

News Release

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Dutchess BOCES Budget Unanimously Approved by Districts

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. - The Dutchess BOCES 2015-16 administrative budget was unanimously approved by its component districts on April 21st.

"This is the first time in recent memory that the vote was unanimous," said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Linda Heitmann. "We are pleased and feel that the vote represents a true collaborative spirit, recognizes cost containment efforts, and supports a finely crafted budget."

Three trustees, Dale Culver, Edward McCormick, and Robert Rubin were elected to the Board for terms running July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018.

The \$4,317,593 administrative budget represents a 1.99% increase over the current budget. Of that amount, more than half (\$2,216,163) is allocated to health care insurance for people who have retired from BOCES, according to Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Dr. Sherre Wesley. "We used accrued funds to keep the retiree health costs from being an even greater portion of the administrative budget," said Dr. Wesley. "We are not alone in facing these challenges and addressing them is a priority."

Dutchess BOCES provides services and programs to 13 school districts throughout Dutchess County. The districts save money by pooling resources and sharing costs. BOCES establishes services and programs when two or more districts decide they have similar needs. This is an economical way for districts to offer programs and services that they might not be able to afford otherwise.

"Dutchess BOCES proposed a budget that reflects our priorities and reaffirms our commitment to education and to efficiency," said Dr. Wesley. "We were able to communicate our message to the community and most importantly, we collaborated with our constituents throughout the entire process."

Combined, the various Dutchess BOCES budgets total \$65,680,546. In addition to the administrative budget, the only portion voted upon by districts, there is a capital/rental budget of \$1,585,708. The remainder of the budget is allocated to the services requested by the districts. Requests for the 2015-16 school year will be finalized in May.

"We at Dutchess BOCES look forward to continuing our partnerships with our member districts," said Dr. Heitmann. "Together we will provide innovative educational solutions to best support the students of Dutchess County as they prepare for college and careers."

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