

Herkimer BOCES recognizes Clinton Tractor with Community Partnership Award

Plus other updates from the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Board of Education



Clinton Tractor receives the Community Partnership Award on April 6. From left: Herkimer BOCES heavy equipment operations program instructor Tom Browka, Clinton Tractor employees Jason and Danielle Taylor and Herkimer BOCES Chief Operating Officer James Picolla.

Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES honored Clinton Tractor and Implement Co. with its 2017 Community Partnership Award during the Herkimer BOCES Annual Meeting on April 6.

Herkimer BOCES Chief Operating Officer James Picolla thanked Clinton Tractor for working closely with the heavy equipment operations program – including donating jackets to students, loaning forklifts and other machinery to the class and providing certification trainings.

“Without this partner, our students wouldn’t be able to practice on this type of equipment and learn from it,” Picolla said.

The Herkimer BOCES Annual Meeting is open to superintendents and school board members from the 10 Herkimer BOCES component school districts, as well as Herkimer BOCES administrators. Herkimer BOCES gives out a Community Partnership Award each year during the meeting.

As part of the award presentation, Herkimer BOCES heavy equipment operations instructor Tom Browka thanked Clinton Tractor for all the support the company has provided to the program.

“It is a partnership of paying it forward,” Browka said. “It’s for our youth.”

Clinton Tractor employees Danielle and Jason Taylor

attended the meeting to accept the Community Partnership Award. Danielle Taylor’s father, John Calidonna, is a co-owner of Clinton Tractor. Jason Taylor provided the forklift certification training for Herkimer BOCES students.

“We feel we need to share our knowledge and our resources,” Jason Taylor said.

The Herkimer BOCES Annual Meeting takes place at the Herkimer BOCES William E. Busacker Complex in East Herkimer, and one school district is considered the host each year.

This year, it was Mount Markham. Mount Markham Board of Education President Thomas Huxtable served as the chairperson for the meeting. Mount Markham Superintendent Paul Berry introduced the evening’s entertainment: the Mount Markham High School Select Choir directed by Alyssa Bouthillier and the Fourth Grade Chorus directed by Marissa Winkler.

Herkimer BOCES culinary and hospitality students served hors d’oeuvres, refreshments and dinner for the guests.

The business meeting portion of the event included Picolla giving a State of the BOCES presentation to the local school board members and district representatives introducing Herkimer BOCES Board of Education candidates.

BOCES district superintendent search update

Jacklin Starks, the district superintendent of Madison-Oneida BOCES, continues to serve as our interim district superintendent. She is also assisting the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education in its search for a new permanent district superintendent/chief executive officer.

The district superintendent search is underway, and the brochure and application for the position are both available on the Herkimer BOCES website. The BOCES is currently engaging with a variety of stakeholders to learn people’s perspectives relative to BOCES programs and new leadership. The information garnered will be used to inform the board’s decision with the district superintendent selection process. The board anticipates having a new district superintendent in place by Sept. 1.

As the search proceeds, we will continue to provide updates on the Herkimer BOCES website. Should you have any additional questions during this process, please feel comfortable contacting Mr. Dan LaLonde, our board president at 315-894-8284.

Updates from the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education

The following are highlights from the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES January, February and March 2017 Board of Education meetings:

January Meeting

Board forum:

► Herkimer BOCES Board of Education President Dan LaLonde presented School Boards Institute certificates of completion for required training to board member Janine Lynch.

► Board member Thomas Shypski asked fellow board members how their boards of education are handling the real property tax exemption for low income homeowners. The consensus was that local boards of education are not acting on it.

NYSSBA update:

► According to board member William Miller, NYSSBA's legislative agenda is similar to the local School Board Institute's legislative agenda. He briefly discussed the nominee for the federal education secretary, Betsy DeVos, and the controversy around the nomination.

2201 transition process:

► Herkimer BOCES Chief Operating Officer James Picolla stated that we had not received any new information on the transition process.

Recruitment and retention:

► Picolla stated that the Teachers' Association agreed to the \$500 one-time payment that was offered by the Board of Education in an effort to retain teachers. Checks will be distributed by the end of January.

Featured online: Mount Markham students perform at Herkimer BOCES Annual Meeting



Mount Markham Superintendent Paul Berry introduces the Mount Markham High School Select Choir directed by Alyssa Bouthillier and the Fourth Grade Chorus directed by Marissa Winkler during the Herkimer BOCES 2017 Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 6. To view a video slideshow from the meeting, [click here](#).

► Picolla reported that there is a new mentoring structure in place. Sarah Trunfio will serve as the mentoring coordinator. Site coordinators and mentors have been appointed in an effort to provide earlier support to new teachers.

► According to Picolla, BOCES is in the process of moving two more programs to the college campus – visual communications/media arts and criminal justice.

► Picolla stated that he is in the process of setting up meetings with superintendent advisory committees in the areas of School To Careers

and alternative education. A needs assessment will be conducted to get a better understanding of the needs of the component districts.

Facilities and technology infrastructure:

► Picolla reported that work continues with King + King Architects on the proposed building project.

Introduction:

► Picolla introduced Nancy Burke, who started with BOCES in November as the supervisor of special education.

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

Positive thoughts:

LaLonde presented the following positive thoughts from recent news articles:

- ▶ Santa Claus visits Herkimer BOCES nursery school.
- ▶ School To Careers Director Christopher Groves and School To Careers liaison MaryBeth Napolitano addressed the Herkimer Board of Education about how the program helps students in schools throughout the region by bringing real career experiences to them.
- ▶ President John Calidonna of Clinton Tractor and Implement Co. presented students in the heavy equipment operation program with jackets in a continuation of support from the company. Clinton Tractor has helped the program in various ways such as providing forklift certification training and testing last year to students in the heavy equipment and other programs.

Matthews report:

Report by Director of Academic Services Roberta Matthews:

Career and technical education:

- ▶ CTE teachers participated in an overview of The CDOS Solution, a data management tool. This tool is used to manage the number of work-based learning hours students collect while in their program. This tool is also available to our component school districts through our School To Careers program. Many of our districts are now taking advantage of this tool.
- ▶ CTE is also offering students who will be taking the Global Studies Regents in January the opportunity

to attend the Learning Lab. In the Learning Lab, students are taught test-taking skills that we expect to translate into improved student achievement.

Special education:

▶ Due to the increase in requests for itinerant and related services, there is the need to hire additional staff to accommodate these requirements. Our recruitment and interview process has yielded some viable candidates.

VP-TECH:

▶ VP-TECH students will be participating in the Fibonacci STEAM

Conference, from July 30 to Aug. 5 in Rome.

▶ 160 teddy bears were collected by our VP-TECH Student Council and will be donated to hospitalized children.

Kline report:

Report by Director of Adult, Early Childhood and Outreach Education Mary Kline:

Adult education, Literacy Zone and high school TASC:

▶ Staff continue to attend trainings and meetings to learn how the new Workforce Investment Opportunity Act

Featured online: Farming Your Future event scheduled for May 17 at fairgrounds

**Please join us ...
Where agriculture meets education.**

**Farming Your Future
8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday, May 17
Herkimer County Fairgrounds**

You're invited to be a part of our regional effort!

**Please RSVP by May 10 to:
krsmith@herkimer-boces.org**

The Herkimer BOCES School To Careers program is collaborating with our neighboring BOCES to put on Farming Your Future from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. For school superintendents and board members who plan to attend, please RSVP to krsmith@herkimer-boces.org by May 10. For more, [click here](#).

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

(WIOA) will affect our local adult education program. We have quarterly meetings with the tri-county Workforce Development Board. In addition, we have had co-trainings with our local Working Solutions office. Kline said she would be holding a training there on Jan. 18 on BOCES services.

► The LPN program will be providing certified nursing assistant training for a facility in Otsego County. Students will be transported to BOCES for training, and their clinical work will be done in the facility in Otsego County.

Early childhood education:

► Dates will be set up for fall 2017 prekindergarten registration, which is usually held in conjunction with the district kindergarten registration.

Migrant education tutorial and support services:

► Migrant staff is busy administering the mid-year tests to students. They are using the Easy CBM this year for the first time and are anxious to compare the initial fall assessment to measure progress and target instruction.

Featured online: LPN program continues to educate locals for in demand jobs by adapting



The Herkimer BOCES adult practical nursing program has adapted by changes the full-time class to a 12-month schedule. Read all about the nursing program and LPN open houses taking place this spring online by clicking here. Did you know the LPN program also has its own Facebook page? To visit the page, click here.

Community outreach:

► The ESSA Think Tank continues to meet in Albany on a monthly basis. A new survey will be coming out shortly to all educators in the state to get feedback on essential indicators that should be included in the Education Department's proposal to Washington.

Deierlein report:

Report by Executive Director of Business Operations Mark Deierlein:

Mileage:

► Deierlein informed the board of the Internal Revenue Service mileage

rate change to \$0.535/mile, effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Proposed 2017-2018 budget assumptions:

► Deierlein reported that the final 2017-2018 administrative and capital budgets reflect an increase of 3.13 percent. The RWADA administrative and capital charges were reviewed. The board consented to the proposed 2017-2018 budget as presented.

► It was noted that BOCES central administration will be making budget presentations to districts that request one and

that the component school districts will vote on the BOCES budget on April 26, 2017.

Intended use of reserves:

► Deierlein provided information on intended use of various reserves. He explained that reserve funds are mechanisms for accumulating cash for future capital outlays and other allowable purposes.

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

▶ Deierlein provided information on the following funds and provided the year-end balance as of June 30, 2016, and noted the “ideal balance” on each account:

- Workers’ Compensation Reserve
- Unemployment Insurance Reserve
- Retirement Contribution Reserve
- Employment Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve
- Capital Reserve
- Reserve for Encumbrances

February Meeting

Board forum:

▶ Board member Jack Bono noted that Frankfort-Schuyler is finishing its building project.

▶ Board member Linda Tharp stated that the bids are out and due back to the district by March 1 for the Owen D. Young building project, which includes safety and security improvements.

▶ Shypski added that Richfield Springs is meeting to look at building improvement needs.

Recruitment and retention:

▶ Picolla said the new mentoring process is off to a positive start.

▶ Information was provided relating to CTE academics and the fact that BOCES is meeting the requirement of the regulations for integrated academics in the area of math and science, despite the positions that are currently vacant. BOCES administration is working diligently to fill both positions.

▶ Picolla said Career and Technical Education Principal Kathy Fox and School To Careers Director Christopher Groves are working with Herkimer College to relocate the media arts and criminal justice programs to the college campus. They are hoping to have a cluster of three to four rooms together for the BOCES programs. It was noted that this is still at the logistical stage. Picolla said there is concern by the superintendents about the safety and security of the students. He concluded by stating that high school students attending a college campus is not uncommon.

▶ Picolla informed the board of the opportunities relating to emotional and mental health interventions provided by Herkimer BOCES when students are not in a state to learn.

Facilities and technology infrastructure:

▶ Picolla said that after meeting with King + King Architects that specific items would be addressed in the proposed building project. The focus will be on HVAC and cafeteria improvements as well as remodeling the special education wing to make it more suitable for high school

Featured online: Ford field service engineer stresses opportunities to automotive students



Ford Motor Co. field service engineer James Tomaso talks to seniors in Herkimer BOCES automotive technology instructor Craig Miller’s class on April 12. Tomaso talked to the students about the many opportunities available in the automotive career field. To read more, click here.

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

general education programs. Other renovations will include updating the remaining bathrooms that were not done in the last project and other smaller renovations throughout the building.

Positive thoughts:

LaLonde presented the following positive thoughts from recent news articles:

- ▶ State Sen. James Seward announced a grant that will go toward supporting a program for students who have complex behavior health needs – the grant will go to the BOCES A.I.M. program at Pathways Academy – the photo includes former Early Childhood Education student, Kristen Snyder-Branner who is the director of county Community Services.

- ▶ BOCES Pre-Kindergarten registration dates announced.

- ▶ Andrew Grosse, a junior at CVA got to experience what it's like to work as a law enforcement officer for a day when he shadowed a Herkimer patrolman – this experience was set up through the Herkimer BOCES School To Careers program.

- ▶ FBLA regional competition winners:

- 1st place: Banking and Financial Systems: Hope Lindsay – Culinary and Hospitality – 11th grade – WCV
- 2nd place: Computer Applications: Gabriella Howard – ITA – 11th grade – Frankfort Schuyler
- 3rd place: Computer Applications: Brooke Edstrom – ITA – 12th grade – Herkimer

Featured online: Sen. Seward announces \$50,000 state grant for BOCES AIM program



State Sen. James Seward announces a \$50,000 state grant to support the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES AIM program. From left, Herkimer BOCES Chief Operating Officer James Picolla, Kids Oneida Chief Executive Officer Steve Bulger, Seward and Herkimer County Director of Community Services Kristen Snyder-Branner. To read more, [click here](#).

- 1st place: Computer Problem Solving: Kevin Chlus – ITA – 12th grade – West Canada Valley
- 2nd place: Cyber Security: Mathew LaFrance – ITA – 11th grade – Little Falls
- 4th place: Entrepreneurship: Samantha Cano – Culinary and Hospitality – 12th grade – Herkimer
- 5th place: Entrepreneurship: Susan Doris – Culinary and Hospitality – 12th grade – Little Falls
- 3rd place: Entrepreneurship TEAM: Rebecca Harris: Culinary and Hospitality – 11th grade – Frankfort Schuyler; Samantha Cano: Culinary and Hospitality – 11th grade – Herkimer
- 4th place: Entrepreneurship TEAM: Emily LaQueue: Culinary and Hospitality – 12th grade – Herkimer; Jasmine Eissler: Culinary and Hospitality – 12th grade – Central Valley Academy; Susan Doris: Culinary and Hospitality – 12th grade – Little Falls

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

- 4th place: Hospitality
Management: Samantha Cano
- Culinary and Hospitality -
11th grade - Herkimer
- 3rd place: Networking
Concepts: Christian Leavitt
- ITA - 12th grade - Central
Valley Academy
- 4th place: Networking
Concepts: Brooke Edstrom -
ITA - 12th grade - Herkimer
- 3rd place: Technology
Concepts: Kevin Chlus - ITA
- 12th grade - West Canada
Valley
- 4th place: Technology
Concepts: Mathew LaFrance -
ITA - 11th grade - Little Falls
- 5th place: Technology
Concepts: Christian Leavitt
- ITA - 12th grade - Central
Valley Academy
- 1st place: Word Processing -
Production: Gabriella Howard
- ITA - 11th grade - Frankfort
Schuyler
- 2nd place: Word Processing -
Production: Jasmine Medina
- ITA - 11th grade - Frankfort
Schuyler
- 3rd place: Word Processing -
Production: Brooke Edstrom -
ITA - 12th grade - Herkimer

Matthews report:

► Each component district that uses itinerant and related services personnel will receive a mid-year customer satisfaction survey to complete on their BOCES staff working within their buildings. The purpose of this survey is to share with our employees the strengths seen by our districts and to support

them with any areas of growth that may be needed.

► Pathways Academy students completed the January Regents exams and in total 106 exams were taken. The principals are currently in the process of analyzing the data from these assessments.

► Special education teachers in collaboration with our related service providers will be undertaking an initiative aimed at improving prosocial skills. Teachers will identify and prioritize the prosocial skills most lacking with and among our students. With this information, our

counselors in collaboration with teachers will explicitly teach and practice these skills. Students will be reinforced throughout their day for appropriately using prosocial skills. This effort will lead to improved small group work as well as decrease student discipline referrals.

► Our VP-TECH program has a new college liaison. Robin Voetterl-Riecker, associate dean of academic affairs-humanities and social science, met with VP-TECH Principal Brittany DerCola to plan next year's college courses for VP-TECH students. We are very pleased with

Featured online: Highlights from O-M-H School Boards Institute General Membership Meeting



Herkimer students attend the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer Counties School Boards Institute General Membership Meeting on March 30 at Herkimer BOCES to discuss the Herkimer art program. To read a little bit more about the event and watch a couple videos including photo highlights from the event, [click here](#).

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

this partnership.

► On Feb. 3, BOCES hosted the CTE Zone 2 principals and directors from the region. Our regional CTE counterparts had the opportunity to tour the facility, and our culinary students dazzled them with a lunch that was both delicious and visually appealing.

Kline report:

Adult education, Literacy Zone and high school TASC:

► A training of all the Partners of the Workforce Development Board was held at Herkimer Working Solutions in January. Sixteen agencies and programs were represented and gave highlights of the services they provide. This is in preparation of the implementation of the new WIOA regulations and subsequent funding.

► The LPN program began providing certified nursing assistant training for Focus Rehabilitation of Otsego County in January. There are 11 students that are being transported to us for the training. Their clinical work will be done in the facility in Otsego County.

Early childhood education:

► Prekindergarten registration dates have been established at all our centers for the fall. We are also seeking 3-to-5-year-olds from any district for the six-week summer integrated preschool program.

Migrant education tutorial and support services:

► Plans for summer are beginning to take shape from NYSED-Migrant. There will be the opportunity to send two students to Close Up in

Featured online: Herkimer BOCES scheduled prekindergarten registration dates



Herkimer BOCES prekindergarten students Hannah, Hunter and Jenna at Frankfort-Schuyler display their artwork. Prekindergarten registration dates took place for the 2017-18 school year at Dolgeville, Frankfort-Schuyler, Herkimer, Owen D. Young and West Canada Valley. To read more, [click here](#).

Washington, D.C., during the last week of June. The program that used to be held at SUNY Oneonta is being reconfigured and brought back. Students from throughout the state will have the opportunity to develop academic and leadership skills.

Community outreach:

► The ESSA Think Tank continues to meet in Albany on a monthly basis. A new survey was scheduled to be coming out in February. All educators, parents, board members and stakeholders would be encouraged to participate to provide feedback on a survey on essential

indicators that should be included in the Education Department's proposal to Washington. In addition, another public meeting on ESSA was scheduled for March.

Deierlein report:

Program and services tuitions and fees:

► Deierlein said the initial service requests will be distributed to the component superintendents at the February cabinet meeting. He reviewed the 2017-2018 service costs and noted that changes in tuitions were mostly because of inflationary increases.

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

Picolla report:

Annual Meeting:

► Picolla informed board members that the BOCES Annual Meeting was scheduled for April 6 and that nominations for vacant board seats were due by March 27. The terms of board members Miller, Tharp, Lawrence Thibault and Scott Tranter will end June 30, 2017. Mount Markham will provide the entertainment and chairperson for this year's Annual Meeting.

March Meeting

Board forum:

- Board members complimented the BOCES Open House.
- Lynch noted that West Canada Valley awarded bids for its capital project and expects to begin in April.
- LaLonde shared that Central Valley is celebrating two wrestlers for their state championship achievement.

NYSSBA update:

- Miller informed the board members that he is seeking a nomination to continue as the NYSSBA Area 5 director and asked for their support.

Featured online: Visual communications student designs logo for local organization



Friends of Historic Central Mohawk Valley Foundation President John Schuyler and Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES visual communications media arts senior Jordan Roberts, of Central Valley Academy, pose with the logo Roberts designed for the organization. To read more, click here.

sharing services and the Rockefeller Institute noted it.

Recruitment and retention:

► Picolla said contract negotiations with the Teachers' Association are moving forward and that a meeting was scheduled for March 21.

► In response to board member Daniel Voce's request for information relating to graduation rates for full-time students for the last five years and graduation rates for surrounding BOCES, data on special education results was reviewed.

Facilities and technology infrastructure:

► Picolla informed the board of specific expenses relating to the proposed building project. The project's focus is HVAC and cafeteria improvements at the WEB Complex as well as remodeling the special education wing to make it more suitable for high school general education programs. The project was estimated at \$9.1 million dollars. Picolla stated that he is working with the financial advisors and attorneys on the project timeline.

2201 transition process:

► The board was reminded of the special board meeting that was scheduled for March 13 with Jacklin Starks, who is the district superintendent of Madison-Oneida BOCES and interim district superintendent of Herkimer BOCES, to discuss the district superintendent search process.

► LaLonde shared that Jhone Ebert, senior deputy commissioner for education policy, called him regarding the district superintendent vacancy and also stated that our JMT Region is the best BOCES model for

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

► Picolla informed the board that discussions with Central Valley administration regarding the lease of the Remington building continue. Through these discussions, it is looking like leasing with the option to purchase may be the best way to proceed.

Positive thoughts:

LaLonde presented the following positive thoughts from recent news articles:

► BOCES administration presents administrative budget to Herkimer Central School District Board of Education.

► BOCES plans spring open house events.

► Pen in Hand student writing conference set in Little Falls.

► BOCES visual communications media arts senior, Jordan Roberts, of Central Valley Academy, designs logo for Friends of Historic Central Mohawk Valley Foundation.

► Frankfort-Schuyler 2016 Youth Summit team presented ideas to their Board of Education as possible solutions to issues they identified while at the summit.

► Students recently inducted into the National Vocational-Technical Honor Society, a national honor society for those students who have majored in a vocational or technical subject during high school and/or college, were:

- Kayley Bonificio, health science careers, Dolgeville;
- Jianna Brown, criminal justice, Little Falls;
- Alyssa Campione, culinary, Little Falls;

Featured online: Herkimer BOCES students inducted into National Technical Honor Society



Herkimer BOCES students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society on Feb. 28 at Herkimer BOCES. Pictured, from left: Kayley Bonificio, Jianna Brown, Alyssa Campione, Jonathan Coons, Susan Doris, Brittany Munch, Roberta Roper, Allison Shedd, Allie Steffen and Brady Streid. To read more, [click here](#).

- Jonathan Coons, automotive technology, Mt. Markham;
- Susan Doris, culinary, Little Falls;
- Brittany Munch, child and family services, Frankfort-Schuyler;
- Roberta Roper, Information Technology Academy, Frankfort-Schuyler;
- Allison Shedd, child and family services, Central Valley Academy;
- Allie Steffen, conservation, Central Valley Academy;
- Brady Streid, heavy equipment, Owen D. Young.

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

Matthews report:

► At the March 17 Superintendent's Conference Day, BOCES programs will work toward improving student achievement through the following professional development opportunities:

- CTE, alternative education and VP-TECH will participate in Differentiated Teaching Strategies to Increase Academic Success [Grades 7-12].
- Elementary special education teachers will be continuing the process of mapping, pacing, and prioritizing curriculum.
- Our CTE division continues to work in partnership with Herkimer College to plan for additional CTE programs to move to the college. This partnership requires stakeholders to identify key instructional components to be added, expanded upon or replaced. This group is also identifying the benefits to our students.
- Herkimer BOCES is representing Herkimer County as a member of

Featured online: Central Valley students participate in job shadowing through STC



F.X. Matt Brewing Co. Packaging Manager and Herkimer BOCES board member Daniel Voce explains the brewing process to Central Valley Academy junior Dennis Lotoski, 16, on Feb. 1, during a job shadowing experience organized by the Herkimer BOCES School To Careers program. To read more about this and other job shadowing experiences, click here.

the newly created education sub-committee, which has sprung from the Herkimer County Summit held last year at Herkimer BOCES. The purpose of this group is to identify and to put into place opportunities that will both attract and retain young adults to our region.

► Susan Johns, from Ferrara Fiorenza, P.C., will speak to our CSE chairs regarding 504 plans and provide an update on regulations.

► Our VP-TECH program is actively recruiting students for next year and making plans for our new advanced manufacturing CTE program.

Kline report:

Adult education, Literacy Zone and high school TASC:

► Herkimer County HealthNet provided a skin and wound workshop in January. This provided a comprehensive skincare program for preventing, identifying and treating wounds.

► A falls-prevention workshop was held in February with the focus on providing basic understanding of how to support older adults to reduce their fall risk.

► The LPN program will scheduled open

houses for March 28, April 25 and May 23 at the Remington Educational Complex.

Early childhood education:

► Prekindergarten registration dates have been established at all centers for this fall. Staff is also seeking 3 to 5 year olds from any district for the six-week summer integrated preschool program.

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

Migrant education tutorial and support services:

▶ Two regional State Parent Advisory Council meetings were scheduled for March – one in Syracuse and one in Albany. BOCES representatives were scheduled to attend both meetings.

Community outreach:

▶ The ESSA Think Tank continues to meet in Albany on a monthly basis. A new survey is available until mid-March. All educators, parents, board members and stakeholders are encouraged to participate to provide feedback on a survey on essential indicators that should be included in the state Education Department's proposal to Washington. ESSA public meetings were scheduled for March.

Deierlein report:

Facilities:

▶ Remington Educational Complex was treated for bedbugs due to evidence of them in several locations in the building. The treatment will help to minimize potential exposure to building staff and visitors.

Health and Safety Service:

▶ Adam Hutchinson, coordinator of health and safety, is in the process of having a webpage created on the BOCES website for protocols, newsletters, announcements and a calendar. Also, included will be sample bedbug protocol. This webpage is now available.

▶ The safety service finished its fire safety inspections for the districts that requested them. Reports were due to the state Education Department March 1.

Featured online: School To Careers puts on Career Exploration Day with Poland



Alicia Dodge, who runs the Just Dance Studio in Little Falls, leads Poland first-graders in some dance moves during Poland Central School District's Career Exploration Day on March 17. The Herkimer BOCES School To Careers program arranged for about 30 presenters to attend to talk to students about their careers. To read more, [click here](#).

▶ Component district non-instructional buildings will be tested for lead in their water supply in the spring. Due to these buildings being winterized when the first round of testing occurred they were unable to be tested at that time.

Initial service requests:

▶ The 2017-2018 initial service requests have been distributed to the school districts. Included in this year's request forms are the third class of VP-TECH students, the creation of 6:1:1 special education classrooms, the continuation of the AIM program and the continuation of the School To Careers program. The

service request forms are due back to BOCES on April 13. At that point, the information will be examined to determine if changes need to be made before fall classes begin.

Retirement seminar:

▶ BOCES is hosting its annual retirement seminar on April 13. Speakers are scheduled in the following areas: federal Social Security, Teachers' Retirement System, Employees' Retirement System, tax sheltered annuities and estate planning. Employees of the component districts are invited to attend.

Herkimer BOCES Board of Education updates continued

Hedges report:

Report by
Assistant
Superintendent for
Instruction Laurie
Hedges:

► In an effort to retain new instructional staff members, a mentoring coordinator position has been created. Sarah Trunfio will serve in this position and will work with Hedges and the Mentoring Committee to ensure all new teachers have access to mentoring experiences and to develop a curriculum for an induction process. The Mentoring Committee will work to gather data and determine the process for next year.

► BOCES has received approval for its Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) application. Principals are working hard to complete their observation schedules.

► BOCES has received approval for its CTLE application. Therefore, BOCES is now a state Education Department approved professional development sponsor for both the Herkimer BOCES and its component districts to help educators who possess a professional certificate complete 100 hours of professional

Featured online: School To Careers puts on Career Exploration Day with West Canada Valley



Guest speakers talk to West Canada Valley students during a Career Exploration Day that the Herkimer BOCES School To Careers program put on with the district. To read more and view more photos, [click here](#).

development every five years. In addition, we continue to work to have all certified employees registered with the state Education Department over the 2016-2017 school year.

► The home instruction program continues to grow. Currently, the progress of 129 home schooled students of participating districts is being tracked through this service. Coordinators Mr. Stewart and Mr. Young review student progress and curriculum requirements, along with the clerical assistance of Vicki Devereese, for these students.

Picolla report:

► Picolla informed Board members that the BOCES Annual Meeting was scheduled for April 6 and that nominations for vacant board seats were due by March 27. The terms of Miller, Tharp, Thibault and Tranter will end June 30, 2017. Mount Markham was scheduled to provide the entertainment and chairperson for this year's Annual Meeting.

► Picolla reminded board members of the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer Counties School Boards Institute Showcase scheduled for March 30 at Herkimer BOCES. The focus was for selected BOCES and district programs to share their unique programs with other districts in the region.