building condition survey regulations.

- ▶ Hutchinson attended the NYSED two-day training on emergency response planning for schools and districts.

### **Safety Services - school safety advisor update:**

- ▶ School Safety Advisor Jim Garcia continues to work with ARC Herkimer/ Herkimer Industries to provide "Stop the Bleed" kits and trainings to Herkimer BOCES and its component districts.

- ▶ Garcia worked with Central Valley Central School District regarding current issues, plans and drills. He also attended the Little Falls City School District Safety Committee meeting.

- ▶ Garcia continues to stay in regular contact with law and regional law enforcement agencies relating to school issues.

- ▶ Garcia continues to monitor the parking lots at the WEB Complex and Remington for evidence of illegal activity.

## **Featured online: Herkimer BOCES congratulates 2020-21 retirees**



To read this story at [www.herkimer-boces.org](http://www.herkimer-boces.org), click here.

This includes meetings with the principal and assistant principal of Technical Education around safety trends at the WEB Complex. He also met with the director of Special Education regarding the appropriate use of radios during emergencies.

### **Kathy Fox report**

*Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Kathy Fox provided the following updates.*

### **Goal 1: Grow in strength and leadership across our region:**

*The regional leaders met, and the following updates were provided:*

- ▶ Several guest speakers provided information to the regional leaders at their March meeting including Christina Cain from the Herkimer County Public Health Department, Todd Price from Windsor Learning, and Bonita Gibb from

Herkimer County who shared how to make referrals through the Systems of Care Grant.

- ▶ Sherwood provided leaders with the latest NYSED information on assessments, expected Board of Regents actions, and quarantine/school requirements around the vaccine.

- ▶ Amy Konz from the MORIC provided leaders with coding information around virtual students not taking assessments versus opting out.

- ▶ Keara Battisti from the Regional Partnership highlighted the FAQ prepared by the Board of Regents.

- ▶ Jon Griffith of Herkimer BOCES discussed the latest plans for in-person Regional Summer School. He also discussed the Civic Readiness Initiative with middle school leaders.

### **Goal 2: Stabilize staffing**

## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

### **and programs to ensure our components and the community continue to have needed support in a cost-effective manner:**

► BOCES coordinated an elementary summer school for Richfield Springs and Frankfort-Schuyler. It was located at the Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School and was in session for 20 days.

► The youth TANF grant was received for an in-person experience for 14- and 15-year-old students. The experience provided young people with an opportunity to develop some entry level skills.

► CTE held the self-study and external meetings for the program re-approval of Conservation and Heavy Equipment. Several recommendations were made to enhance the programs. Both programs received positive feedback and were recommended for re-approval.

► The Perkins grant was submitted to support the needs identified in the BOCES comprehensive local needs assessment from last year as well as the current initiatives on equity, diversity and inclusion.

► The Cosmetology summer program was held in-person.

### **Goal 3: Develop accountability systems with clear expectations:**

► The superintendent sub-committee recommended VP-TECH continue to be an option for students in the region. VP-TECH will be continuing because funding has been approved for a new cohort.

### **CTE:**

► A new articulation agreement has been finalized with SUNY Morrisville for the Criminal Justice program. Students are able to earn six credits with a grade-point average equivalent to a B or better.

► A new articulation/dual credit agreement has been created with Mohawk Valley Community College for both Welding and Building Construction

classes. Both programs have the opportunity to offer up to 12 college credits for each class.

► The Health Science Careers program completed a week-long intensive clinical experience at the Foltsbrook Center for their certified nursing assistant (CAN) certification. Through the hard work and planning of instructor Christe Zambri and by building robust partnerships with the center administration, students were offered a “real world” working experience. Herkimer BOCES is one of the only programs in the state to offer a clinical experience to CNA students due to the pandemic.

► The Cosmetology Clinic opened in the spring, and students provided services to customers such as haircuts, perms, colors, manicures and pedicures. All school and salon COVID protocols were strictly adhered to. Students earned work-based learning (WBL) hours.

► 67 CTE students were inducted into the National Vocational Honor Society.

### **VP-TECH:**

► VP-TECH hosted Mentor Mondays. Work ethic was a hot topic with mentors discussing interacting with superiors, co-workers and taking on extra tasks to promote better experiences, learning new skills and showing reliability.

### **School to Careers:**

► The STC team supported CTE programs in many ways: Sophomore Visitation, Open House, Giotto Apprenticeship Program, Resume Writing and Interviewing Program and presentations on various scholarship opportunities.

► The STC team worked on the logistics for CTE-WBL internships by creating and recording asynchronous presentations for the Google Classroom. In addition, the students are encouraged to locate their own internship sites as part of their 21st century workplace readiness skills.

► The STC team provides one-on-one career prep sessions with the students applying for the Giotto Enterprise Apprenticeship Program.

► A virtual Seventh Grade Skilled Building Trades Day was held for the component districts. The event was recorded for use by districts that could not attend.

► A virtual Journey from 8 to Great was held for the component district's eighth-graders.

► CTE seniors were able to secure 63 unpaid internships and seven paid internships. Many of the internships will lead to gainful employment and/or prepare them for college and careers.

### **Mentoring:**

► The focus was on preparation for staff summative evaluations.

► Applications for mentors were accepted for the 2021-22 school year.

### **Curriculum Work:**

► The instructional support team held summer curriculum programs for BOCES and the component districts.

### **Professional Development:**

► The Instructional Support team has been partnering with its Joint Management Team and statewide groups connected through its networks to provide statewide training in the region. Several smaller personalized training in the region took place through book studies, traditional training and asynchronous training support.

► BOCES, in collaboration with the Kelberman Center, held its first annual Autism Conference.

► The ISS team has been working closely with regional JMT to support the work of the NYSED Teaching in Remote/Hybrid Learning Environments (TRLE) grant. Several more turn-key sessions have been presented to the team, and they will be available soon.



## *Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued*

► The ISS team provided the first in-district training related to cultural responsiveness with the Central Valley teaching assistants and aides.

### **Virtual online services:**

► BOCES managed 818 enrollments for seven component districts.

### **Oneida-Madison-Herkimer Counties School Boards Institute:**

► The Oneida-Herkimer-Madison Counties School Boards Institute held its 2020-21 Student Achievement Awards ceremony virtually this year. The selection committee worked very hard to choose from a wide variety of deserving nominations. SBI held its Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony in-person.

► New school board member training was held in June.

### **Arts and Education:**

► Districts offered virtual opportunities to their students. Many districts participated in the virtual New York State School Music Association solo festival.

### **Sandra Sherwood report**

► Restoration of school funding was discussed, and it was noted that itinerants are now being hired by districts and this is beneficial for districts to have these full-time services for their students.

► Sherwood conveyed her amazement by the dedication, pride and talent

of students in the region. She noted that the board dinner prepared by the BOCES Culinary Hospitality students was representative of this.

► Inappropriate behavior was happening on the school property at the Remington site while school was not in session. She noted that the Ilion Police Department was involved and explained various measures BOCES took to make this property safer for its staff and students. A proposal for fencing to be installed in the area between the school and the ball field was presented to the board, and the fencing was installed. With police assistance, the inappropriate behaviors during afterschool hours at Remington have settled down.

► The Herkimer Region College & Career Scholarship Foundation awards ceremony was planned and held in-person.

► A reception for retirees and employees being appointed tenure was held in June.

► A tour of the house being built by the Building Construction students took place at the May board meeting.

► The Board of Regents' diversity, equity and inclusion mandate was discussed.

► Sherwood explained the work around assuring equity of access to BOCES

programs and noted the coordinator of special education position was created to help develop that particularly in the Technical Education side of the house. The work has been so successful that it is time for that position to morph to the next level. The work of the coordinator has shown that equity in access boils down to assuring curricular alignment as well as instructional practices around equity and inclusivity. Sherwood explained that work around what the next position should be and given the Board of Regents' new diversity, equity and inclusivity initiative, how this new position can also address the Board of Regents agenda items. Sherwood shared what the new position would look like. Regulation 3002.45 – job description: supervisor of equity, diversity and curriculum initiatives was approved by Sherwood dated May 2021. A five-day internal posting for this position was posted. Sherwood stressed that this isn't creating another administrative position. Patricia Wilson was appointed to this position.

► The New York State Department of Health letter regarding mask-wearing in schools was discussed.

► BOCES lost many staff members to component districts as a result of districts receiving federal money and changes to the foundation aid. It was noted that exit interviews are being conducted.