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BOCES Board Welcomes New Member, Katherine Brechner

Yorktown Heights — The Putnam/Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Education (BOCES) announced that its component school districts have elected Katherine Brechner to the BOCES board, effective October 21, 2009, through June 30, 2012.

Ms. Brechner comes to BOCES with a wealth of school-board experience. She served most recently on the Croton-Harmon UFSD board of education for 12 years, and — for the past two years — as president, prior to stepping down in June of 2009.

While on the Croton School Board, Ms. Brechner was actively involved with the Westchester Putnam School Board Association and was a founding board member of the Regional Educational Advocacy Districts (READ), a coalition of six Westchester and Putnam school districts formed to focus attention among local and state legislators on the impact and costs of unfunded mandates as well as other concerns affecting local school districts.

“I am looking forward to continuing to be involved in education, and serving on the BOCES board will enable me to get a much broader understanding of some of the regional educational issues in the Putnam, Northern Westchester area,” Ms. Brechner says. “There will be a learning curve with being on the BOCES board, as it is an organization even more complex than a local district, but I see this as an interesting time in the role of BOCES as New York State focuses more attention on it to provide shared services to help control costs.” Ms. Brechner fills the seat left vacant by the death of longtime BOCES board member John McGuinness of Peekskill.

Prior to her election to the Croton Board of Education, Ms. Brechner worked as a software company rep, a marketing research manager, and a photo interpreter for the US government. She and her husband, Berl, have three children and live in the Teatown area of southern Yorktown.

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