Wayne-Finger Lakes Board of Cooperative
Educational Services
Candidate Information Form

Name: O. J. Sahler

School District: Canandaigua City School District (CCSD)

PART I: Board Experience

I was a member of the CCSD Board of Education for 21 years, retiring in 2007. I have been a member of the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Board for 18 years. I was a member or chair of all CCSD standing committees and a Board liaison member to 5 major District-wide initiatives: the Middle School Task Force in the early 90's, when the District underwent its major renovation and construction project and developed the 6-8 Middle School; the Counseling Services Task Force in the mid 90's, which recommended expanding services for students seeking specialized college/career counseling and more transition services for pupils between grades 5 & 6 and 8 & 9; the Neurofeedback for ADD/ADHD Task Force, which developed cognitive retraining and other approaches to enhance students' academic and interpersonal success; the Middle School Redesign Task Force, which revamped grades 6-8 in keeping with new challenges facing these students; the Wellness Committee, which aimed to consolidate our approach to Healthful Lifestyle, one of five character education initiatives; and the Audit Committee, which designed our internal audit function as part of the comptroller's overall plan for increased oversight of school district management. Since retirement from CCSD, I was a community representative to the Audit Committee for 5 years.

PART II: Interest in BOCES Board Seat

As a member of the BOCES Board for the past 18 years, I have gained a good understanding of the structure of BOCES, services provided for life-long learning, and the challenge of functioning in a rapidly changing and uncertain sociopolitical and economic environment. I have also become aware of the need for better training of board members and enhanced communication among BOCES districts state-wide. I have served as chair of a WFL BOCES task force that was instrumental in identifying functions that would benefit from increased advocacy by better informed BOCES Board members. Since then, we have been working collaboratively with NYSSBA to achieve this goal. I also co-chaired a workshop at the NYSSBA Annual meeting for 5 years to share the "Best of BOCES" throughout the state. I served on the Audit Committee during its formation, chaired the Superintendent and Board Evaluation Committee when it transitioned to a paperless format, and served on the Policy Committee when we reviewed our entire policy compendium. Currently, I am the chair of the Finance/Audit Committee, where I also serve as an officer of the Educational Endowment Fund. I am also a member of the Policy Committee as we work to streamline and standardize our policies with regard to student and staff harassment and equal educational and employment opportunities. One of my most truly enlightening experiences at BOCES has been to serve as the board representative or alternate to the School-to-Career Task Force and the External Review Committee, which evaluates applications to the State for certification of our vocational training programs for more than 10 years. This experience provides me with the opportunity to examine in detail all the career and technical training opportunities available through our BOCES, as well as new initiatives that are being developed in response to local student/employer demand. I do not believe that anyone could have such an experience and not come away from it thoroughly passionate about the incredible resource that BOCES is, both as an educational institution and as an asset to the economic growth of our region. It would be a privilege and an honor to continue my service to the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES over the next 3 years.

PART III: Additional Information

I am a behavioral-developmental pediatrician on the faculty of the Golisano Children's Hospital at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. I treat children and adolescents with a variety of physical, psychological, and behavioral issues that may interfere with their learning to their full potential. This background and experience has been useful to me and, hopefully, to the BOCES board and staff in considering ways to enhance the services provided by BOCES and the image it projects to the communities it serves.

March 2015