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MEMORANDUM

TO: Eastern Suffolk BOCES Staff

FROM: Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D.

DATE: August 29, 2019

RE: School Opening – 2019

Greetings Eastern Suffolk BOCES colleagues. For many of you, the summer has gone by quickly. I hope that it included some time to pause and recharge in preparation for the beginning of a new academic year. I know that for some of you the time to pause and recharge will come after the year begins; good news, that time is nearing.

Celebrating 25 Years of Transforming Lives

On July 1, 2019, Eastern Suffolk BOCES officially hit the milestone of 25 years as an agency. At the May Board meeting, we celebrated several hundred employees in the agency who were hired prior to the merge. As one of those employees, I recognized and understood the pride of the people in the room who clearly understand the challenges of bringing together two very different agencies, and how effectively that was done. I also recognize the strength of what Eastern Suffolk BOCES has become in the past 25 years. We will continue to celebrate that milestone during the fall. Be proud of the work you do and the agency we have become.

Diversity and Inclusivity

As each of you know, this past year has been a year of conversation about the need to hire and nurture a work force that reflects the diverse backgrounds of the communities that we serve. We have learned a lot about the complexity of that work over the past 12 months. David Wicks and I thank those of you who committed to learning and collaborating as part of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Task Force on Diversity and Inclusivity. That group continued to meet monthly over the course of the year, and was able to draft a work plan to move that initiative forward within the region. The task force spent time assessing the strengths and opportunities that exist, while being honest about the gaps and challenges that are evident and need to be addressed. The final plan will be integrated into the agency's Strategic Plan so that it is not separate and distinct, but rather imbedded in all that we do. The task force members expressed an interest in continuing to support that work into the present school year. If you would like to join the task force, please respond via

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the following survey link: [Diversity and Inclusivity Task Force Survey](#) and we will add you to the communication regarding meeting times and dates for the 2019-20 school year.

I know that many of you have engaged in other professional learning opportunities related to this work. I encourage you to continue that learning as we walk this walk together. The students and communities we serve are depending upon us to get this right.

Strategic Planning

On August 7, we had a productive and exciting annual Strategic Planning Council meeting, with approximately 126 of our internal and external stakeholders engaging with us in conversations about what we do and how to do it better. We were able to hold the meeting at our new conference room space at the Instructional Support Center at Sequoya, which also allowed us to showcase this space. The custodial, technical, and clerical staff provided outstanding support for this event, setting, as usual, a high standard for what we do. The feedback provided to us by the dedicated stakeholders who attended the meeting will be utilized as we move forward to continue the implementation of the 2017-2024 Strategic Plan.

Please click on the following link to access the 2019 yearbook entitled "Getting to Know Us Through Our Strategic Plan": <https://www.esbooces.org/Page/65> to learn about some of the work that we highlighted to the attendees.

Although the responsibility for strategic planning rests with me as the Chief Operating Officer, Elaine Romeyk, our Internal Coordinator, coordinates the work. I am grateful for her attention to detail and willingness to pull together all of the moving pieces required to manage the lengthy, complex Strategic Plan.

Regional Special Education-Technical Assistance Support Center (RSE-TASC)

In June 2019, we were notified that, for the first time in over 30 years, the grant to support the Long Island region with implementing best practices in Special Education was not awarded to Eastern Suffolk BOCES. This shocking news resulted in the closing of the RSE-TASC offices and the excessing of the highly skilled and trained administrators who worked in that department, effective June 30, 2019. The clerical support for that network have been reassigned elsewhere in the agency.

Summer Moves and Relocations

The fast pace of this summer follows an equally fast pace this past year with additional building moves and renovations. I am grateful for the ongoing hard work and detailed planning of those engaged in that work. I am also thankful for the patience and flexibility of the hundreds of staff who were impacted by those moves in the past 12 months. The changes continue to provide updated and improved learning space for our students, and improved workspace for our programs and services. These changes will better allow us to provide high quality services and innovations to the region.

At the end of May 2019, we were officially relocated out of the Sherwood Instructional Support Center. The programs and offices that were housed in Sherwood have been relocated to a number of different places in the agency. Some of those programs are, or will soon be, located in the Barton Avenue Armory (Capital Assets Management, Health and Safety, Operations and Maintenance Offices, and Transportation). Some have been relocated to the new Islip Office Center at the end of the Islip Career Center building (Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network and Substitute Services). The Network Operations Center (computer room) and the Office of Technology Integration (OTI) staff have been moved to the D Wing at the Milliken Technical Center. Our official Conference Center and the central offices of Career, Technical and Adult Education, Special Education, Educational Support Services, Student Data Services, and the Regional Information Center are now located at the Sequoya Conference Center, sharing a building with Sequoya High School.

Although we have become quite adept at renovating and relocating, rest assured all of these moves were made only out of necessity and in conjunction with our long term space planning. I am thankful to Ryan Ruf, Associate Superintendent of Management Services, and all of the participants of the Space and Moves Committees for their work.

Thanks to the dedicated work and perseverance of our Operations and Maintenance, OTI, and Capital Assets Management teams, the instructional program at the Sayville Academic Center (SAC) relocated to its new location at Tecumseh Elementary School (TES) prior to the beginning of the 2019 summer school program. The contact information follows:

Tecumseh Elementary School (TES)
179 Granny Road
Farmingville, NY 11738
Phone: 631-775-1700
Fax: 631-240-8980

As of August 19, 2019, the program formerly housed at the Masera Learning Center (MLC) moved into the Sayville space, changing both name and location. The contact information follows:

Sayville Elementary School (SES)
100 Greene Avenue
Sayville, NY 11782
Phone: 631-422-1570
Fax: 631-240-8940

Summer Programs and Planning

It was a very busy summer, filled with programming and preparation as we gear up for the new school year. Students filled our halls to engage in summertime learning and career exploration. Planning for the continuation of the instructional Induction Program and further alignment of curriculum with the Next Generation Learning Standards was ongoing. Regional professional development was delivered to both administrators and teachers throughout the region, featuring both local and national presenters. The transition of Student Data Services under the Regional Information Center was seamlessly accomplished as well.

Leadership Changes Since August 2018

There have been several administrative changes in the agency since the school opening memo of August 2018. Please see below for details:

- Ms. Verdana Dolly Narain-Kranz was appointed as Program Administrator for Health Sciences, replacing Deborah Epilone, who retired in June.
- Ms. Laura Schwartz-Papaleo was appointed as Principal of Premm Learning Center to replace Carolynn Hansen, who retired in June.
- Mr. Charles King was appointed as Divisional Administrator for Student Data Services to replace Joe Stern, who is retiring later this year.
- Ms. Jennifer Leen was appointed as Assistant Administrative Coordinator for Curriculum and Assessment.
- Ms. Megan O'Neill was appointed as Administrative Coordinator for the Intensive Teacher Institute for Bilingual Special Education (ITI-BSE).

New Programs Providing Access

In addition to our leadership changes, we are pleased to report that we will be offering a new in-district Carpentry/Residential Construction and Home Improvement Program for our students at the Southampton High School to serve students on the South Fork. This model of providing in-district CTE, which we have piloted in other component school districts, allows us to provide access to CTE to more students in the region, which has been a regional goal.

Due to our successful Regents-level coursework pilot, we will be offering Algebra 1 and Living Environment Regents coursework this year at the Jefferson Academic Center for all eighth graders. We believe that with the proper support, all students can access the curriculum and be prepared for the Regents assessments.

The addition of the Liberty Swing at the Premm Learning Center allows an individual confined to a wheelchair to utilize a safe playground swing. This will provide hours of movement and smiles for students, making something that typically developing students enjoy, accessible to all.

ESBOCES Tours

After providing a third year of ESBOCES tours in 2018-19 with very positive feedback, we have decided to continue to offer this opportunity for the 2019-20 school year. Each tour takes the better part of a workday, and is limited to 40 staff members. We are again planning three tours: one central, one eastern, and one western. All of the tours will include a general overview of ESBOCES, and showcase a variety of our programs, culminating with a lunch prepared by our culinary students and staff. For more information and to sign up for one of the tours, please [click here](#).

Eastern Suffolk BOCES Community Legislative Committee

For many years, leadership in the agency has been involved in regional advocacy related to public education. Three years ago, we offered the opportunity to expand that advocacy to our own ESBOCES staff and students. The Eastern Suffolk BOCES Community Legislative Committee had a very successful third year in 2018-19.

Mr. William K. Miller, ESBOCES Board Vice President, facilitates this unique committee made up of students, parents, staff, and community members. Our monthly meetings take place in the evening at the Gary D. Bixhorn Technical Center, and each meeting offers an informative guest speaker. The year culminated with the staff and students involved having the opportunity to take part in an Advocacy Day event in Albany. Attached is the flyer for our September 12 meeting, with guest speaker Assemblyman Douglas M. Smith. The flyer also contains the meeting schedule for the 2019-20 school year and directions. These meetings are open to all.

We are excited to be piloting a live stream option for the Community Legislative Committee meetings so that individuals who would like to take part, but can't travel the distance to attend the meeting at the Bixhorn Technical Center, can still take part. Information about how to access these meetings via live stream will be forthcoming. Please RSVP for the September meeting to kmaue@esboces.org.

Autism Speaks Walk

The agency and individual programs support many organizations over the course of the school year. One event that is scheduled each year early in the fall is the Autism Speaks Walk. This year, the walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 13, 2019, at Jones Beach State Park. If you would like to join the team, please log onto the Walk Now for Autism Speaks: Long Island website: <http://act.autismspeaks.org/longisland> and make sure that you register for the Eastern Suffolk BOCES team.

BEES Opening Day Meeting

Only union members of the BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk (BEES) may attend the opening day meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The opening day meeting for this year will again take place at ***Villa Lombardi's, located at 877 Main Street, Holbrook, NY***. Please report back to your assigned building following the meeting.

Non-BEES union members, and all other employees, should report to work as directed by their supervisors.

Enjoy the last few days of August, and have a safe, enjoyable Labor Day weekend.

JDL/km

Attachment

c: Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board



Attention Eastern Suffolk BOCES Students, Parents, and Staff

Please join us for the first meeting of the Eastern Suffolk BOCES
Community Legislative Committee
for the 2019-20 school year

Guest Speaker – Assemblyman Douglas M. Smith

Thursday, September 12, 2019 • 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Gary D. Bixhorn Technical Center (BTC) • 350 Martha Avenue, Bellport, NY 11713

The committee is for those individuals who are interested in learning about the issues impacting school districts and BOCES, and how to advocate for positive change. With an extensive resume of successful legislative activities, William K. Miller, ESBOCES Board Vice President, chairs this committee of adults and students interested in working together to benefit our community by learning about, and becoming involved in the legislative process.

We are honored to have Assemblyman Douglas M. Smith as a guest speaker to kick off our Community Legislative Committee meetings this year.

**If you have any questions or would like to RSVP to any of the committee meetings,
please send an email to kmaue@esboces.org.**

2019-20 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings will be held at the Gary D. Bixhorn Technical Center at 7:00 p.m in the LGI Room.

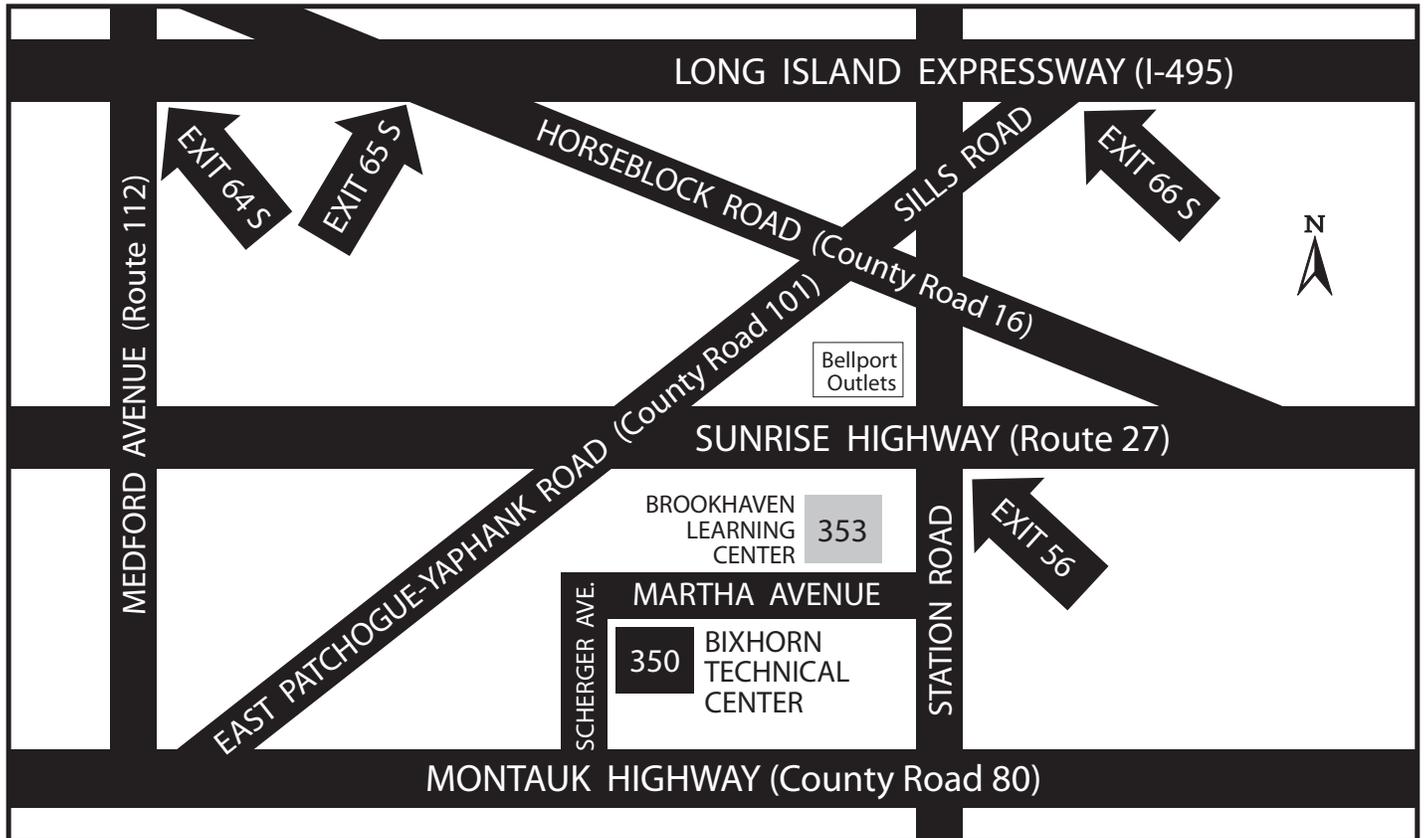
Thursday, September 12, 2019
Thursday, October 10, 2019
Thursday, November 7, 2019
Thursday, December 5, 2019
Thursday, January 9, 2020
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Thursday, April 16, 2020
Thursday, May 7, 2020



Assemblyman Douglas M. Smith

Eastern Suffolk BOCES does not discriminate against any employee, student, applicant for employment, or candidate for enrollment on the basis of sex, gender, gender expression or identity, transgender status, race, color, religion or creed, age, weight, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, domestic violence victim status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or any other classification protected by Federal, State, or local law. ESBOCES also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding the implementation of applicable laws should be directed to either of the ESBOCES Civil Rights Compliance Officers at ComplianceOfficers@esboces.org: the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, 631 687-3029, or the Associate Superintendent for Educational Services, 631 687-3056, 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, NY 11772. Inquiries may also be addressed to the Office for Civil Rights at the US Department of Education, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, 646-428-3800, OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.

Gary D. Bixhorn Technical Center
350 Martha Avenue, Bellport, New York 11713
Tel: 631-286-6500



DIRECTIONS

Via Sunrise Highway (Rte 27):

Exit 56 (Station Road); proceed south on Station Road; turn right onto Martha Avenue and proceed to the end of the block; entrance to the Bixhorn Technical Center is on the left, at the flagpole.

Via the Long Island Expressway (I-495):

From the West:

Exit 65 South (Horseblock Road–County Road 16); turn right onto Station Road and cross over Sunrise Highway (Rte 27); turn right onto Martha Avenue and proceed to the end of the block; entrance to the Bixhorn Technical Center is on the left, at the flagpole.

From the East:

Exit 66 South (Sills Road–County Road 101); turn left onto Station Road and cross over Sunrise Highway (Rte. 27); turn right onto Martha Avenue and proceed to the end of the block; entrance to the Bixhorn Technical Center is on the left, at the flagpole.