

TASK FORCE

BULLETIN

December 2014

The Task Force Bulletin is a monthly publication highlighting the work of the Dutchess BOCES Task Forces. District Superintendent John Pennoyer created the Task Forces in the 2013-14 school year in conjunction with the development of the BOCES Long-Range Strategic Plan (2013-2015).

Partnerships & Alternative Funding

Over 30 people from throughout Dutchess BOCES joined in conversations during the November Superintendent's Conference Day. All brought great energy and ideas to the sessions, which Mitchell Shron and Kenneth Louis-Jeune helped Sherre Wesley facilitate.



While the sessions had some differences, common themes included:

- *BOCES Knowledge* – One of the benefits of getting diverse people together is the opportunity to learn more about what already is available at Dutchess BOCES. For example, the computer repair class was a surprise to some as were the outside connections many employees have.
- *Protocol* – Now that a number of employees are excited about looking for alternative funding sources, they need assistance in knowing when and how to approach potential donors.
- *Importance of Stories* – The authentic voice of those whose lives have been changed by our services has great power. Their stories can assist in partnership development, fund-raising, and promoting Dutchess BOCES.

We identified many links with other Task Forces and lots of good things are in the works. Your involvement will help move them along. You are invited to send an email, phone, or attend the next meeting: Tuesday, December 9th at 3:15 in CTI Room 201.

Feel free to send ideas to sherre.wesley@dcboces.org.

Web Site Task Force

The Web Site Task Force unveiled the new Dutchess BOCES web site design at Superintendent's Conference Day on November 4th.

During eight brief overview sessions, the new web site design was well received and generated a great deal of excitement.



In addition to the overviews, two brainstorming sessions were held where staff offered suggestions and feedback regarding what kind of content would benefit each of their programs and services. Staff shared their communication ideas and many were willing to assist by providing content which drives our site.

We invite everyone to join the next Task Force meeting on Wednesday, December 10th at 3:15 p.m. in SPC's Room 137. If you are unable to attend, please send your ideas to mark.stein@dcboces.org.



Professional Development

At our November 4, 2014 Superintendent's Conference Day, Professional Development Task Force update and meeting sessions were attended by all teachers, teaching assistants, and teacher aides.



This was time well spent as many new professional development suggestions both for the Professional Development Task Force and Superintendent's Conference Day Committees were shared and developed.

Topics for consideration included:

- MLP for Teaching Assistants
- Wheelchair Accommodations
- Substance Abuse Preventions
- Autism Training for New Hires
- Targeted Instructional Strategies
- Certification for Teaching Assistants
- Implementing IEP Accommodations
- Common Core and At-Risk Students
- An Overview of the PEACCE Program
- Roundtables for all the Related Services
- Continuing Education for Licensed Master Social Workers and Licensed Social Workers
- PBIS
- Go Math!
- Google Docs
- First Aid/CPR
- ABA Training
- Board Making
- Change Theory
- Crisis Management
- Music for Our Students
- Pathways to Graduation
- Emergency Preparedness
- Grant Writing for Teachers
- Gender Sensitivity Training

The Professional Development Task Force is scheduled to meet on Monday, December 15th at 3:15 p.m. in the Administration Board room. Please join us and help make these great ideas realities!

Please send ideas to linda.heitmann@dcbooces.org.

Communications & Public Relations Task Force

Our Communications and Public Relations Task Force subgroup, Community Events, is working closely with the BOCES Faculty Association in an effort to link local community events with those members who have an affiliation. By working on the logistics of participation in community events, the Task Force hopes to have the Media Kit and schedule organized by January 2015.

February is the month of our annual Polar Plunge Challenge. Please feel free to join the Dutchess BOCES Team's support of the Special Olympics New York, contact Erin Scott at erin.scott@dcbooces.org.

Reminder: we now have a Dutchess BOCES Education Foundation and tax deductible donations can be made to:

Dutchess BOCES Education Foundation Inc.
5 BOCES Road
Poughkeepsie New York 12601



Come join us for the upcoming Communication and Public Relations Task Force Meetings:

Community Events

December 10th 2:45 @ SPC Conference Room

End-of-the -Year Event

December 11th 2:45 @ Alternative High School Upstairs Conference Room

Social Media

December 12th 2:45 @ SPC Conference Room

norah.merritt@dcbooces.org.

Don't forget to buy your BOCES T-shirt!
Contact Brian Conte for details, 486-8001