

*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."*

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

March 2, 2011

Maple Hill High School Library

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

Present: J. Andrew Fleck, Lisa Lafferty, Christine DiGuilio, Susan Megna, George Warner, Kenneth Flood, Michael Hiser, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak, Robert Horan, Sherri Fisher, Donna Watson, Michael Bennett and Ron Agostinoni

Absent: Jason Chevrier

Guests: James Baldwin and Sally Bachofer

1. Meeting called to order by President Fleck at **6:30** p.m.
2. Board Discussion: None.
3. Reports /Presentations:
 - a. Workshop: Educating Students Differently: New and innovative educational opportunities for students
 - i. Charter School Opportunities:
 1. Currently in New York there are 170 Charter Schools Operating (125 in NYC); Sally Bachofer explained the purpose /opportunities of Charter Schools.
 - a. Office of School Innovations (two main functions):
 - i. Close low performance schools.
 - ii. Provide help to systems to provide education to all students.
 - b. Charter School Office
 - c. Statewide School Turnaround Office
 - i. Engaging / high performing
 - ii. Finding economics of scale
 - d. Data Collection
 - b. Competitive grants are available for districts and outside organization partnerships. Grants are to help get a district's ideas off the ground and eventually be self supportive.

Every child will be challenged, and every child will challenge every assessment.

1. College Opportunities: Create 50 seat Charter School; become a “Chartering Entity”; 11th & 12th grade school; open to surrounding Districts; high school credit and college credit simultaneously; summer advancement opportunities; evening course work open door to all students; K-12 Charter school; separate governing body; sharing of resources across districts; path for professional development and leadership – next step in career from start up to inception to progressive; shared business services ie: Transportation, Food Service, Library & Technology System
 2. Middle School /High School Transition
 3. Walk to Read: smaller learning communities around reading
 4. Service learning program for High School students, Middle school or Elementary; community volunteers, expand the involvement
4. Meeting open for public discussion: Legislative Art Exhibit; Douglas Hamlin congratulated Michael Bennett on tenure appointment.
5. Policies: None.
6. Consent Agenda:
- a. Kenneth Flood motioned to approve a Retainer Agreement with Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP to provide legal services to the Schodack Central School District at an annual rate of \$8,000.00, (payable in quarterly installments of \$2,000.00) w/a blended hourly rate of \$195.00 for matters outside the retainer, paralegal rate will be \$90.00 per hour, for the 2011-12 school year. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
7. Appointments / Resignations:
- a. George Warner moved to approve the tenure appointment of Michael Bennett, as principal of Maple Hill Middle School, effective March 10, 2011. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. George Warner moved to approve an unpaid leave of absence of Rachel Murphy for the 2011-2012 school year. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
 - c. George Warner moved to accept the resignation of Florence Heeder, Maple Hill High School Dramatics Advisor, effective immediately. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
 - d. George Warner moved to accept the resignation of Roberta Lieberman Nicholson, Claims Auditor, effective March 9, 2011. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
8. Meeting open for public discussion. None.

9. Action items: Report on impact of changes; recommendations and implementation on step 2 planning to be shared at Monday's faculty meetings; Bruce Romanchak questioned how to create a strategic plan; George Warner: Vision – make school plan educational, serviceability is an issue
10. Executive session: Work history of specific employees and litigation. Motion to enter executive session at 9:30 pm. Paul Puccio moved, Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
11. George Warner moved to reenter public discussion at 9:58 pm. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
12. Adjournment: Having no other business before the board, meeting adjourned at 10:01 pm. Bruce Romanchak moved, George Warner seconded. All present in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele A. Reickert
Administrative Assistant