

Molinaro Announces New Four Year Agreement with CSEA Employee Union

Poughkeepsie. . . Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro and CSEA President Liz Piraino announced agreement on a new labor contract with the CSEA, Dutchess County Government's largest employee union with over 1450 members, including employees of Dutchess Community College. The four-year agreement will run retroactively from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2013. The union ratified the new agreement on November 7, 2012.

County Executive Molinaro said, "We are grateful to our dedicated CSEA employees who are committed to providing important and valuable services to the residents of Dutchess County. The settlement of this contract is a very important component of stabilizing our fiscal foundation and improving the County's finances. We are grateful to CSEA leadership for working closely with us to craft an agreement that is fair to our employees as well as our taxpayers."

The tentative agreement includes the following provisions:

- Salary freeze for each year of the contract, although scheduled step and longevity increases will be paid
- Two bonus payments of \$500 to be paid in March, 2013 and December, 2013.
- New Dental coverage plan that saves more than \$600,000 annually
- The addition of a 35 year longevity
- One additional bereavement day, with contract language expanded to include the death of a brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law and daughter-in-law

CSEA President Liz Piraino said, "Dutchess County's CSEA employees understand the current difficult financial situation and the sacrifices necessary to get through these tough economic times. The men and women of the Dutchess County CSEA are highly dedicated employees and value the commitment they have made to serve county residents. I appreciate the open and productive contract process over the past several

months with County Executive Molinaro and look forward to a continued positive working relationship.”

“Our County employees are our most valuable assets. These are the men and women who answer the 911 call when people need help, who make sure our roads are plowed so residents can get to work, and who provide so many other valuable services to our residents,” Molinaro said. “We appreciate their commitment and dedication and we recognize the sacrifices they have made. Settling this contract brings necessary stability and allows us to move forward. “When the county's fiscal condition and our shared economy improves we hope to do better for our valuable employees and all taxpayers of Dutchess County.”

The CSEA agreement will be presented to the Dutchess County Legislature for consideration and adoption at its December 6th, 2012 board meeting.

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