

Orleans-Niagara BOCES report, September – November 2022

- Dr. Godshall would like to set a date for to visit a Lewiston-Porter BOE meeting
- National a technical honor Society was held. Thank you to Paul Casseri for attending
- ON BOCES is having staffing issues, which is limiting our services
- Dr. Godshall served as interim superintendent for Erie 1 BOCES (April 30, 2022 – July 31, 2022) while they performed a search for their new superintendent, Dr. Lynn Fusco

ON BOCES meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month and alternate between the Medina center (4232 Shelby Basin Rd.) and the Niagara center

September

The September meeting was held at the Medina center

Melanie Conley, director of business services, gave a presentation on the workers comp consortium and the school health plan.

The board approved budget modifications (#282-286 for 21-22 and #20-39 for 22-23).

CTE had several vacancies to fill, enrollment was up about 100 students as of September (but there's often a drop in enrollment through mid-November).

Adult education open house September 23 at the Niagara Falls center (606 6th St.)

Approved bids for Co-op electric commodity to Energy Cooperative of America in Amherst for lighting and small and large commercial.

Approved several resignations, appointments, and a salary increase for a teacher aide.

Approved Skills USA advisors

October notes

The October meeting was held at the Newfane Early Childhood Center in Burt. BOCES had been in the building for several months, and we toured the classrooms and facility. They'd recently had several retirements and resignations, which affects classrooms.

Dr. Ron Barsyts, Director of Special Programs, and his staff gave a presentation on BOCES' Special Education Program.

The board approved a bid award for pool supplies, approved a lease agreement for Danielwicz Brothers, accepted a donation of a lizard tank for the popular Animal Science Program, and adopted a retention and disposition schedule for NY local government records.

There were several resignations and appointments—retaining staff is an ongoing issue.

The board approved a \$600 award for 100 staff for exemplary services. (This used to be an award for perfect attendance, but we don't want to encourage people to come to work when they're sick—especially considering COVID.)

We received a positive audit from Mengel Metzger Barr & Co. One suggestion was to continue to monitor several adult and continuing education programs, 5 of which ended the year with a deficit fund balance.

We received the 2023-2024 ON BOCES Services and Solutions Guide. If you would like copies, please contact Cindy Hurt.

November notes

Presentation on adult literacy program for 2021-2022.

Received the ON BOCES CTE Program guide and course catalog. Guidance offices should have copies, if not, contact ON BOCES.

Received copies of the New York Association for Continuing and Community education 37th Annual Student of the Year awards ceremony catalog. I recommend taking a look; the stories are incredibly inspiring. Five of the total 23 students from across the entire state of New York are ON BOCES students! Sue Diemert does a wonderful job.

The board reviewed the budgets for administration, capital, and operations and management; approved contracts/agreements with Daemen for applied behavior and analysis practicum clinical placements; Niagara County Dept. of Health for COVID testing; Gene Haas Foundation to receive a grant from the foundation for renovations to the advanced manufacturing and engineering classroom at Orleans CTE (\$250,00); and the donation of tools, pumpkins, and welding rods from various entities.

Accepted the July 1-September 30, 2022 extra classroom activity fund report.

Approved the resignation, appointment, and tenure of several individuals.

NYSSBA—There was a great showing by ON BOCES board members at the NYSSBA Convention in Syracuse. We discussed the seminars and programs we attended. Several members attended the Uvalde presentation and brought back suggestions for facilities. I went to the Marlee Matlin opener; Packing for the Equity Journey Lorna R. Lewis, Superintendent, Malverne Union Free School District; The Critical Role of the BOE in Advancing Educational Equity, Dr. Diane M. Wynne, Director of Wellness and Equity, Rush-Henrietta Central School District; Student Leadership: Building More Equitable District Communities, Jenny Schinella, Director of Educational Resources, Dutchess BOCES (and a panel of students); and Perfect Pitch, Dr. Richard A. White, Professor of Tuba/Euphonium and Associate Director of Marching Band University of New Mexico and Pamela Pyle, Associate Professor of Piano, University of New Mexico.

Submitted by Wendy Guild Swearingen, November 20, 2022