

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- PROPOSES a levy amount that is LESS THAN the allowable NYS Tax Levy Limit.
- PRESERVES class sizes, educational offerings, and student services.
- **REDUCES** staffing levels, based on student needs, through retirements. Staff will be reduced by three full-time employees (two elementary education teachers and one teaching assistant).
- SUPPORTS facilities improvements, including replacing an outdated press box and bleachers at the Middle School/High School, the purchase of a storage shed for Phoenicia Elementary School, and infrastructure updates at the High School.
- **DEMONSTRATES** continued line-byline fiscal management of the budget to reduce expenditures.
- **REPLACES** a retiring nurse at the Middle/High School with a nurse practitioner, eliminating current costs incurred as the result of the need to contract for required nurse practitioner services.
- **INCLUDES** proposition supporting the purchase of two buses to replace aging vehicles that have outlived their useful life.
- CONTINUES Onteora's record of having the lowest tax rate in Ulster County.

VOTE★ Tuesday ★ **May 15**2 PM ~ 9 PM

POLLING PLACES:

Bennett ES • Phoenicia ES Woodstock ES • West Hurley Firehouse

Proposed 2018-2019 School Budget Below Tax Levy Limit

Maintains Existing Programs, Supports Capital Improvements

THE ONTEORA BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS ADOPTED a \$55,577,578

proposed budget for the 2018-2019 school year that continues all existing student programs while supporting the construction of a new press box and safer bleachers at the High School/Middle School and the purchase of a storage shed for Phoenicia Elementary School. A separate proposition would support the replacement of two aged, high-mileage school buses that have exceeded their useful lifespans.

The tax levy increase to support the proposed budget is 2.98 percent – **less than the allowable New York State tax levy limit calculation**, which would have permitted a 3.63 percent levy increase with a simple-majority voter approval. This is the seventh year in a row that Onteora has presented a budget below the allowable tax levy limit.

The proposal increases the budget by 2.36 percent. A rise in retirement costs (for the first time in four years) as well as a rise in contractual health insurance costs accounts for the majority of this year's budget increase.

Supports Academic Achievement

The proposed budget supports the opportunity for children in Kindergarten through Grade 8 to participate in the District's Summer Academic Intervention Support Program. The 21-day program, which will be coordinated through the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, focuses on improving reading, writing, and math. Classes will be small to ensure that targeted instruction meets individual student learning needs. At the program's conclusion, students will participate in a culminating celebration. This program is open to students whose teachers believe they would benefit from experiencing intensive summer academic support.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

See pages 4-7 for more information about the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget



Cast members of the High School's spring musical, *Into the Woods*, pose for a group photo. **READ MORE ON PAGE 3**

Phoenicia School Celebrates 100 Days of Learning

ONE HUNDRED DAYS OF LEARNING is something to celebrate, and Phoenicia Elementary School would certainly agree. Led by Reading teacher Kelly McLean, AIS Math teacher Hilary Partridge, and Special Education/AIS teacher Nicole Ryan, Phoenicia held a school-wide celebration of this milestone on February 23.

Math games created by an acclaimed math educator played a key role, Ms. Partridge reported. "This year,

parents were invited to join their children as they participated in learning stations that incorporated Greg Tang games such as Kakooma, Ten Frame Mania, and Numskill," she said. "Everyone had a wonderful time, and it provided the parents an opportunity to see firsthand some of the strategies and skills that are being taught this year."



Phoenicia staff members, many of them dressed as 100-year-olds, helped students celebrate the 100th Day of School.

According to Phoenicia Principal

Linda Sella, math was just one component of this special day. "The shared activities with parents highlighted many of the reading, writing, and math activities that are taught daily," she said. "It was a celebration of our 100 days of learning together."

In the classroom, children pondered questions like, "If I had \$100, what would I buy?" and "What will I look and feel like when I'm 100 years old?"

the past or 100 years in the future – were entertained by a trivia contest, a poem, songs, a mystery reader, and a slide show of 100 photos.

Students of all ages

At lunchtime,

of them dressed up in

costumes evocative of

eras either 100 years in

Kindergarten students greeted visiting parents with

a 100th Day Chant, sung to the infectiously cheerful melody of "Heigh-Ho." The young learners then

proceeded to rotate among different learning stations,

where the activities ranged from playing with 100

math program, to counting out 100 tiny snacks.

plastic cups, to polishing math skills with an online

The day was not only about learning, suggested Ms. McLean. It was also about building community. "The 100th Day of School is a big day for math, but

it is also 100 days of being together and all the great memories we have shared," she noted.

BENNETT HOSTS MUSICAL OLYMPICS

oiceville is a long way from the site of the 2018 Winter Olympics, but that didn't stop some Bennett music students from enjoying their own Olympics-inspired games, complete with flags, passports, national anthems, medals, relays, and that quintessential Winter Olympic sport, curling.

To Music teacher Danielle Hommel, the Pyeongchang games provided a perfect learning opportunity. "Music is an important component of the Olympic games, from the opening and closing ceremonies, to the ice skating events, to the playing of national anthems during medal ceremonies," she noted.

Mrs. Hommel divided her Grade 4 class into Rhythmic Bobsledding teams, asking



Bennett Music teacher Danielle Hommel watches as her students compete in musical curling, a game inspired by the Winter Olympics.

the students to recreate rhythmic patterns by tapping them out on their teammates' shoulders. She also taught them to play a musical version of curling, in which players slid their curling stones down plastic "ice" imprinted with the Grand Staff.

Grade 5 students wrote a class anthem, and learned to play the "Olympic Fanfare and Theme" on Boomwackers, which are tuned percussion tubes made of plastic. In addition, they created national flags featuring musical terms.

The Grade 6 students picked Olympic athletes to follow, and listened to folk and pop music from those athletes' home countries. The students also filled out "passports," itemizing key details about the music's style, form, and cultural importance.

'It is crucial for students to experience and understand music in their daily lives," Mrs. Hommel declared. By taking advantage of the excitement surrounding the Winter Olympics, she helped her students do exactly that.

2

Middle School Students Write About Core Beliefs

"THIS I BELIEVE." That was the writing prompt Middle School teacher Denise Maltese recently gave to her Grade 8 English students. Inspired by an NPR project, Ms. Maltese asked her students to write, and record, a personal statement of beliefs.

The learning unit,

Ms. Maltese explained, focused on so-called argument writing, a required part of the Common Core Learning Standards. "I taught the students about rhetorical devices and how to fashion a persuasive argument," she recalled.

The lesson included a discussion of Aristotle's views on various language strategies. Students also read and listened to many already-published "This I Believe" essays,

including some written by students like themselves and others written by famous people like Muhammad Ali.

Student Shane Stackpole expressed his belief that people were addicted to their cellphones. "Begin living, instead of texting your friends," he urged in his essay. "Enjoy life. The real one."

Abraham Umana-Alarcon wrote about the value of being bilingual. Abraham, who didn't speak English when he emigrated from Guatemala five years ago, not only helps his parents understand English, but also serves as a



Middle School students Shane Stackpole (left) and Layla Sprague wrote about their core beliefs for an English class assignment.

translator for teachers and for Spanish-speaking students who have not yet become proficient in English. "Speaking two languages will help me in the future...to get into a good college," he wrote. And, he added, his language skills are likely to prove useful in the workplace.

> Shayne Bresler's essay discussed the links between determination and success. "Sports stars are determined, and I related that to myself," he explained.

Asia Ruffin wrote about her belief in the importance of thinking positively and taking pride in one's accomplishments, while Layla Sprague wrote about the value of trying new things and having adventures.

The assignment, Layla

said, was a worthwhile one. "I thought it was cool because everyone had something that they really believed in," she said.

Although Ms. Maltese has given this assignment for the past 10 years or so, this year was the first time she asked her students to record their essays. "I think that reading and recording their own words made the students more careful about their writing," she declared. "It was a pleasure to listen to the students' voices as I read along with their written essays."

ONTEORA HIGH SCHOOL DRAWS THEATER-GOERS 'INTO THE WOODS'

THEATER LOVERS WERE TREATED to a wild and wonderful trek into an enchanted forest in late April, when the High School staged *Into the Woods*. The Tony Award-winning musical

featured characters and plots from a number of fairy tales, including "Cinderella," "Rapunzel," "Little Red Riding Hood," and "Jack and the Beanstalk."

One of the plots followed the story of a baker (Val Shauger) and his wife (Hannah Mathe), who had to "go into the woods" to seek the ingredients for a magic potion that would reverse the curse that had left them childless. Val enjoyed the weeks of rehearsals that led up observed. "When the prince shows interest in her, she runs away from him. She doesn't know what she wants!" Emily Peck, the Grade 9 actress who landed the part of Little

be playing such a confused character," she



The High School's production of *Into the Woods* brought the enchanted world of fairy tales to life. Little Red (Emily Peck) confronts a crowd in the woods, including (front row) the Narrator (Jules Schauffler), the Baker (Val Shauger), Lucinda (Amelia Schlichting), and Cinderella's stepmother (Megan Sorbellini).

to opening night. "It was an amazing experience working with the director, Victoria McCarthy," said the senior, who hopes to major in theater in college. "She really understands the material, and she's the best director I've ever had."

Grade 12 student Trinity Luther played the role of Cinderella. "It's definitely different to

landed the part of Little Red, was surprised to recognize similarities between herself and the fabled girl in the red riding hood. "She's whiny, and she eats and cries a lot!" she laughed. Though Emily has been acting since she was four, she said this was the first time she had "a big solo and so many lines." She's extremely grateful to her fellow cast members, who helped give her confidence. "This cast was so amazing and supportive," she enthused.

Chorus teacher Jonathan Eldridge was the vocal director and producer for the musical, which features music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. Corinne Bouchard served as orchestra director, Megan Haaland as stage manager, and Linda Burkhardt and Marcia Panza as costume designers. ONTEORA

ONTEORA 2018-2019

Proposed 2018-2019 School Budget Below Tax Levy Limit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In addition, Onteora will continue to provide a strong foundation for children to begin their educational journey by offering both half-day and full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) programs.

Improves Our Facilities

The proposed budget also supports some facilities improvements. At the High School/Middle School campus, the aged press box and bleachers would be replaced with a safer, handicapped accessible system. The current bleachers are old and have open backs, which do not prevent falls. The current press box, with old wooden stairs and a leaky roof, is unsafe. The lack of storage at Phoenicia Elementary School also poses challenges. The proposed shed would be used to securely store lawnmowers, maintenance supplies, and sporting equipment. Some smaller infrastructure upgrades will also be completed at the Middle/High School campus and may include such things as roof work and/or door replacement. By combining the exterior site improvements with building upgrades, the project can qualify for additional State Aid reimbursement, thereby reducing the local cost to taxpayers to complete the work.

Adjusts Staffing

The proposed budget includes some staffing reductions based on students' needs, not the elimination of programs. The positions eliminated are offset by retirements, preventing layoffs.

Applies Fund Balance

This year, the Board of Education allocated \$3,265,620 of fund balance, which helps to minimize the budget's impact on the tax levy.

Proposition 2: Purchase of Two School Buses

A separate proposition would support the purchase of two buses (one large and one small) to replace aging vehicles with high mileage that are in need of expensive repairs. The large bus, a 65-passenger vehicle, would replace a 2005 vehicle with rotten side rails and 180,000 miles on its odometer. Replacing the rails would require the body to be removed from the frame – an extremely costly repair. Two additional aged vehicles, built in 2002 and 2004 and both registering mileages exceeding 200,000, would be replaced with a single new 28-passenger bus.

The new vehicles would include modern safety features and would be more energy efficient, with a smaller carbon footprint and noise pollution. The combined cost of purchasing the two buses would not exceed \$175,000.

Presenting the bus purchases as a separate proposition allows the District to spread payments over a five-year period and qualify for five years of State Aid reimbursement, reducing the local cost.

Please Vote

The community is encouraged to participate in the school budget vote and Board of Education election on Tuesday, May 15, from 2 PM-9 PM.

Eligible voters can cast their ballots at the three Elementary Schools (Bennett, Phoenicia, and Woodstock) as well as the West Hurley Firehouse.

WOODSTOCK STUDENTS COLLABORATE WITH WAAM

At Woodstock Elementary School, the town's artistic heritage has been providing young artists with plenty of inspiration, thanks to a learning unit designed by Onteora Art teachers Anna Sandberg and Roberta Ziemba in collaboration with the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum (WAAM).

"This free program strives to engage students in the rich cultural history of Woodstock as an artist's colony and connect students and families to WAAM," explains Beth Humphrey, WAAM's Education Curator.

First, the students were introduced to the work of local artists represented in the museum's collection. Grade 3 students, for example, studied a "Cats in the Catskills" poster by graphic designer Milton Glaser before creating their own posters, complete with fanciful felines and majestic mountains. Grade 1 artists viewed a self-portrait by Masato Takashige, which shows the artist standing in a garden, a shovel in one hand and a fistful of Burdock root in the other. The students then painted their own garden-inspired self-portraits.



Woodstock artists (from left to right) Yana Bennett, Aly Yonnetti, Azi Tehrani, and Cimarron Waldo pose with their artwork and WAAM Education Curator Beth Humphrey.

The teachers are grateful for the annual collaboration, which culminates in an art show at the museum's Youth Exhibition Space. "We are very lucky to get to work so closely with WAAM each year," said Ms. Sandberg. "They introduce to us many local artists and help us appreciate the art that is right in our community."

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT VICTORIA McLAREN

With the arrival of spring, we are all looking forward to celebrating our students' end-of-year achievements. It is a joyous time for parents and guardians as well as students, with graduation being the ultimate goal and capstone event.

It is especially meaningful to see staff members from all of our buildings walking in our commencement ceremony. That's because the graduation of our seniors can be credited

in no small part to the dedication of our staff—from the moment the students arrive in our District until the time they cross the stage and receive their diplomas. It is common



that our graduates, when they reflect on their time at Onteora, recognize individual staff members as having made an impact on their lives.

I want to thank our parents and the community for their continued support of our school district and our students. We appreciate the investment of both time and financial resources that the community makes to provide an outstanding experience for our students.

We continually strive to ensure that we are providing equitable opportunities for our students so that they can thrive not only here at Onteora, but also beyond, as they move on to the next phase of their lives. To this end, we recently worked with a consultant to review our Special Education program and our Response to Intervention process. The consultant provided us with several recommendations to enable us to better serve our students. As we move forward, we will continue to look for avenues to improve our program.

We also recognize that we need to remain fiscally responsible. Each time we lose an experienced staff member to retirement, we carefully review educational priorities so that we can thoughtfully reduce the taxpayer burden without negatively impacting our instructional program. We are continually seeking new ways to address needs, never automatically assuming that the way we have done things historically is the only way to operate.

As we approach Tuesday, May 15, community members are encouraged to make their voices heard by participating in the budget vote and election of board members. Polls are open from 2 PM to 9 PM. Polling places are the three elementary schools (Bennett, Phoenicia, and Woodstock) and the West Hurley Firehouse.

Thank you once again for the trust you place in us to educate the children of our community.

Board of Education Candidates (in the order they will appear on the ballot)

Three candidates are seeking election to two available seats. The seats are for three-year terms, effective July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

Valerie Storey, STAY-AT-HOME MOM, CEO OF STOREY FAMILY

Lives in Glenford, Town of Hurley • Lifelong Resident of District • Recipient of Board Mastery Award (Level 3) from New York State School Boards Association

Storey, who graduated from Onteora in 1996, subsequently earned an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts from SUNY Ulster. She has two children currently attending Onteora schools: a son at Bennett and a daughter at the High School. Her husband, Marshall, is also an Onteora graduate. She is currently serving her third year on the school board, her second year as co-chair of the Facilities Committee, and her second year on the District Safety Team. She is also an active member of the Bennett PTA.

Leo Warren, CO-OWNER, ICL CUSTOMS

Lives in Shokan • Resident of District for 25 Years Warren, who attended Onteora schools from Kindergarten through graduation, has three children enrolled in Onteora schools (two at Phoenicia and one at Bennett). During his time in High School, he was an avid member of DECA and the track team. Prior to starting a small customizing business with his wife, Denise, he was a store manager with multiple companies in many states. Today, he is an active member of the Phoenicia PTA and the Phoenicia Shared Decision Making Committee. When not working, Leo – who is also known as L.J. – enjoys spending time with his family, being able to make a difference in the community, coaching and playing sports, and camping.

Rob Kurnit, SELF-EMPLOYED WOODWORKER

Lives in Woodstock • Resident of District for 27 years • Recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award from New York State School Boards Association Kurnit is now completing his eighth year of Board service, having been active on both the local and State levels. In addition to serving two years as vice president of the Board, he has been an active member of the Facilities Committee over the years. As co-chair of the Facilities Committee, he worked to implement Onteora's Energy Performance Contract and Capital Projects, and worked on all of the District's playground builds. He has been a member of the Policy Committee and is currently Vice President of the Ulster County School Boards Association. His previous work experience includes serving as an operations manager and business partner at a fullservice golf shop.

INTEORA 2018-2019

2018-2019 Budget Summary

TOTAL Percentage	\$4,068,443 7.32%	\$46,812,051 84.23%	\$4,697,084 8.45%
Debt Service & Interfund Transfers		\$505,000	\$1,422,119
Transportation		\$4,209,858	
Operations & Maintenance			\$2,907,135
Employee Benefits	\$271,694	\$16,120,915	\$360,330
General Support	\$1,998,197		\$7,500
Instruction	\$1,798,552	\$25,976,278	
	Administrative	Program	Capital

TAX INFORMATION

What is the Tax Levy?

The tax levy is the total amount of taxes a school district raises to help fund its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources. The tax levy is the basis for determining the tax rates for each municipality within a school district. Tax rates are impacted by changes in town assessments and state equalization rates and are not determined by the school district. The Board of Education has adopted a budget that contains a 2.98 percent increase to the tax levy.

Since the budget is below the State Tax Levy Limit, why do I have to vote?

Even though the District's proposal is below the New York State Tax Levy Limit parameters regarding the levy increase, voter approval is still needed. The 2012 legislation commonly called the Two Percent Tax Cap law made many changes to the school budget approval process. One of the major changes was the method for computing a contingency budget. If the proposed budget is defeated two times, the District would have to make further budget reductions to reach a zero percent tax levy increase. This would require \$1,233,802 to be removed. In addition to making reductions to reach the zero percent levy increase, the District would also be prohibited from spending any money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the District); new equipment purchases; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures (except in emergencies); salary increases for noninstructional, non-unionized employees; and some student supplies.



2018-2019 Budgeted Revenues



WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON THE BALLOT

PROPOSITION #1:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onteora Central School District Board of Education be and is hereby authorized to expend the sums set forth under the various headings which are voted upon in gross and not in detail in the total amount of \$55,577,578 (which includes \$20,000 to support public library) for the year commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, and the Board is authorized to levy and collect the necessary tax thereof on the taxable property of the District.

PROPOSITION #2:

Shall the Board of Education of Onteora Central School District be authorized to purchase the following vehicles for a total estimated maximum cost not to exceed \$175,000: one (1) 65-passenger school bus (\$116,688) and one (1) 28-passenger school bus (\$56,263), including any preliminary and incidental costs related thereto, which total estimated maximum sum of \$175,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District and collected in annual installments as provided by law and for which obligations of the District may be issued?

BOARD CANDIDATES (VOTE FOR ANY TWO) Valerie Storey • Leo Warren • Rob Kurnit

PROPOSED BUDGET 7. .

Questions & Answers About Voting

Am I Eligible to Vote? In order to be eligible to vote, you must be 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the Onteora Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

If you are not registered to vote in the general election with the Ulster County Board of Elections but are an eligible Onteora voter, you may register with the District Clerk at the Central Administration Office by May 8, 2018. You will need to bring valid proof of residency. Any questions should be directed to the District Clerk at 845-657-6383 ext. 1010.

Absentee Ballots Eligible voters who cannot make it to the polls to vote may request an application for an absentee ballot. The District Clerk must receive the application by May 8 if the ballot is to be mailed to the requestor. If the ballot is being picked up by the voter, the application must be received by the District Clerk on or before May 14, 2018 (the day before the election and vote). Applications for absentee ballots are available on the District website (www.onteora.k12.ny.us/AbsenteeApp) or at the Central Administration Office between 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday. Applications are to be mailed to: District Clerk, Onteora Central School District, P.O. Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412.

Absentee ballots must be received by the District no later than 5 PM on May 15, the day of the election and vote.

Where are Copies of the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget Available? Copies are available for review at the following locations:

- High School/Middle School Offices
- Bennett Elementary School
- Woodstock Elementary School
- Phoenicia Elementary School
- The Business Office at Central Administration
- Public Libraries within the District
- The District Website, www.onteora.k12.ny.us

School Budget Notice					
OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2017-2018 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2018-2019 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2018-2019 School Year *		
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$54,296,155	\$55,577,578	\$54,343,776		
Increase/Decrease for the 2018-2019 School Year		\$1,281,423	\$47,621		
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.36%	0.09%		
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.13%			
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$41,338,014	\$42,571,819			
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0			
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0			
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0			
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$41,338,014	\$42,591,819	\$41,340,014		
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$260,651	\$411,393			
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$41,559,792	\$42,429,180			
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$41,077,363	\$42,160,426			
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$482,429	\$268,754			
Administrative Component	\$3,720,800	\$4,068,443	\$3,612,542		
Program Component	\$45,976,838	\$46,812,051	\$46,056,650		
Capital Component	\$4,598,517	\$4,697,084	\$4,674,584		

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2018-2019 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

A Contingent budget would eliminate all equipment purchases from the budget. The District would not be able to make scheduled High School improvements. The K-8 summer skills program and all field trips would also likely be removed from the budget along with an additional \$426,302.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
Purchase two (2) School Buses	\$175,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2018-2019 School Year \$308.89

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings 1

¹ The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2018-2019 by the qualified voters of the Onteora Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at Bennett, Phoenicia, and Woodstock Elementary schools and the West Hurley Firehouse in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 between the hours of 2:00 pm and 9:00 pm, prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

School Budget Notice



4166 Route 28 Boiceville, New York 12412 Phone: 845-657-6383 www.onteora.k12.ny.us

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To Postal Customer

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Victoria McLaren

NEWSLETTER EDITING & DESIGN Ulster BOCES Community Relations



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NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT The Onteora Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, weight, national origin, creed, religion, religious practice, ethnic group, political affiliation, gender (including gender identity, expression, or nonconformity to stereotypical notions of masculinity and femininity), marital status, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or other legally protected status in access to programs and/or employment provided by the District. Inquiries to the District concerning discrimination or harassment based on sex or sexual orientation may be referred to the Title IX/Title VI Compliance Officers Marystephanie Corsones, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction and Monica Kim LaClair, Assistant Superintendent for Business at: Onteora Central School District, PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412, (845) 657-6383, ext. 1010, mcorsones@onteora.k12.ny.us, mlaclair@onteora.k12.ny.us. Inquiries regarding discrimination can also be made to the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, (646) 428-3900, ocr.newyork@ed.gov.

ONTEORA APPOINTS NEW ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

THE ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

has chosen Dr. Jodi M. DeLucia as its next Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. DeLucia, who was appointed at the March 6 Board of Education meeting, will assume her new duties on July 1.

Dr. DeLucia, who holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Walden University, a Master of Science in Educational Administration from National University, and a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University at Albany, comes to Onteora with more than 14 years of leadership experience. She began her administrative career in 2003, working as a Staff Specialist in the Educational Resources Division for Dutchess BOCES. In 2010, she became

the Coordinator of the Dutchess BOCES Educational

Instructional Services for two years before becoming

director of the division. As the Director of Educational

Resources, Dr. DeLucia has provided leadership in the

areas of school improvement, professional development,

Resources Division, taking leadership responsibility for



Dr. Jodi M. DeLucia, Onteora's next Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

learning technology, gifted programming, summer scholars, arts in education, and regional academic summer school.

> Superintendent Victoria McLaren is delighted to welcome Dr. DeLucia to Onteora. "Dr. DeLucia's student-centered philosophy on teaching and learning will be a real asset to our school district," she said. "I believe that her years of experience working to support teaching and learning, implement the New York State Education Department reforms, and attend to the social and emotional wellbeing of students will help us further enhance the safety and effectiveness of our schools."

Dr. DeLucia is looking forward to spending time in Onteora's schools and

community before she officially begins her new job. "I am so very fortunate to have the opportunity to join the Onteora team," she said. "It is clear from my interactions with teachers and administrators that student learning and the social-emotional wellness of all students are at the heart of everything that they do."

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USEFUL DISTRICT CONTACT **INFORMATION**

www.onteora.k12.ny.us

DISTRICT OFFICE.....

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Superintendent of Schools657-6383 x1010 Cindy Bishop...

Interim Assistant Superintendent for **Curriculum and Instruction** Marystephanie Corsones.. 657-6383 x1012

District Clerk Fern Amster.. ...657-6383 x1010 Assistant Superintendent for Business

Victoria McLaren.....

Monica Kim LaClair......657-6383 x 1030 **Director of Pupil Personnel**

. 657-3320 Cindy Bishop.

..657-3320

Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health/Dean of Students Kim Pilla ... 657-2373 x2113

Director of Transportation Nicole Sommer... ..657-2537

School Lunch Manager

Director of Facilities and Operations

Jared Mance.... ..657-6384 HIGH SCHOOL • 657-2373 Principal, Lance Edelman Asst. Principal, Dieter Schimmelpfennig

MIDDLE SCHOOL • 657-2373

Principal, Jennifer O'Connor **BENNETT ELEMENTARY • 657-2354** Principal, Gabriel Buono

PHOENICIA ELEMENTARY • 688-5580 Principal, Linda Sella

WOODSTOCK ELEMENTARY • 679-2316 Principal, Scott Richards