

IT IS THE MISSION OF THE SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOLS  
to develop our students to become "...active, reflective, creative learners. In our schools, they will engage in rewarding work and practice behaviors that are intelligent in both an academic and a practical sense. Students will develop the attitudes, skills and understandings that will allow them to fulfill their potential and to function successfully in their individual and social roles."

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SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, New York 12033-1699

**December 1, 2011**

**Maple Hill High School Library**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – WORKSHOP**

Present: Andrew Fleck, President; Michael Hiser, Vice President ;Bruce Romanchak, Michael Charsky; Mary Yurista; Lisa Lafferty; Christine DiGiulio, (arrived 6:45 pm) George Warner, (arrived 7:05 pm).

Absent: Paul Puccio

Also Present: Robert Horan, Superintendent; Monica Kim, Director of Business and Support Services; Donna Watson, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Pupil Personnel Services; Ron Agostinoni, MHHS; Michael Bennett, MHMS; Jason Chevrier, CES.

1. Meeting called to order by President Fleck at 6:07 pm.
2. Mary Yurista moved to enter executive session at 6:07 pm. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
3. Mike Hiser moved to return to regular session at 6:32 pm. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
4. Michael Charsky moved for approval of present agenda. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
5. Approval of minutes: None.
6. Reports / Presentations:
  - a. Workshop on Student APPR Process and where Schodack is in relation to that process. – Administration.

Mr. Horan introduced the administrative team and gave a review of where the State and NYSUT are with the most recent litigation of Education Law 3012-c and Chapter 103. It has been very quiet and there are no answers to previous questions about teacher evaluation procedures. Mrs. Watson gave an overview of the presentation and outlined the four key components of Education Law 3012-c:

    - Essential component of RTTT
    - Reform agenda
    - Purpose
    - Goal

Mr. Chevrier received the legislation at a glance linking the evaluations of teachers and principal to one of four categories: Highly Effective, Effective, Developing and

Ineffective. Mr. Chevrier also talks about important plans, professional development, training, appeals and hearings – all requiring extensive professional development for teachers and administrators. Mr. Chevrier explained the selection process to evaluate an effective teacher evaluation rubric. Rubrics were explained and a sample outlined to the group. Mr. Chevrier identified six local criteria used to evaluate the teacher rubric. There was an agreement between the faculty and administration that the district would continue with Charlotte Danielson Enhanced practice. Even though the faculty is familiar with the Danielson model, training for administration and faculty would still need to be scheduled. Mr. Chevrier finished with a graphic chart identifying the number of observations that would have to be scheduled under 3012-c. It was also noted by Mrs. Watson that even though the number may seem large, being in the classroom and observing is the single most important of administration. Mr. Bennett reviewed the current evaluation process that Schodack has used for several years. Non-tenured teachers are required to have three (3) observations, tenured are required to do goal setting as formal, as well as informal walk through. Mr. Agostinoni explained the importance of training and accurate evidence based observations along with consistency between observations in the classroom.

- b. Workshop on Bob's recent trip to China and where the District will go from here. Mr. Horan reported to the Board, Administrators and the Community on the most recent Education Delegation trip to China organized through Capital District BOCES and Questar III that he was a part of. Eighteen individuals from five school districts and two BOCES were invited to participate and create a partnership with a school of similar values and beliefs as their own. The purpose is to create culture exchanges for students, teachers, administrators and families in both China and the United States. Currently Schodack has a very good relationship with the Rotary and exchanges have been placed with several countries around the world. China has been resistant to allow a student exchange, but teacher exchanges are common. There are three major goals of a relationship with a sister school in China:
- i. Make connections with educators and educational organizations in china for future cooperative ventures with school districts in the Capital Region BOCES and Questar III BOCES.
  - ii. Increased knowledge of Chinese educational systems.
  - iii. Understand and show best practices in teaching and learning. A recognized official relationship would allow opportunities for Chinese teachers to spend time in United States classrooms observing as well as co-teaching with faculty K-12.

Mr. Horan detailed visits from Beijing, Tianjin, Changchun, Guangzhou, Zengchang to Hong Kong. Northern schools in Beijing and Tianjin were very open and receptive to the visit. Tianjin School No. 57 had previously shown interest in Schodack from a January 2011 visit. Many of the classroom activities and missions of the School 57 were similar to Schodack. Schools in Guangzhou and Zengchang did not resemble schools with similar interest. Mr. Horan reported that schools in Southern China were not as welcoming to visiting classrooms, but excited to share outside facilities. Mr. Horan announced that there would be a visiting delegation of faculty and students from China the week of January 15<sup>th</sup> with a visit to Schodack on January 17<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that representatives from School No. 57 will visit Schodack in the spring for additional information about the district and opportunities for both the Chinese and American students. Mr. Romanchak was concerned about the amount of time and resources put toward the China trip and the outcomes to the district. Mr. Romanchak wanted to make

sure that all students could benefit from the potential of district wide programs. There was also concern to be cautious about looking at best practices and sharing of teachers and students at such a distance, when there are opportunities closer to home. Mr. Horan reconfirmed that it was not his intention or the district's to focus all attention on China, but rather a starting point to open lines of communication with China that would help benefit faculty and students K – 12. There was additional board discussion supporting the goals stated previously as well as taking advantage of local practices and sharing of teacher exchanges from other schools. Mr. Horan will keep the board posted on activities related to the China trip and other opportunities to share cultural and academic awareness.

7. Board Discussion.

Mr. Warner asked for an update on the NEATEC conference from Mr. Horan. North East Advanced Technology Education Center hosted its first conference at HVCC November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. HVCC was awarded a major grant to implement, educate and provide opportunities to school districts to take advantage of professional development for teachers in the areas of semi-conductor and nano-science awareness. The goal is to education faculty by providing workshop opportunities to integrate these new technologies into existing curriculum K-12, and make students aware of college and career opportunities. HVCC is now one of five ATEC in the country. Mr. Horan said it was well attended from schools from the Capital District. Two teachers represented Schodack and are part of the planning team for future curriculum development.

Mr. Romanchak talked about a recent opportunity he was able to take advantage of through his school district. Mr. Romanchak visited South Dade Middle School in Florida. South Dade is a magnet school but also a home school with very diverse low income. Focus was on Stephen Covey's 7 principles. Mr. Romanchak also visited "I-Prep" as small school working on blending on-line learning with traditional high school experiences. There were three themes, criminal justice, forensics and pre-law, and DASH – design and architecture. Senior high was based on design, architecture, industrial design, interior design, video and webpage media as well as fashion design. Mr. Romanchak reported that these schools were showing success after some reorganization. Students were making improvements in attendance and academically. Mr. Romanchak encouraged the board and administration to look at some of the programs and the potential of modeling in our district.

8. Meeting open for public discussion. Laura Cook appreciates the update on where Schodack is in relation to the APPR process and that the district is willing to move forward with the process regardless of the ambiguity set forth by New York State. She is a little concerned with the vendors coming in and what do they really know about assessing student's abilities.

9. Policies: None.

10. Consent Agenda:

- a. Michael Charsky moved for approval of the following items to be declared surplus and to be disposed of by the district in accordance with district policy.
  - i. Wrestling mats (Resolite mats – standard size/3 sections/color: Red. Reconditioned several times. Approximately 25 years old. Not suitable for school use – i.e. not legal mats for actual competition. Not proper thickness due to reconditioning too many times.

- ii. 1985 Digital Hitachi Phones / Quantity = 20
  - iii. 2009 Model I335 Nextel phones / Quantity = 30
  - iv. Over Head Projectors / Quantity = 12
  - v. Fold up Cafeteria Tables / Quantity = 4
  - vi. CRT Monitors / Quantity = 50
  - vii. Printers / Quantity = 24
  - viii. Computers / Quantity = 50
  - ix. 250 assorted old books
  - x. sewing machines / Quantity = 4
  - xi. 25 inch televisions / Quantity = 10. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution allowing the district to undertake a project consisting of the installation of solar panels and related wiring and electrical work, at the Castleton Elementary School, the Maple Hill Middle School, and the Maple Hill High School and the Bus Garage and that the Board finds and concludes that the proposed action is a Type II action within the meaning of 6 NYCRR 617.5 and therefore is not subject to review under SEQRA and the regulations thereunder. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
  - c. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution allowing the District to undertake the Solar Panel Project for the Castleton Elementary School, Maple Hill Middle School, Maple Hill High School and the Schodack Bus Garage and authorization to engage the services from Synthesis Architects and Monolith Associates with respect to such project at no cost to the district. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
  - d. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution to transfer an amount of \$190,547.23 from the 2011-12 General Fund Tax Certiorari Reserve Fund to the 2011-12 General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance ; pursuant to the Hannaford tax certiorari Stipulation and Order of Settlement under Rensselaer County Court Decision and Order, Index No. 226262, 229881,233691,and 237201. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
  - e. Michael Charsky approved of the 2012-2013 Budget Calendar. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.

11. Resignation/Appointments:

- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for the approval of the tenure appointment of Tammy Seres (certification: Special Education) as Special Education teacher, effective December 8, 2011. Chris DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Approval of coach/advisor(es): None
- c. Approval of volunteer assistant coach(es): None.
- d. Approval of non instructional substitute(s): None.
- e. Approval of substitute teacher(s): None.

12. Meeting open for public discussion: None
13. Action items: How much, if anything, is Monolith making on the solar panel project. Ipad update to be added to a future meeting.
14. Adjournment. Having no other business before the board, meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Michele Reickert  
District Clerk*