

BOCES BITS

March 2009 Vol. 5 Issue 3

Jessica F. Cohen, District Superintendent • Laurie Cook, Editor

From the District Superintendent

Dear Staff,

BOCES continues to be seen as a “part of the solution” to help students, schools, and districts with the challenges of 2009. Last week in Albany, Sheila Taugher, COMBO President, Tracie Clark, OCMBFT President, Jeff Craig, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Support Services, and I met with Senators Valesky, DeFrancisco, and Seward, and Assemblymen Stirpe and Magnarelli, and Assemblywoman Christensen to talk about the contributions that BOCES make to our schools. We were able to share with them our information on savings through collaborations as well as the highlights of our services. There is a shared understanding of BOCES and support for the work that we do.

Other ways that we are “part of the solution” are seen in some of the recent student successes... in the midst of stories of layoffs and unemployment, our Adult Education Training Programs graduated record numbers of students in Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning, Building Trades, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Assisting, Office Technology, Welding, Cosmetology, and Dental Assisting. Many of these adults have come back for retraining and are leaving our programs with new skills and new employment!

Thank you for your help in making us “part of the solution.”



OCM BOCES Proposed 2009-2010 School Year Budget

The development and formation of the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES budget is a lengthy process driven by the educational needs and requests of the twenty-three component districts served, as well as other districts served by the CNY RIC. In mid-February, the initial BOCES program budgets for the upcoming school year are presented to school superintendents, business officials and the BOCES Board of Education. In early March, copies of the initial budget are distributed to all component school districts in advance of our annual meeting.

This year’s annual meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2 at OCM BOCES McEvoy Center in Cortland. On Friday, April 3, the BOCES Clerk will mail board ballots to component school districts. Final Request and Contract for Services (component districts must notify of intent to participate in specific services) are due at BOCES on Monday, April 13, 2009. OCM BOCES Annual election and statutory budget vote on the Administrative budget will be held on Monday, April 20, 2009. Final 2009-2010 Budgets will be distributed to school districts in June.

Initial OCM BOCES 2009-2010 Proposed Budget

Programs & Services	2009-2010 Proposed
Career & Technical Education	\$8,810,256
Instruction of the Handicapped	20,118,088
Itinerant Services	3,634,637
General Instruction	7,533,164
Instructional Support	3,489,891
Other Services	4,416,457
Regional Information Center	32,821,489
Total Programs	\$80,823,982
Administrative & Rental (Includes Capital)	\$7,268,171
Total General Fund Budget	\$88,092,153

Important Budget Dates

- April 2 - Annual Meeting @ McEvoy in Cortland
- April 13 - Final Request & Contract for Services Due
- April 20 - Annual Election & Administrative Budget Vote
- June 30 - Final 2009-2010 Budgets Distributed

Class Learns Photography at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo



Students from the Crossroads class in the Special Education Department recently participated in an exciting community event. These students were asked by their art teacher Ms. Contento to take part in a Winter Photo Contest held at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnett Park. Participants of all ages were asked to take a photograph at the zoo during the winter season, highlighting one of its many attributes. Students from the Crossroads class took this opportunity to visit the zoo, take part in a community event, and learn various composition and photography skills. This day was spent by students sharing one camera, keeping a log of the pictures taken, enjoying the zoo animals, and investigating and learning how to take a good photograph. Students enjoyed a wonderful day at the zoo where they learned photography skills and also about working as a team. Please congratulate these students on their beautiful photographs and for their exceptional effort on this day!

OCM BOCES Board Members

Michael J. Brady
Wayne Brownson, *Vice President*
Catherine Cifaratta-Brayton
Mark W. Gilbert
Mary Ann Haley
Mike Murphy
Lisa O'Reilly
David Paczkowski
Joan Reeves
Sandra Rausa
Ann Wright, *President*

BETAC Helps Students Prepare For Legislative Event Through Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute Training



Sixteen students from Central New York schools are in the process of being trained through BETAC, to participate in the Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute and "Somos Uno" conference in Albany this April. Ten student delegates will be eligible to attend the conference and participate in a mock assembly.

The New York State Assembly's Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force sponsors an annual *Somos Uno* conference providing a forum for Hispanic and interested individuals to share their concerns on Hispanic issues and suggest legislative remedies and programs to address these concerns. In 1990, the first Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (HYLI) was sponsored in conjunction with the *Somos Uno* conference.

OCM BOCES Bilingual Education Technical Assistance Center (BETAC) staff have been working with sixteen local 11th & 12th grade Hispanic students to prepare them for this HYLI in Albany, NY this April. The youth, from Nottingham, Corcoran, Syracuse Academy of Science, Christian Brothers Academy, Jamesville-Dewitt, Cicero-North Syracuse, G. Ray Bodley, West Genesee, Marcellus, Oswego, Henninger, and New Hartford High Schools, will have gone through four trainings with BETAC to prepare them for the sessions in Albany.

The students have already completed three trainings, including an introductory session (pictured above), team-building exercises and training by a legislative assistant to Assemblyman Magnarelli. Their final training session will take place March 20th at Onondaga Community College. Ten student delegates will then travel to Albany to participate in the conference and a mock assembly in the State Assembly Chamber.

175 Students Graduate From Adult Education Programs

On Thursday, February 19th OCM BOCES helped celebrate the accomplishments of our adult students for completion of training in the following programs: HVAC/R, CAD Drafting and Design, Construction Technology, Pharmacy Technology, Cosmetology and Welding. Approximately 175 students graduated from these programs. The celebration at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Liverpool, was very well attended by students and their families and friends who came out to recognize their achievements.

The attendees were welcomed and congratulated by Training Programs Coordinator, JoAnne Flood; OCM BOCES Board President, Ann Wright; and New York State Assemblywoman Joan Christensen. Student speakers were Dental Assisting program graduate, Faith Smith and Office Technology program graduate, Elise Jordan.



Dental Assisting Program Graduates (left) Brianne Meckes from Clayton, NY and Cherie Hendry from Manlius. Brianne accepted a position at Dr. Robert's office in Liverpool and Cherie is currently looking for a job in her new field.



Construction Trades Program Graduates (left to right) Greg Tulik, Mike Klaisle and Dan Perkins stand with Instructor John Sweeney at the Adult Education Graduation reception prior to the ceremony.



Joan Nichols, a graduate of OCM BOCES Office Technology program, takes a moment before the evening's ceremony to pose with her twin granddaughters, Kaitlyn and Emma.

McEvoy Construction Trades Students Build Ski Slope for Cortland Winterfest Celebration



Students from Mr. Bender's Construction Trades classes at McEvoy recently built a mock ski slope to be used during Cortland's Winterfest celebration. Mr. Bender's classes have been responsible for creating the structure in the past and were asked to build it again this year. The students constructed the pieces for the slope in their classes and brought them to Cortland's Courthouse Park for assembly before the Winterfest celebration.

BOCES Employee Supporting St. Baldrick's

On March 22nd OCM BOCES' Sue Kline will have her head shaved in front of hundreds of people at a St. Baldrick's event to raise critical funds for childhood cancer research. She will do this in honor of two children very special to her; her granddaughter Brianna (a leukemia survivor who was diagnosed at age 6) and in memory of Brianna's friend, Breanna Bartelli (who passed away at age 14 after many years of fighting neuroblastoma).



Sue feels that in comparison to the struggle faced by thousands of children each year, shaving her head is a small sacrifice. She is asking for the support of her co-workers by donating or joining her and her family at the St. Baldrick's Foundation event at Kitty Hoynes.

For information about sponsoring Sue, please contact her at Rodax 7. Sue's participant number is S-59184. To help Sue and her family reach their goal, you may donate online at http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/shavee_info.php?ParticipantKey=2009-59184.

OCM BOCES Tobacco Free Schools Initiative "Kicks Butts"

OCM BOCES will take part in "Kick Butts" Day on, March 25, 2009, when thousands of youth in Central New York and around the world will *Stand Out...Speak Up and Seize Control Against Big Tobacco*. During this annual event, high school and middle school students in CNY schools plan to make themselves heard. They will engage in activities as diverse as a Kick Ball for Kick Butts Tournament, a Human Wall at the entrance of a school to provide a visual show of informational statistics, lunch time information tables, assemblies, Graffiti Walls for personal stories, Memorial Walls about loved ones lost to tobacco use and various other activities and educational events.

For information or to participate, contact Nancy St. Onge at nstonge@ocmboces.org or (315) 431-8465.

Upcoming March EAP Workshops

March 25 Wednesday	Let's Talk Money - Constructive Communication About Money Matters with Michelle Stolicker	McEvoy Conference Center, Room 701 OCM BOCES 1710 Rt. 13, Cortland	4-5:30 pm
March 31 Tuesday	The Cutting Edge: What You Need To Know About Self Injury with Michelle Stolicker	Ithaca City School District Conference Room, Boynton Middle School - 1601 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca	4-5:30 pm

CONGRATULATIONS! KUDOS! GREAT JOB! WELL DONE! BRAVO!

If you know of an OCM BOCES student or employee that has done a great job on a project or if you know someone that should be recognized for an achievement they've made, please let us know about it! We'd like to get the word out about the great things that are going on in our organization. Send your information to Laurie Cook at lcook@ocmboces.org or call at 431-8597.



Adelina Theresa Montalto

Congratulations to OCM BOCES Teacher Trainer, Marisa Montalto and her husband, Paul. They welcomed a little girl, Adelina Theresa, on February 15th at 11:21 AM. She weighed 7pounds and 8 ounces.

Congratulations to OCM BOCES EAP Counselor, Melanie Towner, whose son, Clement Towner, from Lansing High School, recently placed in the Section 4 Class C swimming championship. Clement placed first in the 500-meter freestyle and the 100-meter backstroke and also swam a leg on the first-place 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays. With a seven second improvement in the 500-meter freestyle, Clement qualified for the upcoming state meet. Congratulations!