Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo:

We entered the office about 10:18am due to late bus arrival and long lines at security. Mr. Palumbo was still driving up from Long Island and had not yet arrived. We introduced ourselves to his intern, Eric Anderson, a SUNY college student from Wantagh, Long Island. The topic of BOCES CTE programs was introduced and their importance to our nation’s economic health and world competitiveness. We stressed the need to increase teacher salary cost reimbursement, as it is being capped at $30,000, when teacher salaries are much higher than that. This amount has been in place since the 1990’s. The students were introduced and shared their experiences. They each spoke articulately about how ESBOCES CTE programs are giving them many advantages before they even begin post-secondary education and how fortunate they are to be able to participate. Mr. Anderson was very impressed and shared his familiarity with Nassau BOCES and the positive experiences of friends and peers with those programs.

We were nearly out of time but spoke quickly about ESBOCES role in cost savings to districts as a regional service provider. We explained the need to expand that role in order to offer the same cost saving services to towns, municipalities, libraries, etc. and create even greater efficiencies and economies of scale. There was not enough time remaining to address the English Language Learners issue. Mr. Anderson agreed that BOCES has very valuable services to offer and assured us that he would share the information with the assemblyman who is a strong supporter of public education. We thanked him for his time and gave him the information packet. He reminded us to please email him the photos we took. We left the office about 10:32am.