

Dear Members of the Dutchess County Education Community,

After more than 50 years, Dutchess BOCES is seeking voter approval for a \$36.8M Capital Project to shore up its facilities, relocate its highly successful Alternative High School and improve the flexibility of the facilities. Ultimately, the project will be cost neutral by extinguishing rising leasing costs, controlling maintenance and utility expenses, and reducing expenditures in transportation and information technology.

The project will generate approximately \$24.6M in BOCES construction aid for most of our districts resulting in a per household cost (based on an average home value in the County of \$275,000) of between \$6 and \$14 per year.

Even with ongoing maintenance, the facilities are in poor shape after 5 decades without a major capital project. This venture will make significant improvements to student and staff security and address ADA compliance issues. Innovative design of the expanded and renovated spaces will offer flexibility in our instruction, create opportunities for new educational programs for some of our neediest students, and generate space for project and problem based learning across our career and trade classes. At the same time, moving the alternative high school to the Salt Point Campus will eliminate escalating lease costs.

For more information go to the BOCES website (www.dcboces.org/capitalproject) or call our offices (486-4983). We are happy to discuss any aspect of the project. The vote is open to all qualified residents of the County and is set for Tuesday, December 11, 2018 from noon to 8 pm. We have 14 polling sites in school districts around Dutchess County (locations are at the website). A simple majority will determine the outcome of the resolution. Watch for a mailer in late November.

Richard M. Hooley, Ed. D., District Superintendent
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