

TASK FORCE BULLETIN

March 2015

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

What does it mean to be a partner? Partners support each other, cooperate, and strive to advance mutually beneficial goals.

We at Dutchess BOCES are fortunate to have many wonderful partners. They include businesses that provide workplace learning and job experiences for our students, companies that give in-kind equipment donations, and organizations that advance supportive efforts such as Heart Health and Special Olympics.

In February, BOCES partnered with the American Heart Association and Go Red Day, and with the Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics. We will have a presence at the Heart Walk, March 21st on the Vassar Campus and at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in May.

At the most recent Partnership and Alternative Funding Task Force meeting, we agreed that profiling our partners would be a way to acknowledge and thank them for what they do, while letting people know of the depth and breadth of Dutchess BOCES' connections with the broader community. In the next few months, look for profiles of some of these businesses and people that make the region so special. And please let us know if you've got a partner that should be profiled.



Web Site Task Force

The Web Site Task Force Tech Committee continues to meet with individuals from each school and division to finalize content migration for their web pages. The migration is going smoothly and the committee is very excited to make progress toward the end result - an updated/modernized Dutchess BOCES website.

The practice of identifying one or two individuals from each school or division as liasons allows the agency to maintain a fresh site with dynamic content. We encourage everyone to continue to send your ideas and/or questions.

The next Web Design Committee meeting on March 25th will focus on training delegates to edit their program's content after the new site is live this spring.



If you are unable to attend, please send your ideas to mark.stein@dcboces.org.

Professional Development

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY

The Professional Development Task Force met on January 15, 2015 to review the high priority areas for professional development as identified by Dutchess BOCES faculty and staff following the previous Superintendent's Conference Day.

The work of the Professional Development Task Force has been critical in the planning of our upcoming March 10, 2015 Superintendent Conference Day. During a thorough review of the evaluation information, the Task Force determined the overarching themes that crossed buildings and/or met specific constituents' needs.

The Task Force members brainstormed possible titles, facilitators, and the content of the most frequently indicated topics. From there, the currently scheduled Superintendent's Conference Day sessions were designed.

Titles of these sessions include:

- Collaborative Planning
- Business Plan Development
- CPR Certification
- IEP's and Test Accommodations
- Dealing with School Refusals
- Transforming Your Classroom
- Working with Students in Crisis
- Training in the Needs of Students With Autism

The Professional Development Task force is excited to be able to collaborate with all stakeholders to provide relevant and timely professional development for Dutchess BOCES faculty and staff.

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

Communications & Public Relations Task Force

Smart technology may be gaining traction in more schools around the country, but social networking is still on pause in countless school districts. To understand how social media, an integral part of our current culture, can benefit K-12 schools and districts, the Social Media Subgroup explored ways to use social networking in our agency.

It was assessed that the primary function is to use this tool as a digital means in which to promote activities, gain feedback, start a conversation, give recognition, and communicate to our various stakeholders.

At each of the Task Force meetings the notion of protocols and rules rose to the top of the conversation. How can we align our efforts with the goals and mission of the agency? Ultimately we found our energies were driven by this question. We wanted to discover how to effectively pursue social media in Dutchess BOCES, educate our faculty and protect our students, families, and districts.

The Communications and Public Relations Task Force Social Media Subgroup, has concluded its efforts. After several months of research and comparison the group will recommend a variety of elements to be included in the Communications and Public

Relations plan. A very special thank you to Christine Birnbaum and Brianna McCabe for their contemporary views and diligent research.



Come join us for the upcoming Communications and Public Relations Task Force Meeting March 19, 2015, 3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. in the Administration Boardroom

Please send ideas to norah.merritt@dcboces.org.

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