

**External and Stakeholders Relations Committee Meeting**

November 5, 2020

**Attendees:** Megan Barbera, Albert Cousins, Stephen Jensen, Jacqueline Raccuia, Matthew Van Wormer

**Communication Plan 2020:**

Stephen Jensen was invited to attend the committee meeting to clarify the purpose of the Communication Plan 2020 document. The document was initially drafted in 2016 as a guide to the various means of communication to stakeholders and within the district. It specified goals the district would seek to accomplish (e.g., establishing a social media presence).

The committee decided that the Plan will be reviewed, updated, and condensed. The Plan will continue to provide overall communication guidance to the community, to families, and within the school district. It will emphasize how the district plans to communicate information from the district, administrators, and teachers. It will also address how to communicate a question or concern.

The committee further discussed a similar Communication Plan possibly be created and shared annually from each building, outlining the format, frequency, and most effective communication strategies.

The School Messenger program that is currently used by the district to provide information to families will soon have the information posted to the district website as well. The district will move towards a more standardized communication platform (to be further discussed with administration and teachers) that will be shared with stakeholders for ease of information flow.

The district will investigate initiating a quarterly mailed newsletter to be sent to the entire community to highlight the accomplishments and relevant information from all three schools. The committee asked the District to provide the Board of Education with a cost estimate in connection with implementation of the newsletter. The Committee also discussed how the District might be able to leverage BOCES with the newsletter's productions.

**Village PD and School Relationship:**

Mr. Cousins discussed his interaction with the mayor of Rhinebeck. The Rhinebeck school district employs two Rhinebeck police officers as school resource officers. The committee noted that the district has a strong relationship with the Rhinebeck PD. The SROs have established a good rapport with our students and the district would like to continue this relationship. The contract will soon be up for renegotiation.

Community partners:

In an ongoing effort to connect with our community partners, the committee would like to propose to the Board of Education that the Rhinebeck Science Foundation, Culture Connect, and the Alumni Association be invited to make presentations at future Board of Education meetings to the in order to highlight the positive contribution of these groups for the community.

Livestreaming Board of Education Meetings:

Stephen and Albert will investigate live streaming the Board meeting to allow the community to attend the meetings from the comfort of their homes.

Next Meeting: December 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted: Jacqueline Raccuia

# Rhinebeck Central School District

## Superintendent's Goals

5.4

Albert Cousins, July 1 2020-2021

DRAFT 11/6/20

### **Goal 1: Reopening Schools**

With a priority on health and safety, the Superintendent will create an approach for reopening that aligns with expectations from the New York State Education Department, and centers the diverse needs of the students of the Rhinebeck Central School District. The planning process will be inclusive of all employees, be based on feedback and data from families, and communicated on a regular basis. The reopening plan will be continually reviewed, modified, and adjusted as conditions evolve and as feedback is collected and analyzed.

### **Goal 2: Engage Stakeholders**

The Superintendent will utilize forms of communication to maintain connection with members of the community, employees, families, students and district partners. A reinvigoration of district committees such as the District-Wide Safety Team, CDEP, Wellness Committee, and others will be one way to create a diverse representation of stakeholder groups.

### **Goal 3: K-12 Articulation and Educational Leadership**

The Superintendent will analyze, make recommendations, and take steps to further develop the school experience through a K-12 lens, with extra attention to the importance of key transition points (such as from 5th-6th grade, and 8th-9th grade). Reporting on district actions and programs through a K-12 lens, in line with the district priorities, mission, vision, and values will be conducted. Finding opportunities to meet the broad range of individual needs will influence decision making and receive priority attention in program development.

### **Goal 4: Supervision and Evaluation**

The Superintendent will analyze, make recommendations, and take steps to further develop the form, function, and patterns of supervision and evaluation for programs and personnel. Performance monitoring will be led by the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board committee, including reporting, review, and recommendations for improvements to routine practices.

### **Goal 5: Lead, Coordinate District Priorities**

The Superintendent will champion the district priorities through communication, monitoring, and recommendations for strategic planning using an inclusive approach that values the voices of all stakeholder groups. The Superintendent will coordinate the reporting on these priorities on a mid-year and end of year schedule.

# My Goals for the Year

1. Keep You Safe
2. Lower Your Anxiety About Our New Normal
3. Make You Laugh
4. Make You Feel Cared About
5. Teach You Something

All in that Order



## Positions Adopted at the 2020 Annual Business Meeting

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### POSITION STATEMENTS

#### **Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association shall advocate for an overhaul of the current, inadequate testing system to more accurately measure achievement in skills, knowledge and abilities, and it shall do this by:

- a. Working collaboratively with the New York State Education Department, superintendents, administrators and teachers to create tests that are developmentally appropriate of reasonable length and frequency, and which avoid the unintended consequences of narrowing the curriculum, teaching to the test, reducing love of learning and undermining school climate;
- b. Insisting that educators throughout the State be included in all aspects of the creation of standardized tests; and
- c. Demanding that district personnel be permitted to examine test results, answer keys, and their students' responses so that educators can better assess what each child is learning in relation to what is being taught and so that such tests can truly inform instruction.

#### **Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association shall support legislation that makes it easier for districts to recover attorney's fees in legal cases related to special education where the district is the prevailing party.

#### **Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association shall support legislation that would shift the burden of proof in special education due process complaints away from the district and back to the party seeking relief.

#### **Resolution – Adopted, as Amended**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association seek legislative and/or policy changes that would mandate local Industrial Development Agencies to include affected school districts in the development and/or extension of any Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement(s). This inclusion must be initiated at the earliest possible stages of any PILOT consideration.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support legislation at the state and/or federal level that would allow and enhance the sharing of services amongst school districts and other municipalities.

**Resolution – Adopted, as Amended**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support proposals to provide resources to local school districts to expand opportunities and capacity for online learning, provided that they increase student opportunities and do not decrease current levels of instruction.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Board Association should support proposals to incorporate prekindergarten funding into the school aid formulas used for K-12 education.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association oppose proposals to raise the number of charter schools authorized in the state.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association should oppose proposals to expand mayoral control to school districts beyond New York City.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support proposals to regulate and restrict the use of tobacco products among youth.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that NYSSBA seek legislative support to allow for more than one Board Member to simultaneously attend a New York State Office of State Comptroller (OSC) audit exit conference.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association supports legislation that makes it clear that public school districts are not responsible for assessing the substantial equivalency of education delivered in nonpublic schools.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association supports legislation to authorize bidirectional communication between New York school districts and the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), to allow for the efficient query and transfer of student immunization data.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association supports legislation that would enable the Commissioner of Education to declare alternate election arrangements in cases where a disaster substantially interrupts a scheduled school board/budget vote.

**Resolution – Adopted, as Amended**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association seek to support legislation that would provide funding for suggested (not mandated) state training and certification to provide parent advocates with knowledge and resources to support their advocacy work for parents and students in their attendance at Committee on Special Education meetings and hearings.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support legislation that promotes the reduction in costs associated with an impartial hearing, independent evaluations requests, and attorney fees associated with due process claims.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support increased state and federal funding to provide educational equity by addressing the digital divide created by limited access to technology and broadband.

**Resolution – Adopted, as Amended**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association oppose mid-year state aid cuts and to advocate for additional funding from both state and federal governments to compensate school districts for Covid-19 related expenses for the 2020-21 school year to allow for educational continuity and fiscal stability for school districts.

**Resolution – Adopted**

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association produce, and widely recommend the adoption of a board policy, or language to be added to the existing policy related to child abuse, stating that the adopting district will encourage and facilitate all school personnel, including those who are mandated reporters and those who are not, to participate, once every three years, in a course or workshop that presents information related to signs of child abuse and the responsibilities of reporting it.

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# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

## An Introduction

Dutchess County ACES Task Force, 2019 1

### What are ACES

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) are stressful or traumatic events experienced before the age of 18. They are grouped into three categories: abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction.

-Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2013

Dutchess County ACES Task Force, 2019 2



## Resilience Film Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/137282528>

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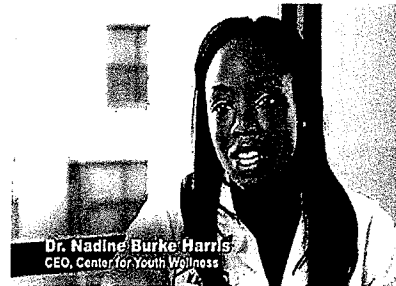
## The Study

- Collaboration between Kaiser Permanente & the Centers for Disease Control
- Over 17,000 Kaiser Permanente Insurance members were assessed from 1995-1997. Most were middle to upper-middle class, Caucasian adults with college educations
- Assessed correlations between child maltreatment and health and wellness outcomes later in life
- The study found that certain childhood life experiences (ACES) are major risk factors for some of the most serious health & social problems in our country

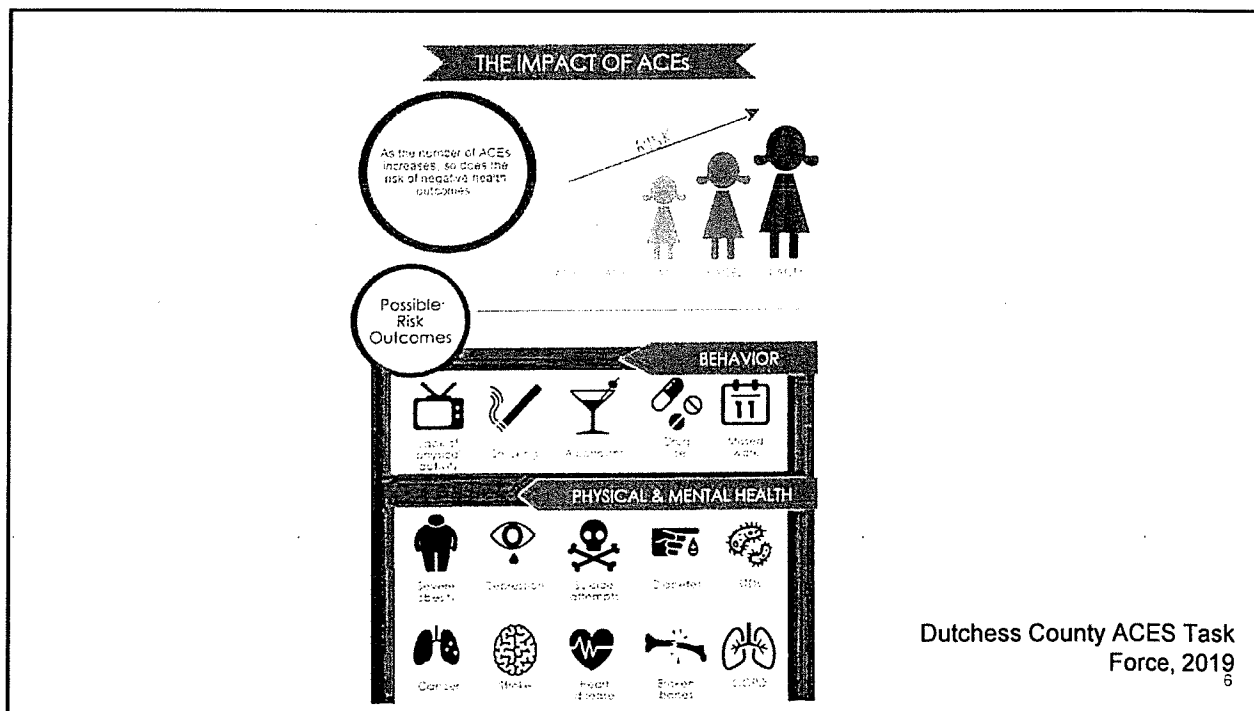
Dutchess County ACES Task Force, 2019

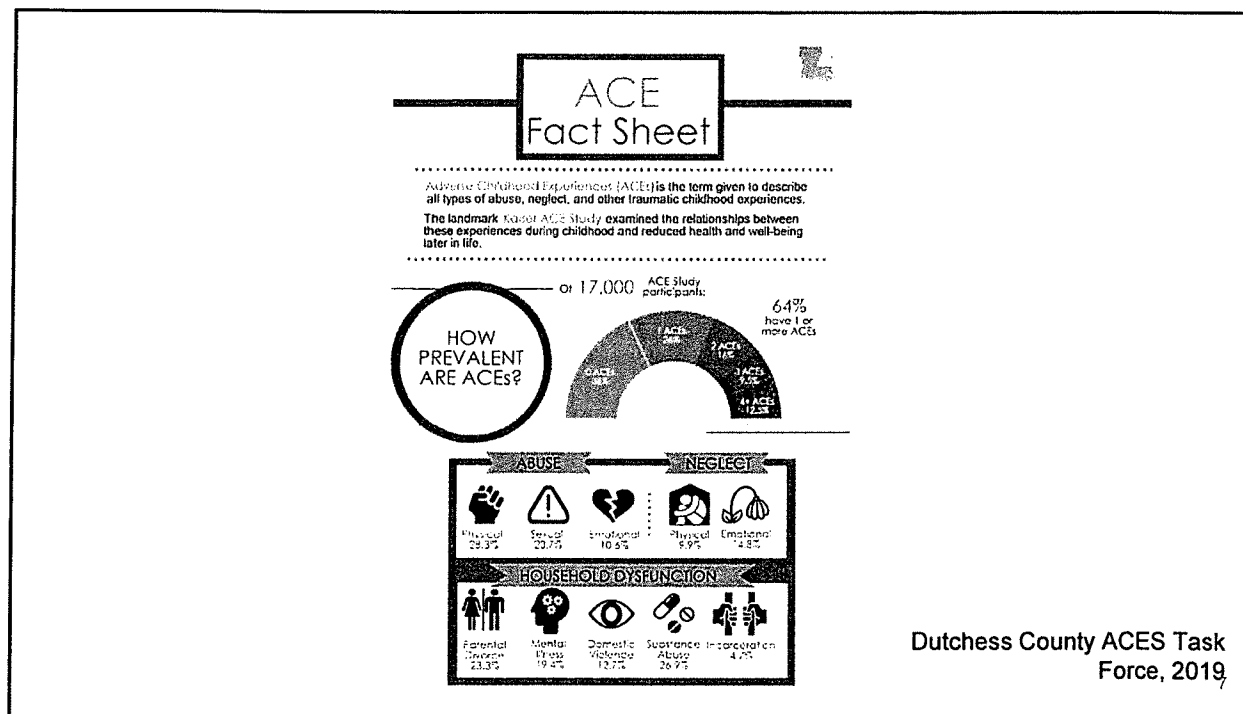
## Dr. Nadine Burke Harris

- First and current Surgeon General of California since 2019
- Co founder & former CEO of Center for Youth Wellness created in 2012 as a clinical model that recognizes the impact of adverse experiences on health and treats toxic stress in children



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## Resilience as an Antidote to the Impact of ACES

Resilience is the ability to thrive, adapt and cope despite tough and stressful times.

Resilience is not an innate characteristic, but rather is a skill that can be taught, learned and practiced. Everyone has the ability to become resilient when surrounded by the right environments and people.

-Facilitators Guide to Resilience by KPJR Films

Dutchess County ACES Task Force, 2019 <sup>8</sup>

## Strategies to Build Resilience

Moving from 'what's wrong with you' to 'what's strong with you'

What does resilience look like?

- Having resilient parents
- Building attachments and nurturing relationships
- Building social connections
- Meeting basic needs
- Learning about parenting and how children grow
- Building social and emotional skills
- Having a safe physical and emotional environment

Dutchess County ACES Task Force, 2019

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## Preventing ACES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gm-INpzU4g>

Dutchess County ACES Task Force, 2019 <sup>10</sup>

## Resources

- Dutchess County ACES Task Force  
<https://www.acesconnection.com/g/dutchess-county-ny-aces-task-force>
- Centers for Disease Control  
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/cestudy/index.html>
- Resilient Child Fund [www.resilientchildfund.org](http://www.resilientchildfund.org)
- ACES Connection [www.acesconnection.com](http://www.acesconnection.com)
- ACES Too High [www.acesconnection.com](http://www.acesconnection.com)
- Center for Youth Wellness (medical) <https://centerforyouthwellness.org>
- Stress Health [www.stresshealth.org](http://www.stresshealth.org)
- ACE Response [ACEResponse.org](http://ACEResponse.org)

Dutchess County ACES Task Force, 2019 <sup>11</sup>