



Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES

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News

For Immediate Release

OHM BOCES Adopts New Mission, Vision and Motto

Sept. 3, 2020 (New Hartford, N.Y.) – The Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES is pleased to announce that its Cooperative Board adopted a new Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Motto for the organization during the Board’s August 12 regular meeting.

The Cooperative Board began exploring the idea of redeveloping the organization’s Mission and Vision Statements last winter in an effort to ensure that both Statements continue to best represent the purpose, goals and values of the OHM BOCES.

“We live in a rapidly changing world where we’re always adapting quickly, implementing new technology and witnessing a more global society,” said OHM BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Patricia Kilburn. “With these things in mind, it’s essential that the ways we educate, the services we provide and the goals of our organization continue to evolve as well.”

The OHM BOCES conducted public surveys of component school districts and community members, along with an organization-wide survey and department level staff meetings to reexamine and reimagine the statements, gaining perspectives about “who we are and where we are headed.” The Cooperative Board reviewed input gathered through the surveys and meetings to determine the path of the OHM BOCES going forward.

Our Vision

We strive to provide innovative leadership, programs and services in response to the emerging needs of our school districts and learners.

“The previous mission focused on BOCES’ role in providing leadership, programs and services to meet the needs of our school districts -- which is still what we do and a major part of why our organization exists,” said Dr. Kilburn. “But we also heard from our staff that they wanted our students, our learners of all ages, to be more definitively recognized in our vision.”

With the addition of OHM BOCES learners, the previous Mission Statement remains largely unchanged and has now become the organization’s new Vision Statement.

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Our Mission

We are collaborators, working together and partnering with leaders in education, business, industry, government and the local community to promote inclusive educational and career opportunities and equitable access in order to prepare all of our learners for the dynamic world of today and tomorrow.

The new OHM BOCES Mission Statement explains how the organization's Vision and goals are achieved. It places an emphasis on access and equity for learners -- needs that the current global health crisis and racial injustice have further magnified. The Mission Statement also recognizes the invaluable support and partnership of the local community, as well as the need to provide education with a focus on both the present and future.

Our Motto

We are better together. We are OHM BOCES!

The new OHM BOCES motto offers a succinct way to tell others that we are strongest when we are working together and that each OHM BOCES student, staff member, component school district and community partner is an important piece of the organization as a whole. The motto also reflects the OHM BOCES current organizational hashtag -- #WeAreOHM.

"We all know that BOCES is a cooperative, its very design is to collaborate -- to provide services, create and implement programming," said Dr. Kilburn. "Yet never before has working and being together meant so much! Our new Mission, Vision and Motto really emphasize that everything we do is a direct result of collaboration, both within our organization and beyond."

The Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES serves the following school districts: Brookfield, Clinton, Holland Patent, New Hartford, New York Mills, Oriskany, Remsen, Sauquoit Valley, Utica, Waterville, Westmoreland and Whitesboro.

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