

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023  
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Joseph J. Minuta, Chairman  
Thomas J. Faggione, **Kevindaryán Luján**, James O'Donnell,  
Paul Ruskiewicz, Robert C. Sassi, Kathy A. Stegenga, Genesis Ramos

ALSO

PRESENT: Katherine E. Bonelli, Chairwoman  
Thomas J. Faggione, Majority Leader  
Barry J. Cheney, Legislator  
Stephanie Midler, Assistant County Attorney  
Steven M. Gross, Director, Office of Economic Development  
Bill Fioravanti, CEO, Orange County Industrial Development Agency  
Maureen Halahan, President, CEO, Orange County Partnership  
Sarah Bronson, Marketing Director, Orange County Partnership  
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst

Chairman Minuta opened the committee meeting at 4:35 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Gross provided an update on Economic Development. He announced that Export Week starts the first week of May. They plan to do a webinar on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and he handed out a flyer to the committee (On file in Clerk, Legislative Office). They are making great efforts to get the flyer out to as many people as they can because they are encouraging more people to learn about the Foreign Trade Zone. He handed out a letter that he and Ms. Halahan from the Partnership sent to the Ball Container Company who are shutting down (On file in Clerk, Legislative Office). They do not want the employees to lose their jobs and they do not want to see Ball shutdown. In the letter they offered ways to retain the company in Orange County. Mr. Gross introduced Jim Zhang who is the owner of Home 2 Suites in Middletown and he has made a big investment in Orange County. The new Adams Fairacre Farms will open in Walkill in May or June and plan to employ 112 people.

Mr. Fioravanti provided a monthly update on the IDA (On file in Clerk, Legislative Office).

Ms. Halahan provided a quarterly update on the Orange County Partnership (On file in Clerk, Legislative Office).

On the motion of Mr. **Luján**, seconded by Ms. Ramos, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.