

Stakeholder Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2021

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Attendees: Megan Barbera, Albert Cousins, Steve Jensen

Stakeholder Relations Committee Meeting

Family Town Hall

Discussion: Seventy-seven families participated in last week's superintendent-hosted virtual Town Hall and Albert received very positive feedback from those in attendance. Participants indicated that they were grateful for the sense of connection offered by this and other similar Town Hall events. Additionally, the format of pre-event question submission seemed to work well and provided a good framework for the meeting.

Decision: The Committee agreed that Town Hall communications are a productive use of available technology and make it convenient for families to remain connected to District happenings from the comfort of their homes. We further agreed that it would be beneficial to host superintendent-led Town Halls on a regular basis, perhaps monthly or every six weeks. (Albert leads similar meetings on a weekly basis with District faculty and staff and has received an overwhelmingly-positive response.) The Committee requests the Board's input on the frequency of future virtual Town Halls.

Website Committee

Discussion: Steve provided an update on the progress of the two sub-committees designated to select a new web platform for the District. He indicated that all meetings to date had been productive and sensitive to the needs not only of the District, but of each individual school within the District. He is in the process of meeting with different companies to assess their offerings and compatibility with District needs.

Decision: The Board of Education brings a unique voice to this conversation as a bridge between the community and the District, and the Committee would like to receive feedback on the Board's desired changes to the current web platform, with specific attention to Board engagement with and inclusion in the new platform.

Brochure

Discussion: Steve provided an update that digital revisions are in progress.

Decision: Steve and Albert will meet and go over the digital revisions to the brochure and follow-up with Committee at our next monthly meeting.

PTSO

Discussion: Albert updated the Committee on his invitation to host the PTSO at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

Decision: Several members of the PTSO will be joining us for a presentation at an upcoming Board of Education meeting in the near future, date TBD.

Communications Plan

Discussion: This document is still being reviewed and revised by individual Committee members and these suggested revisions will be discussed in our next monthly meeting.

Decision: Steve will share this document with the Committee via Google doc and we will continue to review and fine tune its contents.

Parent Night

Discussion: The District Wellness Committee has been hard at work planning a Parent Night for parents AND children to attend together. Lynn Lyons, LICSW, is a New Hampshire-based psychotherapist and sought after speaker, specializing in anxiety reduction for children and families.

Decision: Parent Night will take place on March 3rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. via Zoom and all are welcome.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 4, 2021

Respectfully submitted: Megan Barbera

DUTCHESS CES

Edward L. McCormick, *President* Michael Riehl, *Vice President*
Ralph Chiumento, Jr. | Thomas Hurley | Rick Keller-Coffey | Rob Rubin | Gully Stanford
Nancy Melilli, *Clerk of the Board*

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5 BOCES Road, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Phone: 845.486.4800 | Fax: 845.486.4981

January 27, 2021

TO: Board Presidents
Board Members
Chief School Officers

RE: Nominations and Election for BOCES Board – 3 Open Seats

This year the terms of office of three members of the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services Board will expire on June 30, 2021. Mr. Edward McCormick (Arlington), Mr. Robert Rubin (Wappingers) and Mr. Richard Keller-Coffey (Webutuck) have indicated that they will be candidates for nomination and re-election for another three years.

Nominations:

The Education Law **does not** limit the number of candidates a Board may nominate provided that:

- the nomination is by official Board resolution;
- the nominee resides in one of nine component districts (Arlington, Dover, Pawling, Pine Plains, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Wappingers or Webutuck);
- the nominee is not an employee of any component district in Dutchess County;
- **March 23rd** is the nomination deadline.

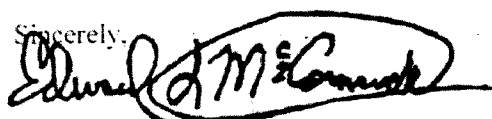
The BOCES District Clerk must reject a nominee if the person nominated is a resident in a component district that currently has a resident serving on the BOCES Board whose term will not expire at the end of the current school year. (Beacon, Hyde Park, Millbrook or Spackenkill)

Nominations must be received by the BOCES District Clerk on or before **March 23, 2021**. The BOCES District Clerk will notify component District Clerks of the names of all nominees after March 23rd. Nominees attending the BOCES Annual Meeting on April 1, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. will be introduced at that time.

Election:

The election, by law, must occur in either a regular or a special meeting of each component Board of Education convened on April 27, 2021, for the purpose of casting ballots. This April 27th date is the only date allowable for this election. Each component district may cast only one (1) vote for each vacant seat. The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast will be elected, provided, however, that no more than one candidate residing in a participating component district may be elected. The results will be issued through a press release immediately thereafter. Please schedule a meeting of your Board on April 27th.

Sincerely,



Edward L. McCormick, *President*

ELM: nam cc: District Clerks (w/enclosure)

Dutchess County BOCES Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.

The meeting will be accessible to the public, via video conference.

The video conference will be recorded. The link is below.

<https://media.dcbores.org/Watch/Tn7k4ANg>

Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services

Administrative Offices: 845.486.4800

www.dcbores.org

Participating Districts: Arlington | Beacon | Dover | Hyde Park | Millbrook | Pawling | Pine Plains | Poughkeepsie | Red Hook | Rhinebeck | Spackenkill | Wappingers | Webutuck

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

KAREN S. SMYTHE
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845-224-6198 mobile

January 27, 2021

CANDIDACY FOR NOMINATION TO THE DUTCHESS BOCES BOARD

It is my honor to submit my name for your consideration for Nomination to the Dutchess BOCES Board.

I am a Dutchess County native and my background is in business. I ran our family's construction firm, C.B. Strain & Son, for many years until we sold it in 2012. Subsequently I worked for a small non-profit in Hyde Park which supports an historic landscape and provides educational programs. I most recently ran for NYS Senate in 2018 & 2020.

I served on the board of the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum as they made their transition from donated space in the Poughkeepsie Mall to their current permanent location. I also served as a Trustee of Vassar College, my alma mater, for 5 years. I have served on the board of the Bardavon Opera House for over 18 years, including 4 years as President.

Education is the foundation of our society, our democracy, our communities. I believe that the most important work we can do is ensure that all our children have access to the best education and are offered every opportunity to find their paths to success. Dutchess BOCES serves an essential role in supporting our 13 school districts in providing this all important education.

I recognize the important role Dutchess BOCES plays in providing Special Education services and Professional Development programs, especially in this time of constrained budgets. I have a particular passion for Career and Technical Training. I know first-hand that the skilled trades offer excellent job opportunities and there is a need for these skills. I strongly support higher education and I also know it is not always the right path for every student or for every student right after high school.

Dutchess BOCES offers important services to the component districts. I see an opportunity to enhance the connection between all the districts and Dutchess BOCES to ensure that BOCES understands the needs of each district and that the districts understand the ways BOCES can add value and save money. As a board member, I would attend component district board meetings throughout the year to provide updates and receive feedback to enhance that connection.

I can bring my business knowledge, board experience, community connections, and dedication to the board of Dutchess BOCES. Having had to meet a budget throughout my business career while serving our clients and customers well, I have always looked for creative ways to add value. Especially in this moment, supporting all of our school districts in maximizing every dollar spent will be even more important. And, given the current construction project at BOCES, I can bring my expertise to the oversight of the completion of that project.

While I currently live in Red Hook, I grew up in the City of Poughkeepsie and lived in LaGrange for 14 years. And during my recent campaigns for State Senate, I made my way all over Dutchess County. It would be an honor to serve my community by serving on the Dutchess BOCES Board.

I humbly request your endorsement of my nomination.

Please feel free to contact me at karenstrain.smythe@gmail.com or 845-224-6198 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen

Karen Smythe

Initial Budget Presentation, Fixed Costs

Outline of Presentation

- Budget Calendar
- Enrollment Projection/Trends
- Employee Benefits
 - Employee Retirement System + Reserve
 - Teacher Retirement System + Reserve
 - Social Security
 - Workers Compensation
 - Health Insurance
 - Welfare Trust
- Debt Service
 - Current
 - \$12.08M Serial Bond + \$1.0M BOCES Bond
- Transportation
 - Home-to-School
 - Special Education
 - Private & Parochial