

THE BOCES COMMUNICATOR

Fall 2008

VIEWPOINT

A message from
John C. Pennoyer,
District Superintendent



THE DAY AFTER

I am writing these reflections on November 5th – the day after our Superintendent’s Conference Day and of course the day after the Presidential election. I truly believe that we at Dutchess BOCES have much to be excited about as we move through the weeks ahead toward February 10th, the day the public votes on our centralized campus construction proposal. As you know, our future depends upon the high quality of our programs and services, and particularly upon how well understood that quality is by our component school districts. The centralized campus promises to be an inspiration to all of us as we forever strive to meet our own very high quality standards. I enthusiastically join with our trustees in expressing our deepest appreciation for all that you do to meet those standards.

Dutchess BOCES Achievement Awards

Dutchess BOCES is pleased to announce some very special student and staff recognition awards that were presented over the past several months.

Another round of applause to the 2008 Annual Dutchess BOCES Employees of the Year: *Norah Merritt*, Administrator; *Lois Schwarze*, Clerical; *Kathleen Mosher*, Instructional Support; *Wayne Brathwaite*, *Edward T. Gnos*, *Ramsey C.T. Hall*, *William G. Murphy*, *Leon D. Scutt*, *Daniel Trusz*, and *James Wallace III*, Support Staff; *Robert Butler*, Teacher.



Jeff Rouse holding Award

Congratulations to Web Services Staff Specialist *Jeff Rouse* for being one of the 2008 recipients of the Mid-Hudson School Study Council Awards for Excellence. Along with the winners, Jeff was presented with his award at the Council’s recognition dinner on Thursday, October 2.

The New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPPRA) has recognized *Dutchess BOCES Public Information Service* for outstanding achievement in educational communications, specifically for the Dutchess BOCES 2007 Annual Report. Award-winning recipients in NYSPRA’s Annual Communications Contest were honored on October 17 at the annual NYSPRA Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the 2008 New York State School Boards Association Convention in New York City.



Public Information Service
NYSPRA Award



Mural painted by Xavier Perez

BETA student, *Xavier Perez*, received an award this past summer for his beautiful mural of the Mid-Hudson Bridge. He won a trip to Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, which he took over the summer. Xavier was a student at Salt Point Center before going to BETA. He did his first painting last year for an art class at BETA, which was a commemorative piece for all of the rap artists that have passed on. He enjoyed it so much, he decided to paint a landscape inspired by the Hudson River School of painting. Xavier paints for the fun of it, and will continue to paint until it just isn’t fun any more!

Centralized Campus Project One Campus – Endless Opportunities

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Proposal Summary:

- New 66,500 square foot school building and renovations to CTI will accommodate all programs currently housed at BETA
- Provides more efficient space for +/- 250 students and other BETA programs and services
- Houses programs in one-third less space than currently utilized at BETA
- Provides opportunities for interaction and synergy among programs

1. Q: Why is Dutchess BOCES proposing this centralized campus facilities project?

A: The Trustees have done a careful and detailed analysis of our financial and educational considerations. Their conclusion is that building a new school instead of renting is the only sensible direction for the long-term health of the BOCES and the best way to achieve on-going, high-quality education for the students of Dutchess County.

2. Q: Why are Dutchess County residents being asked to vote on a new school and renovations to existing schools at the Salt Point campus?

A: We are currently renting a facility on Route 44 (referred to as “BETA”) to house our Alternative High School and other BOCES programs. BETA currently costs about \$1 million per year in rent. We all know that rent is not an investment. We have had problems with the integrity of the BETA building. Owning our own school is the best investment for the future.

3. Q: What are other advantages of one centralized campus at Salt Point?

A: All career and technical education programs become available to all students on one campus. All academic programs become available to all students on one campus.

4. Q: How will Dutchess BOCES pay for this centralized campus project?

A: Dutchess BOCES will be borrowing approximately \$30.3 million over twenty years, which will be shared by all districts in the county.

5. Q: What assumptions have been made in developing the cost estimates for the bond?

A: We will obtain a twenty-year bond for \$30.3 million payable at five percent

interest per year through the Dormitory Authority of New York State. If we remain at the BETA facility, we assume a 4% annual increase in rent in the future. If we continue renting the BETA facility for the next twenty years, we project about \$13 million in renovation costs will be necessary to maintain our programs there.

6. Q: How would the cost of building a new school on our own property compare with continuing to rent and make future repairs and renovations at the BETA facility?

A: Using the above assumptions, the countywide savings for all districts are estimated to be \$1.4 million during the life of the bond compared to renting and renovating the BETA site. At the end of the bonding period we would not have any payments and would own the school.

7. Q: What additional costs will there be?

A: Since we will use our existing staff, there will be no additional costs in this area. The building will be built using “green” materials as much as possible to lessen energy needs.

8. Q: What other savings will be realized?

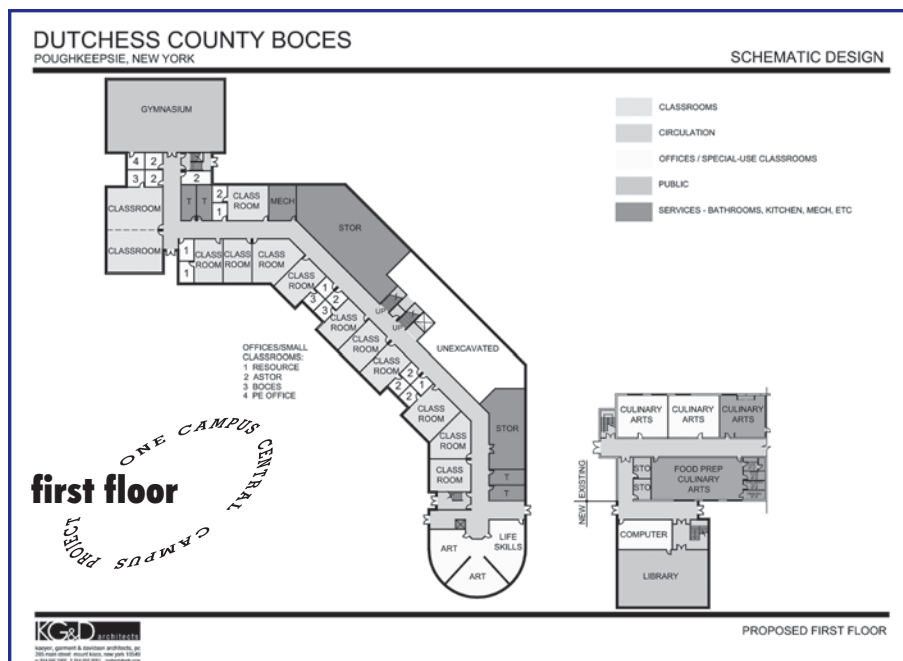
A: Districts can potentially save money when they transport students to one centralized campus. Individual districts can use our Cooperative Transportation Program to pool resources for additional savings.

9. Q: Is state aid available for this project?

A: Yes, a project of this nature is fully aidable.

10. Q: What will be the impact on individual school districts’ tax levy?

A: Using this year’s school tax information, we estimate that the difference this year would have been an average increase of about two one-hundredths of one percent (.019%) on each of our districts current year tax levies.



11. Q: How will traffic management be handled at Salt Point campus, including additional bus traffic?

A: A traffic study was commissioned to analyze the proposed new bus drop-off/pick-up area, parking, and the proposed new additional access/exit road. A new second exit/access road will handle additional ingress and egress traffic, and will improve safety in the case of a campus emergency. The plan proposes a net gain of a minimum of about 150 parking spaces.

12. Q: What is the construction timeline?

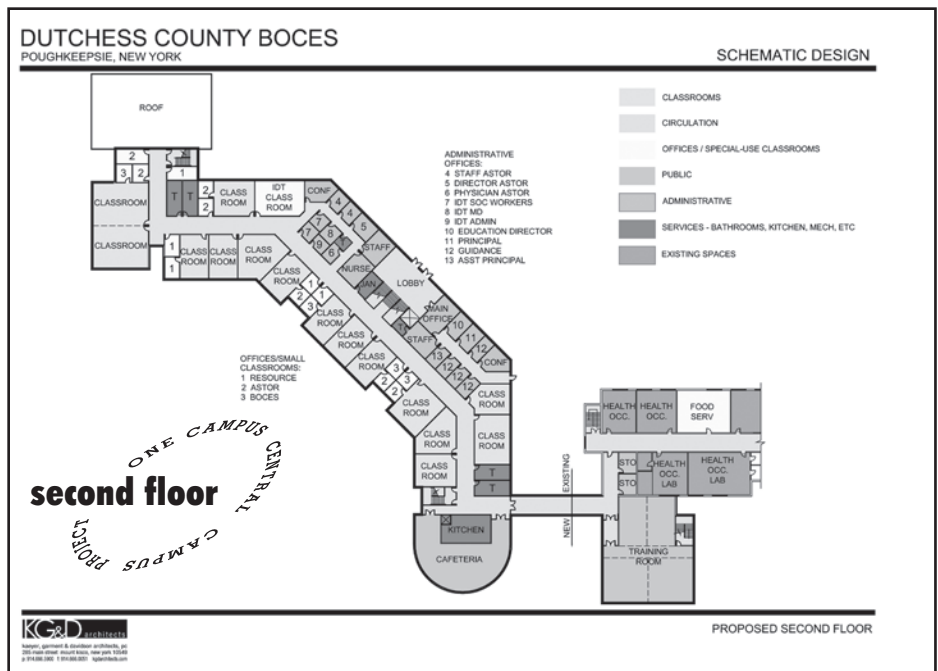
A: Once the bond is approved, we project that the final design and SED approvals will be completed later in the fall of 2009. Construction will commence in February/March of 2010 and will be completed in phases over a period of two-and-one-half years. Occupancy is expected to take place by the spring of 2012.

13. Q: How will "green technology" be incorporated into the design of the new building?

A: Plans for the new building include the extensive use of day lighting in all instructional and common spaces, additional wall and roof insulation, efficient energy recovery heating and ventilation units, low water usage plumbing fixtures, green roofing systems, efficient lighting systems and switching, and building and finish systems using recycled, local and sustainable materials. The result will be an efficient building that utilizes sustainable design approaches to the maximum extent that is appropriate within the project budget.

14. Q: What are the anticipated educational benefits?

- Today, about twenty percent of Alternative Education students are enrolled in vocational courses at the Salt Point campus. When the new school is built, we will be able to enroll even more.
- Our Professional Development Team currently located at BETA offers over 500 training courses every year. The centralized campus will make participation by the BOCES teachers much easier.
- The new building will give us a central, campus-wide library--we have never had a full library in any of our facilities.



• The Alternative High School has a strong academic program. For several years, academics have been integrated into all of our career and technical courses. With the centralized campus, all of our academic resources will be shared.

15. Q: How will the new and renovated facilities meet current and future needs?

A: We have done a careful analysis of our space needs. The proposal meets these needs efficiently and completely. There's also room for moderate growth in the future.

16. Q: What will the new school contain?

A: The new building will house the Alternative High School. It will include classroom space for all of our current programs, plus room to grow. In addition, the new building will provide a modern library, a multi-media arts room, a full cafeteria with enough space to provide seating for all of the Alternative High School plus the all day students at the Career & Technical Institute, a Conference Center for countywide professional development seating 120 people, a gymnasium and play areas for physical education.

17. Q: Where will the existing non-instructional BETA staff be located?

A: All non-instructional staff will be moved to the Salt Point campus, both in the new school as well as to the other school. (The Educational Resources Division, including Learning Technology, School Improvement, Model Schools, School Library Service, and Special Education Training and Resource Center (SE-TRC) and the Communications Division).

18. Q: How will the new building be available for community use?

A: The community benefits include a Conference Center, which will be available for meetings, student activities, countywide teacher training programs, and distance learning opportunities.

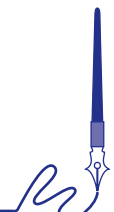
19. Q: When and where do I vote?

A: The vote will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at the Dutchess BOCES BETA site, 900 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603. Voting hours will be from 6 am to 9 pm.

20. Q: Will there be provisions for absentee balloting?

A: Absolutely. We intend to make absentee ballots available. Details will be issued as soon as possible.

If you have additional questions, please write them to: onecampus@dcbooces.org. For detailed information visit the "One Campus - Endless Opportunities" link posted on the home page of our website - www.dcbooces.org.





*A message from
Christopher Como*

The BOCES long-term future, both financially and educationally, will be best served in a new building located on a centralized Salt Point Campus.

As you know, your trustees have recently approved the final design concept proposed by KG&D Architects for a new alternative school to be built on the Salt Point Campus. The Board also approved renovations to existing facilities at Salt Point. We have long known that paying rent, and spending money to continually renovate a building owned by someone else, simply doesn't make sense. Upon further analysis, we now also know that building a new school will actually save us about \$1.4 million compared to staying at BETA over the next twenty years. There are also many significant educational benefits that will come from having a centralized campus. All students on the Salt Point Campus will have complete and full access to all of its facilities.

There is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm about the Trustees' decision. We believe that our community will be supportive at the countywide vote scheduled for February 10th.

Best wishes for the holiday season!

Did You Know? All About Headaches

Headache sufferers spend more than \$4 billion a year on over-the-counter pain relievers. But prevention costs you nothing. Here are five leading headache culprits to watch out for:

a. Stress: Frayed nerves are a frequent cause of tension headaches.

Idea: Take thirty minutes a day to daydream, meditate or relax. Daily exercise also helps.

b. Eyestrain: Focusing on one object for a long time (computer screen) can cause temporary head pain.

Idea: Take occasional eye breaks by looking out a window.

c. Diet: Certain foods contain substances that can trigger headache pain. (i.e. caffeine, red wine, processed meats, chocolate, cheese, citrus fruits, lentils, snow peas and monosodium glutamate – MSG)

d. Sitting: Staying seated for long periods, especially if you are on the phone, can tighten your muscles and lead to headaches.

e. Sleep: Too little or too much sleep can bring on headaches. Control your body's internal clock by going to bed and getting up at the same time, even when you are not working.

Holidays to Remember:

Holiday	Schools Closed	Offices Closed
Thanksgiving Recess	Nov. 26, 27, 28	Nov. 27, 28
Winter Recess	Dec. 22 – Jan.2	
Christmas		Dec. 24 – 26
New Year's Eve		Dec. 31
New Year's Day		Jan. 1
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Jan. 19	Jan. 19

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