

Dear Superintendents and Board Members in the Four County Lower Hudson Region,

We are pleased to share information on the Lower Hudson Education Coalition Re-Visioning Taskforce.\* The Taskforce was convened in anticipation of Judy Wiener's June 30<sup>th</sup> retirement to review our regional advocacy needs and efforts, determine the organization's future direction, and define the role of a new Director. This email includes a summary of our discussions, results of the LHEC member survey, and the job posting for a part-time LHEC Legislative Director.

The **LHEC Re-Visioning Taskforce** (see names below) has had three meetings to date:

4/20/2017: LHEC history and structure; SWOT analysis of regional (and state) advocacy organizations; Regional advocacy dynamics; changing landscape; Taskforce objectives; Next steps: develop survey for LHEC members and send it out to board members and superintendents in the four counties.

5/10/2017: Analysis of survey results; Feedback from regional conversations; Consideration of Legislative Director position options and role.

6/7/2017: Feedback from conversations with key people (regional and state level); Develop LHEC direction and Legislative Director profile; Create job description.

**MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS:** The survey results clearly indicated that our superintendents and board members see value in having a regional board member- superintendent advocacy organization that understands our local issues and focuses on our needs. They also felt that the LHEC director's primary role should continue to be as a lobbyist for regional public education issues. The public education issues that over 50% of the respondents prioritized are, in descending order:

Funding issues

State mandates

Public education, charters & privatization

Assessment, evaluation & ESSA

Regional cost index

**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION & HIRING PROCESS:** We are sending this job description to all current superintendents and board of education members in the LHEC four county region- Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester. We are also sending it to retired superintendents and board members for whom we have valid email addresses (non-school district email address). Since this is a niche position, our initial plan is to recruit from "within" rather than broadcast the job online. **Please forward the job description to anyone who might be interested in applying for the position. We will be accepting applications through July 24<sup>th</sup>.**

\*By way of background, the Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) is a joint project of the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents (LHCSS), Dutchess County School Boards Association (DCSBA), Rockland County School Boards Association (RCSBA), and Westchester Putnam School Boards Association (WPSBA). It serves as a clearinghouse for regional legislative activities, lobbying for regional public education issues with state and federal officials and providing legislative information to the member school districts. Each sponsoring organization appoints members to the governing board (known as the JPC); the Re-Visioning Taskforce is similarly comprised of members from each sponsoring organization.

#### **LHEC LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION ATTACHED.**

Kelly Lappan, DCSBA  
Marco Pochintesta, LHCSS  
Ray Sanchez, LHCSS  
Mary Fox Alter, LHCSS  
Chris Borsari, LHCSS  
Maureen Danzig, RCSBA  
Leeann Irvin, RCSBA  
Rita Golden, WPSBA  
Frank Schneckner, WPSBA  
Steve Jambor, WPSBA  
Lisa Davis, WPSBA