



# DOT-DASH

## Newsletter

435 Glenwood Rd  
Binghamton, NY  
13905  
607-766-3807  
[www.btbooces.org/sba](http://www.btbooces.org/sba)

February  
2011

## 2011 Joint Dinner

**VOLUME XXXIII**  
**No. 3**

The 2011 Joint Dinner was held on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Terra Cotta in Binghamton. 152 guests enjoyed dinner and an outstanding presentation by Dr. Kate Foster of SUNY Buffalo on the topic of consolidation. Dr. Foster is the Director of the University of Buffalo Regional Institute and her area of expertise includes regions, governance and regional decision-making.



Her talk "School District Reorganization 2011: Contemplating the Urge to Merge" considered the unusual alignment of political, economic, legal and social forces now prompting a resurgence of interest and activity in major reorganization of school districts and local government. Once focused on service sharing or other non-structural collaborations, area leaders contemplate and respond to proposals for consolidation, dissolution, downsizing, and other major reforms with profound implications for governance, finance and service delivery. This illustrated presentation reviewed the environment for change, outlined the amount, types, pros, cons and tradeoffs of reorganization activity and contemplated the prospects for more change in 2011 and beyond.

Dr. Foster presented a similar speech on Friday morning, January 21<sup>st</sup> for the Greater Broome Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee and guests. It was very well received and prompted discussion and a better understanding by Chamber members on the issues school districts face when contemplating merges and/or consolidations. This topic was very timely with the State budget deliberations proceeding this winter.

### Inside this issue:

2011 Joint Dinner	1
2011 Legislative Breakfast	2
Calendar of Events	3
President/Vice President Workshop	3

## 2011 Legislative Breakfast

The Legislative Breakfast was held Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> on the Broome-Tioga BOCES campus in the student cafeteria of the Les Distin Education Center. 65 superintendents, board members and school officials along with Senator Tom Libous, Assemblyman Cliff Crouch, Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Assemblyman Chris Friend and Debbie Howard from Assemblyman Gary D. Finch's office gathered together to discuss some very serious education issues that our districts are facing.

Randy Kerr, SBA Legislative Committee Chair and Newark Valley Central Schools Board of Education President, spoke on the current retirement system and how it needs to be controlled; Dave Hawley, Binghamton City Schools Board of Education President spoke on the proposed 2% tax cap and how it will negatively affect our districts; and Dr. Bill Russell, Superintendent of Schools, Owego-Apalachin Central Schools spoke on school budgets and what goes into crafting a plan that supports our children and that taxpayers can support.

Local legislators then stepped up to the microphone to give an idea of how education issues are being discussed in Albany. The picture they painted is bleak. While being careful not to give false hope, they all promised to fight hard to find ways to help ease the cuts in aid that our new governor is projecting. Each agreed that legislation to pass a resolution on mandate relief is key and urged everyone to visit Governor Cuomo's website and post ideas and opinions on additional ways to help curb costs. Other topics visited during their time at the podium included a state-wide health insurance system and the importance of an on-time budget. Jason Andrews, Superintendent of Schools, Windsor Central Schools, noted that there are many projected cuts to BOCES services in the new state budget and that this seems to be in direct contrast with the consensus for schools to find ways to share costs. Local legislators were unaware of all the BOCES programs that are earmarked to be cut and asked that this list be forwarded to them for review.

A very special thank you goes to Broome-Tioga BOCES Education Center for all of their assistance with this event. Students from the Culinary Arts, Skills USA, and the Criminal Justice Departments helped with food service, hosting and parking during the morning event. Breakfast was provided by the Culinary Department, table centerpieces by the Floral Arts Department and entertainment by the Knee High Chorus.

## 2010-2011 Programs and Workshops

**September 29**

Legislative Committee Meeting  
5:30 p.m. BT-BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A  
~~~

**October 18**

SBA Annual Business Meeting/Meet the Candidates  
6:30 p.m.  
BT-BOCES Les Distin Ed Center  
~~~

**October 21-24**

**NYSSBA Convention**  
NYC, NY  
~~~

**October 25-29**

NYS School Board Recognition Week

**November 18**

President/Vice President Workshop  
6:00 p.m. BT-BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A  
~~~

**January 20, 2011**

Joint Dinner Meeting  
Terra Cotta  
~~~

**January 26**

Legislative Committee Meeting  
5:30 p.m. BT-BOCES Instructional Support center, Room A  
~~~

**February 4**

Legislative Breakfast Meeting  
BT-BOCES Les Distin Ed Center  
~~~

**March 14**

State Legislative Conference/Lobby Day

**April 6**

Prospective Board Member Workshop  
7:30 p.m. BT-BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A  
~~~

**April 28**

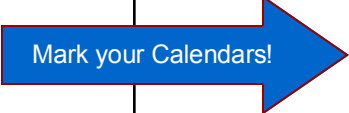
President/Vice President Workshop  
5:30 p.m. BT-BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A  
~~~

**Tentative June**

New School Board Member Workshop  
6:30 p.m. BT-BOCES Instructional Support Center, Room A  
~~~

**June 16**

Scholastic Recognition Dinner  
Binghamton University



**Prospective Board Members Workshop**  
**April 6, 2011**

BT-BOCES  
 Instructional Support Center  
 7:30 p.m.

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."  
– Malcolm S. Forbes



435 Glenwood Road  
Binghamton, NY 13905

Phone: 607-766-3807  
Fax: 607-763-3691  
E-mail: [jpaske@btboces.org](mailto:jpaske@btboces.org)

We're on the web!  
[www.btboces.org/sba](http://www.btboces.org/sba)

-----