

SULLIVAN

# BOCES

WHERE FUTURES BEGIN & DREAMS ARE ACHIEVED

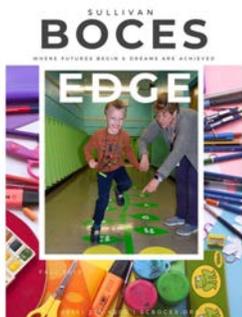


FALL 2019

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The Edge is a publication of Sullivan BOCES Communications Division



- Nov 11 Veterans Day (BOCES Closed)
- Nov 27 - Nov 29 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 23 - Jan 1 Winter Recess
- Jan 20 Martin Luther King Jr. (BOCES Closed)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Linda Berkowicz, President - Fallsburg
- Linda Fisk, Vice President - Livingston Manor
- Carol Bliefernich - Eldred
- Anne Colman - Liberty
- Kenneth Hilton - Sullivan West
- Susan Horton - Monticello
- Carol Park - Roscoe
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- Simmie Williams III, At-Large

*Where Futures Begin & Dreams Are Achieved!*

### ABOUT SULLIVAN BOCES

Sullivan County BOCES delivers a wide-range of instructional and management services to its eight component school districts and several other districts outside the county. Our three hundred staff members collaborate with our partners to create solutions to educational challenges, increase operational efficiencies, and reduce costs. We improve student success by providing quality educational experiences, helping students achieve their goals, learn skills, increase knowledge and develop a work ethic for the 21st century.



# BOCES RECOGNIZES STAFF MILESTONES

During the 2019-2020 opening day ceremony for staff, Sullivan BOCES recognized 43 individuals for distinct milestones in their careers. At each milestone, Robert M. Dufour, Ed.D. district superintendent, thanked the staff for their dedication and announced significant things that happened the year they started their career at BOCES. According to Dufour, "We are so proud of our staff, their longevity is proof of their dedication and commitment to providing caring, quality education to the students of Sullivan County."

## 5 YEARS OF SERVICE



Left to right: Front Row: Nicole Park, Margaret Goble, Courtney Lyons-King, Kimberly Berrios, and Stephanie Cavet  
Back Row: Susann Yupanqui, Stephanie Staudt, Justin Larkin, Andrea McGregor, Tammy Lapolt, Shannon Labagh-Frunzi, Tara Kratz, Cathy Belkin, and Heather Bonnell

## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE



Left to right: Nikki Revier, Adam Picciano, Darlene Mittico, Eric Hoff, and Jennifer Mitchell. Missing: Gregory Cherry, and Oscar Powers

## 15 YEARS OF SERVICE



Left to right: James Weiner, Jennifer Tyles, Susan McGrath, Beverly Kolakowski, Jill Holland, Jeanine Conklin, Melissa Jacobson. Missing: Valeria Henry

## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Left to right: Barbara Jean White-Ramirez, Richard Salvemini, Suzanne Lindstadt, Lori Ansbro, Susan Schmidt. Missing: Aaron Ward

## 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Left to right: Carol Henry, Bruce Gettel, Linda Blanton, William Drasher, Jr., and Juan Rios, Jr. Missing: Neftali Cubero

## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE



Laura Gettel

# FISH!™

## Catch the Energy. Release the Potential.

### "FISH!" BECOMES A WAY OF LIFE AT SULLIVAN BOCES

The 2019-2020 school year started off fishy at Sullivan BOCES. Staff were greeted with the excitement of the "Fish" philosophy, which empowers employees to be more effective in any job while improving teamwork, customer service, employee engagement, retention, recognition, and leadership.

According to Natasha Walkowicz Shea, assistant superintendent for instructional programs at Sullivan BOCES, "I just love the concept of "Fish," it has brought positive energy to our campus." Staff have embraced the concept of "Fish" and are using it in their instructional approaches. Administrators have also embedded the philosophy in their approaches and staff development practices.

"I am impressed with how our teachers have grabbed onto this concept and are running with it. Elements of the "Fish" philosophy are visible throughout the entire campus," added Shea.

According to Jennifer DeFrank, director of human resources at Sullivan BOCES, "In order to keep the momentum going and keep the staff engaged, we are planning different events throughout the year that reinforce the "Fish" philosophy."

District Superintendent Robert M. Dufour, Ed.D, is committed to "Fish". "In order to change a culture, you need a commitment from the top-down. To see the transformation in our staff and students two months into the school year is exciting," said Dufour.



Robert M. Dufour Ed. D.  
District Superintendent Sullivan BOCES



## **Principle #1: Play**

Have fun with the job you're doing. It's important to remember that laughter is infectious and so is a sense of fun. It only takes one person in any company to demonstrate how their job can be fun to create a motivational tipping point for others.



## **Principle #3: Be There**

"Being there" is a practice of mindfulness, which means being present while you're at work in both your body and your mind, and making that extra effort to avoid wandering off into the world of daydreams. It also means being there for co-workers or colleagues and simply paying attention to what you're doing each day.

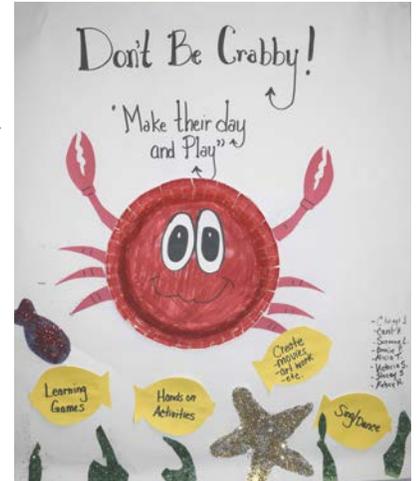


## "FISH!" BECOMES A WAY OF LIFE AT BOCES (Cont.)



## **Principle #2: Make Their Day**

Try to make the day better for the people you work with. This means engaging with them, smiling at them, taking a genuine interest in them, and finding ways to simply add positive morale and value to their day.



## **Principle #4:**

### **Choose Your Attitude**

Be aware of the attitude you bring into your job. When you wake up in the morning you make a conscious choice between being in a good mood or a bad mood, and this is the same energy you're bringing to work. Changing your emotional state is a simple choice you can make and will have a powerful, often unspoken, affect on everyone working with you.



## SENSORY PATHWAYS GET STUDENTS MOVING AND LEARNING

Over the summer, the elementary program at the White Sulphur Springs school installed colorful interactive pathways called “sensory paths” in four of its halls. The paths consist of brightly colored stickers that instruct students to perform different tasks. Students use these paths as they move from class to class or take a break when they are too fidgety to concentrate.

According to Occupational Therapists, Jill Holland and Nicole Mickelson, sensory paths have a purpose with added fun. They also help students develop gross motor skills as they follow along each task. You can do hopscotch, a sidestep, hop across a set of logs, or frog jump. “We call it ‘getting some of your sillies out,’” said Holland.

Before sensory paths, students who needed a break during the day would walk in the hallway or deliver an item to a teacher across the school. The sensory paths add structure and fun to the student’s motor breaks. By pushing, jumping, and stretching on the path, the students then can self-regulate in the classroom.

While the project mostly benefits students who require sensory breaks, teachers, support staff, and even administrators are also using the sensory paths throughout the day.



SENSORY PATHWAYS GET STUDENTS MOVING AND LEARNING (CONT.)





## STUDENTS PAY TRIBUTE TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

On Sept. 12 & 13, students from the Rubin Pollack Education Center traveled to the Rock Hill Fire Department to pay tribute to the 58,267 soldiers who lost their lives as a result of the Vietnam War. The traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall is a scaled-down replica (80% in size) of the original wall located in Washington D.C. The visit also coincided with the anniversary of 9-11.

As students walked the 360-foot wall, their teachers explained the details of the war and the significance of the wall. Later the students heard first hand from Veteran Jim Richardson, who served in WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

On Thursday, November 7, Sullivan BOCES will host a breakfast for Veterans to thank them for their service to our Country from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. The CTE Culinary Arts Program will prepare and serve the breakfast.

Shayla Boyles, an eighth-grade student from Livingston Manor, was one of the many students who visited the traveling wall. "Today's trip means a lot. Although this is new to me, it is sad to see the names of all the people who lost their lives for us."

Several Veterans were also in attendance honoring those who have served. Prominately displayed was a table that represented "America's White Table."

According to Kayla Legnini, a teacher at the Rubin Pollack Education Center, "Today's trip is helpful for our students to see the impact of the war. Being able to see all the names of the people who gave their lives to give us the life we have today, is powerful."



Jim Richardson,  
WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam

## “America’s White Table”

by Margot Theis Raven

- **Small Table:** Shows one soldier's lonely battle against many
- **White Table Cloth:** Honors a soldier's pure heart when he answers his country's call to duty
- **Lemon Slice:** Shows a captive soldier's bitter fate
- **Grains of salt on the plate:** Represents the tears of families waiting for loved ones to return home
- **Empty chair:** Is for the missing soldiers who are not here.
- **Black napkin:** Represents the sorrow of captivity
- **Turned over glass:** A meal that won't be eaten
- **White candle:** Peace
- **Rose in the vase with a red ribbon:** Hope that all our missing soldiers will return home someday



## WELLNESS EFFORTS RECEIVE PLATINUM MEDAL

On October 4, the Sullivan Health & Wellness committee presented Sullivan BOCES with a Platinum Medal of Excellence for its efforts in workplace wellness at the Wellness Summit.

Under the leadership of Jill Holland, Donna Bright (recently retired), and Jean Hewlett, BOCES continues to enhance its wellness initiatives to help improve the overall health and wellness of its employees.

According to Robert Dufour, Ed. D., district superintendent "Jill Holland, Donna Bright, and Jean Hewlett have worked tirelessly in their efforts to coordinate our wellness

efforts and keeping wellness at the forefront of our minds throughout the year. Without their leadership, we wouldn't have received this prestigious award."



Left to right: SueAnn Boyd, Healthy Schools Program Coordinator at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Jean Hewlett, Executive Assistant, Jill Holland, Occupational Therapist, and Robert Dufour, District Superintendent



## RUBIN POLLACK EDUCATION CENTER EXPANDS TO INCLUDE EIGHT NEW CLASSROOMS

Creating an optimal educational setting for the students of Sullivan County is extremely important to Sullivan BOCES. Over the summer, crews worked hard to prepare a site at the Rubin Pollack Campus for modular classrooms for the special education division. The new building will house classrooms that currently reside at the White Sulphur Springs School.

According to Natasha Walkowicz Shea, assistant superintendent for instructional programs at BOCES, "I am looking forward to opening the new classrooms for our students. The new building creates a fresh learning environment for our students and increases instructional opportunities for them."

Each large classroom allows teachers to create an active learning environment. All furnishings are portable and can be rearranged by the teacher or the students in configurations to enhance learning.

"We are excited about moving to our new classrooms," said Teri Knight, special education teacher at Sullivan BOCES, "Although we are sad to leave our WSS school, both students and staff are looking forward to new beginnings at the Rubin Pollack campus."

It is anticipated that the new building will be finished in November. Once complete, BOCES will hold a small ribbon-cutting for board members, administrators, staff, and students.



"My students are looking forward to helping to set up their new learning environment." ~ Teri Knight

# CAREER & TECH CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM BUILDS CABINS TO EXPAND OFFERINGS AT COMMUNITY PARK

The CTE Construction Program is working with Mr. Arnold Seletsky from the Town of Fallsburg Parks and Recreation program to build two rental cabins for Morning Side Campground. Before the project started, the students completed and presented a comprehensive proposal, to Mr. Seletsky.

The cabins are being built in a prefab manner so that they can be broken down and then re-erected and finished on site. The students will build two 12'x14' finished cabins with four bunk beds, lighting inside and out, ceiling fans, and refrigerators. Once on-site, the cabins will sit on a 20'x24' raised deck overlooking the lake.

"This is a perfect example of how our students are involved in real-life work that supports our community! We are incredibly proud of the work that Mr. Drasher and his students are doing on this, and many other exciting projects," said Scott Palermo, executive principal of the career technical education program.



(The materials were purchased through Fallsburg's Parks and Rec. department and delivered to the Construction Trades shop at RPEC)



## PROGRAMS OFFERED

Animal Science

Auto Body

Automotive Technology

Broadcasting & Music Production

Commercial Drone Aviation Pilot

Construction Technology

Cosmetology

Culinary Arts

Early Childhood Education

Health Occupations

(Allied Health, New Vision Health)

Travel & Adventure Academy

Innovative Design

Natural Resources

Public Safety Services

Welding

## Come Visit!

The Career & Tech Center welcomes students, parents and school districts to come and learn about the programs available at the Career & Tech Center.

For more information call (845) 295-4152

## LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON KEEPS COMMUNICATION LINES OPEN



Front row (left to right) Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther; William Silver, Interim Superintendent, Monticello CSD; Stacey Sharoff, Board Vice President Monticello CSD; Debra Kelley, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction, Tri-Valley CSD; Susan Schmidt, Deputy Superintendent, Sullivan BOCES; Senator Jen Metzger; Back row John Evans, Superintendent, Livingston Manor & Roscoe CSD; Susan Horton, Board Member, Sullivan BOCES; Lori Orestano-James, Board President, Monticello CSD; Robert M. Dufour, District Superintendent Sullivan BOCES, and Augustine Tornatore, Superintendent Liberty CSD.

On Sept 26th, Sullivan BOCES hosted a luncheon for Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and Senator Jen Metzger to meet with local school superintendents and their board representatives. During the lunch, both the Senator and Assemblywoman discussed upcoming legislation and gave updates on what is happening in Albany. Those present also had the opportunity to ask questions and identify issues affecting our schools.

According to Robert M. Dufour, Ed. D., district superintendent, "We are lucky to have a Senator and an Assemblywoman who are responsive and take such an active role in assisting our educational institutions. Their efforts are instrumental in improving Sullivan County."

Time was taken to introduce the CTE Culinary Arts students and instructors who prepared the lunch. Assemblywoman Gunther and Senator Metzger were so impressed by the culinary skills of our students that they requested to take a picture with them.

"I am proud of our students," said Kathy Poppo, one of the culinary instructors in the CTE program, "This is a great learning experience for our students, I know they were happy to have the Senator and Assemblywoman take a picture with them."

# LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON KEEPS COMMUNICATION LINES OPEN (CONT.)





## OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE CONTINUES TO GROW AND PROVIDE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WITH EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Five years ago, the elementary program at the White Sulphur Springs School created an outdoor learning space for its students to give them outdoor learning experiences.

The goal of the program is to use multi-sensory learning to let the children become inspired by the natural world around them and enhance what they are learning in the classrooms. With discovery learning and direct observation, along with hands-on experience, students can use skills such as math and science in real-life situations. Students also use the outdoor learning space to achieve their occupational and physical therapy goals through project-based learning.

According to Jill Holland, occupational therapist at Sullivan BOCES and co-founder of the initiative, students learn first hand where their food comes from, starting from a seed to growing the plant and then eating the food they have grown through project-based learning. Our garden also has Dolch Rocks (Sight Words) that are placed in the garden so students can identify words associated with the outdoor learning space and make sentences, which increases the student's reading and writing skills.

"This outdoor learning space has provided so many benefits for the students."  
~ Jill Holland

This space has also become a place where students participate in yoga and regroup. "The importance of the sustainable use and preservation of our natural environment is also a key element of the program," said Holland.



# OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE CONTINUES TO GROW (CONT.)

The outdoor learning classroom at the elementary school features ground-level beds and raised beds that accessible to all. There is also a garden bed that is specifically for pollinating other plants. Bees and butterflies are a welcome sight at the gardens as they help the plants flourish and teach the children about the natural world. During the winter months, the children learn about the birds using the bird feeders and tracking temperature changes.

Sullivan BOCES has been fortunate to have several community partners that have been instrumental in the development and growth of our outdoor learning environment. Grants from Sullivan Renaissance, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County, and the Catskill Mountainkeeper Edible Garden Project have helped expand the space to include a border fence and benches. Cornell Cooperative Extension also helped establish the curriculum that helps with agriculture literacy.

Additionally, Sullivan Renaissance and Cornell Cooperative Extension will help with the building of a garden shed and shade area for the students to work outside and do yoga. Equally important, the students participated in the creation of a Farm Market stand where staff and students buy the vegetables grown in the garden. The money made from the farm stands goes back into the program to be able to expand the tools the students need and further develop the program. Eventually, the school would like to use the garden to supplement the salad bar that was purchased with the Healthy School grant.

Sullivan Renaissance is making a film documentary of the Catskill Edible Garden Project as part of their 20th anniversary

celebration. The outdoor learning space at WSS was featured in their film for being a therapeutic area by incorporating yoga, or other gardening activities. According to Colleen Emery, project coordinator at Sullivan Renaissance, "The outdoor learning space at the White Sulphur Springs School has a magical, unique use of the garden, that shows the impact of nature."



As part of Farm to School Month, on October 24, Senator Jen Metzger visited the garden at the White Sulphur Springs School. While there, she participated in Fall Festival activities with students. Representatives from Cornell Cooperative Extension and Sullivan Renaissance were also in attendance.



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YOUR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY BEGINS AT  
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