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# Voting machines promise accurate election this year

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The Record

## The Board of Education voted Wednesday to use the services of Albany-based Liberty Election Systems.

**TROY** — On May 15 voters in the Enlarged City School District of Troy will be on the cutting edge of voting technology.

After last year's debacle involving a malfunctioning voting machine, the Board of Education voted Wednesday to use the services of Albany-based Liberty Election Systems.

"You said the magic word — free," board member Archiah Phillips told Liberty official Robert Witko.

**"We want to make sure this goes without one hiccup."**

**Larry Bugbee**  
Board of Elections commissioner

Witko was joined at the meeting by Rensselaer County Board of Elections commissioners Larry Bugbee and Edward McDonough.

Bugbee said the Board of Elections will not have new voting machines in time for the vote. Last year, a machine malfunctioned and new candidate Ilene Clinton only

received two votes in her home district.

"We want to make sure this goes without one hiccup," he said.

Liberty has been working on the new electronic voting technology for three years, and used its machines last year during a school vote in western New York.

The machines were showcased recently at a conference at Hudson Valley Community College.

"Liberty was the clear choice with a user-friendly machine," Bugbee told the board.

Witko said the machines have a paper ballot backup, and that their technicians will be at every polling site during the vote.

The board considered future dates to discuss the issue, but instead had attorney Jim McCarthy draft a resolution for an immediate vote.

Board incumbents Phillips, Ed Smith and Vice President Stephanie Scully will likely

face Clinton and newcomer Anne Rounds in the May election.

Phillips will be seeking a third three-year term, and Smith and Scully will both be seeking a second.

Superintendent Lonnie Palmer suggested the board adopt a 2007-08 budget by April 4, to give enough time to discuss it with the public. Revenue numbers will be in next week. He urged them to be conservative and not wait for an on-time state budget.

Later, several board members objected to the rate of pay offered to substitute Superintendent for Buildings and Grounds Robert Rossi.

He will be paid \$375 per day from Monday to June 30, as needed, to replace Curt Hayner, who is on medical leave.

The appointment was approved with Scully, Smith, Mary Ellen Adams, Pat O'Grady and Michael Pollack voting for. Phillips, Carol Harvin, Jason Schofield and Tom Mayo voted against it.