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Clerk*



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Deputy Clerk*

*David Grant
Assistant Deputy Clerk*

M E M O R A N D U M

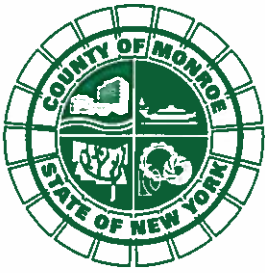
TO: Legislators, Directors, Staff and Media
FROM: Jamie L. Slocum, Clerk of the Legislature
DATE: March 11, 2014
RE: Matter of Urgency – File No. 14-0132

MS

14-0132 **Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature to Update Reimbursement Rates for BOCES Preschool Programs – As A Matter of Urgency – Majority Leader Stephen Tucciarello, Legislators Dorothy Styk, Justin Wilcox, Joe Morelle, Jr.**

Per President Jeffrey R. Adair, the attached communications is declared to be a Matter of Urgency pursuant to Section 545-24 (A) (3) of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature and will be considered at the March 11, 2014 meeting of the Monroe County Legislature.

Attachments.

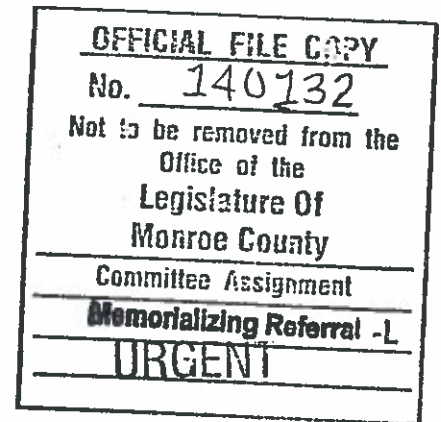


Monroe County Legislature

STEPHEN TUCCIARELLO
MAJORITY LEADER
LEGISLATOR - 4th DISTRICT

March 11, 2014

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614



RE: Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature to Update Reimbursement Rates for BOCES Preschool Programs

Honorable Legislators:

In Monroe County and the State of New York as a whole, the welfare of children has always been one of the most important priorities. Making sure parents have every resource to provide the most for their child is a responsibility on every level of government. In order to ensure that our children receive the best lives possible within our state, we must take special attention to the growing population of children with special needs in our community.

Unfortunately, financial concerns have led to somber discussions of phasing out some of these services. The New York State Department of Education's current rate-setting methodology does not cover the expenses required to fill the needs of these children. Insufficient reimbursement rates has led BOCES all over New York State to lose their preschool programs, leaving Monroe #1 and Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES as few of the remaining sites that offer education for children with special needs.

Losing the Monroe BOCES preschool programs would be a loss for the whole county. These programs give children with special needs an individualized learning environment that these 3 and 4 year olds cannot receive anywhere else. Studies show that early development is one of the most important stages of a child. Targeting their unique needs before entering kindergarten shows greater outcomes in later years of the child's life. If these children do not receive the current preschool services offered by Monroe #1 and Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES, they may require more intense services later in life, increasing the overall cost for taxpayers.

Currently, there are a limited number of programs geared toward children with special needs in the region. BOCES 2's preschool program has been important for the special needs' community for over 36 years. Without a change in reimbursement rates, the discontinuation of these programs will be a huge loss to the children, their families, and Monroe County.

With a continued focus at the state level on universal preschool education, the opportunity has presented itself for action to be taken to provide funding for the continuation of BOCES preschool special education programming.

Therefore, I urge you to join in memorializing Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature to preserve Monroe #1 and Monroe2-Orleans BOCES preschool special education programs by providing reimbursement rates that will allow for their continuance.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steve Tucciarello
Majority Leader



Justin Wilcox
Legislator - District 14



Dorothy Styk
Legislator - District 18



Joe Morelle Jr.
Legislator - District 17