

*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

November 17, 2011

Maple Hill High School Library

Present: Andrew Fleck, President, Michael Hiser, Vice President, Mary Yurista, Lisa Lafferty, Michael Charsky, Christine DiGiulio

Absent: Paul Puccio, George Warner and Bruce Romanchak

Also Present: Robert Horan, Monica Kim and Michele Reickert

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR

1. Meeting called to order by Board President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:03 p.m.
2. Michael Hiser moved to enter executive session at 6:03 pm. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
3. Christine DiGiulio moved to return to regular session at 6:32 pm. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
4. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of present agenda. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
5. President Andrew Fleck asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
6. Michael Hiser moved for approval of minutes of workshop meeting October 12, 2011 and regular meeting October 20, 2011. Mary Yurista seconded. All present in favor.
7. Reports/Presentations:

Christine DiGiulio moved to switch the order of reports/presentations moving Common Core Standards to a. Mary Yurista seconded. All present in favor.

- a. Common Core Standards – Presentation given by Donna Watson, Ron Agostinoni, Michael Bennett, Jason Chevrier and Laura Cook.
Introduction by Robert Horan, you are going to find out that students are going to be required to do a bit more than what their brothers and sisters had to do. Conversations like this, a child in 5th grade and a child in 2nd grade and you are looking at what your child is now learning in 2nd grade and you may notice that that is not what your 5th grader was doing in 2nd

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grade. That is good, I'm glad you noticed that, that is part of the Common Core Standards. The presentation began with a YouTube clip outlining "Why the Common Core" link: (<http://www.youtube.com/user/TheHuntInstitute#p/u/2/9IGD9oLofks>)

- i. **What are the Common Core State Standards:**
 - (1) Aligned with college and work expectations
 - (2) Focused and coherent
 - (3) Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skill
 - (4) Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards
 - (5) Internationally benchmarked so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society
 - (6) Based on evidence and research
 - (7) State led – coordinated by NGA Center and CCSSO
- ii. **Why is this important?**
 - (1) Currently, every state has its own set of academic standards, meaning public education students in each state are learning to different levels.
 - (2) All students must be prepared to compete with not only their American peers in the next state, but with students from around the world.
- iii. **What are we doing to prepare?**
 - (1) Curriculum Mapping (both regionally and within the SCSD) to capture local changes to curriculum, instruction and assessments (including rubric development)
 - (2) Engaging in High Quality Professional Development (Webinars, Book Studies, Traditional PD hosted by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, BOCES, CASDA, Regional Coalition for 21st Century Learning and 6 days of embedded staff development).
 - (3) Working with a Network Team to analyze student achievement data and target improvements efforts.
 - (4) Working with our PDP Committee to select local measures of student achievement that are rigorous and aligned with the CCSS in NYS.
- iv. **What can Parents do?**
 - (1) Get informed about the CCSS for New York State at your child's grade level.
 - (a) www.engageny.org
 - (2) Communicate with teachers regularly regarding your child's progress in school.
 - (3) Ask your child to discuss what he/she is learning in school and WHY it is important and relevant in today's world.

Standards are designed to make sure that all students in NYS leave our high schools college or career ready. Currently that is not the case, there are a small percentage of students that need remediation when they get to college, and some never escape and end up dropping out.

There are three key guiding principles: 1) students are college and career ready when they leave high school; 2) the standards are based on evidence from what we know by looking at other high performing countries and lessons we have learned from states within our country

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and 3) they allow time for teachers to teach and time for students to learn. Students not only are going to be competing with students in our state but the competition has gotten fierce and it is with students around the world. Common Core will be focused on ELA/Literacy and Mathematics.

v. **Three main sections of (English Language Arts) ELA/Literacy:**

- (1) K-5 is self maintained and the teachers teach several content areas
- (2) 6-12 ELA
- (3) 6-12 Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical subjects

There are four main strands, Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening and Language. There is a media literacy component weaved throughout the standards recognizing the 21st Century skills that kids need to learn. Importance of Technology and Media is woven into the standards. Students are encouraged to learn like a detective and engage the students to learn. Old Curriculum was taught a mile wide and an inch deep the new standard teaches an inch wide and a mile deep. Students will be encouraged to write to inform and to argue. The standards will not replace current standards, but compliment them.

vi. **Standards for Mathematical content:**

- (1) K-8 standards presented by grade level
- (2) Organized into domains that progress over several grades
- (3) Grade introductions give 2-4 focal points at each grade level
- (4) High school standards presented by conceptual theme (number & quantity, algebra, functions, modeling, geometry, statistics and probability)

vii. **Standards for Mathematical Practice**

- (1) Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- (2) Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- (3) Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- (4) Model with mathematics.
- (5) Use appropriate tools strategically.
- (6) Attend to precision.
- (7) Look for and make use of structure.
- (8) Look for and express regularity in repeating reasoning.

Most higher achieving countries focus on a few key understandings early on and they teach them to mastery. They did not move on until they mastered those skills. Students are taught to persevere through a problem, attend to precision, and allow kids time to build up competencies in math practice. Textbooks are overstuffed ex: a middle school textbook in Japan has 140 pages where a US middle school textbook has 800 pages. This captures the difference in teaching standards.

Christine DiGiulio moved to add public session. Michael Hiser Seconded. All present in favor.

Public Session:

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Parents expressed concerns about the amount of time in a school day not being enough to cover the required material, children getting not one on one time if they are struggling, parents already have to help by reading textbooks and learning so they can teach their children, will gifted children get bored, how will education go deeper for them and keep them engaged, how will this be integrated into the regents numbers, they do matter when it comes to getting into college.

Administrators answered: We are in a transition period right now, we are working with the old, getting ready to transition to the new, and our kids are going to be assessed on the old still. It is an issue that we are actively involved in looking at how we make that adjustment moving forward. Compromise is possible, we just need to look at it and work at it. Bob Horan comments on a trip he recently took to China and visited 9 schools in 10 days, elementary through high school. Primary levels there go from eight o'clock in the morning until five o'clock at night with breaks during the day, middle school kids 8:00 am – 6:00 pm and depending on the high school level 10th -12th grade, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, 8:00 am – 7:00 pm and 8:00 am – 8:00 pm, again there are breaks. We have been talking about changing education since we all went to high school. We are still going 180 – 183 days. I think we will see longer school days and longer school years. We currently have gifted students in our classrooms with struggling students and they are grouped by centers addressing certain needs. Giving students appropriate things to do so they can work independently. We are looking at the resources we currently have and assessing what we may need to meet the needs of a full spectrum of learners.

- b. NYS School Board Recognition Presentation – Schodack Faculty Association
The following was read by Laura Cook, Schodack Faculty Association Co-President:

“In honor of the recent NYS School Board Appreciation Week, and on behalf of the members of the Schodack Faculty Association, we would like to express our appreciation for your commitment to the Schodack Central School District community—particularly your dedication to our students. We thank you for the many hours you devote to preparing for meetings, reviewing policies and programs, interacting with the whole school community, and your efforts to provide a solid and meaningful education experience for our students.

It is said that the pathway to educational excellence lies within each school. This is a belief we share. Together, we have high expectations of what we want for and from our students, and we continually work together to strive for educational excellence. We thank you for the work you do to help shape our future leaders in medicine, health, technology, the arts, education, environmental and societal concerns, politics, law, service, business and so many other facets of a global society.

Again, on behalf of the Schodack Faculty Association, thank you for the important work you do as members of our school’s Board of Education. I’d like to now introduce SFA Vice-President, Mrs. Fowler to present books that the Schodack Faculty Association is donating to each of the school libraries in honor of NYS School Board Appreciation Week.”

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Christine Fowler presented the Board with three books for the libraries:

The High School received: The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations by Elizabeth Knowles, this will help students when composing college essays. The Middle School received: Wonderstruck by Hugo Cabret, it included amazing artwork and information that link to an Art unity taught here. And finally, the Elementary School received: On and Zero both by Kathryn Otoshi, one is on bullying and the other developing self-esteem, both fit with the Common Core.

- a. 2012-13 Budget Development Calendar – Monica Kim and Robert Horan
Proposed calendars were handed out to Board Members and they were informed of one minor change to the expected tax levy target and also that the meeting dates were kept the same. No questions were asked about the calendar.
8. Board Discussion.
Christine DiGiulio mentioned that Fran Owen had reached out looking for people to help community members with gifts and needs for families in our District and asked the other Board members to join her in contributing to the need of these families. Andrew Fleck read a card from Suzanne Pazienza thanking the Board for the continued support of the Art program. Andrew Fleck asked the Board if they would be willing to place an ad in the yearbook this year. There was talk about a company that would wanted to teach eight different language classes including Arabic, Chinese, German, Spanish to the Elementary students. It would be at a cost of \$99.00 per student and classes would run from 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm. in age groups of Grade 1 & 2 and 3 – 5. Classes offered would depend on enrollment and interest. Since we offer Chinese and Spanish we thought those would be good now. Bob Horan thanked the board for their approval of his trip to China and expressed that the development and growth there is unbelievable. He visited 9 schools and learned a lot about their education process. They are merging their smaller rural school with new schools on the outskirts moving students into dorms. One statistic he shared was that 60% of all cranes in the world are located in China and concrete trucks run 27/7 there. It is almost scary how fast they are moving. We have a sister school in the makings and I will update the board with a presentation at a later date. Michael Hiser asked that there be a presentation on APPR scheduled. Bob Horan explained that the Merger Meeting had been cancelled because he felt there was not enough time for the teams to look at the data that was supplied and he didn't want this to be rushed. The data should be reviewed in detail by both Superintendents before the meeting as well. Michael Charsky pointed out that a great deal of time had been wasted in the past on data that had to be re-analyzed.
9. Meeting open for public discussion. None.
 10. Policies: None.
 11. Consent agenda:
 - a. Michael Hiser moved for acceptance of Treasurer's Reports for the months of October 2011. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.

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- b. Michael Hiser moved for acceptance of Revenue and Budget Status Reports for the month of October 2011. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Michael Hiser moved for acceptance of Extra-Classroom Activity Report for the months of October 2011. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Michael Hiser moved for acceptance of Claims Auditor Report for the months of October 2011. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Michael Hiser moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2011-2012 students: 000113238, 00113777, 000113533, 000012387, 000012109, 000113475, 000011407, 000113735, 000113281. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Michael Hiser moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2011-2012 special education services for students: 000114044, 000114000, 000113824, 000114048. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Michael Hiser moved for approval of change in assessment for Kristopher and Amanda Keenan for real property located at 1027 Van Hoesen Rd. (209-11-42.31) from \$329,000 to \$285,000 pursuant to Small Claims Assessment Review Case 2011-024, resulting in a change in taxes due from \$6,382.60 to \$5,529.00 for 2011-12. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Michael Hiser moved for approval of change in assessment for Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Flood for real property located at 1565 Van Hoesen Rd., Castleton, NY (209-9-4.2) from \$364,000 to \$325,000 pursuant to Small Claims Assessment Review Case 2011-16, resulting in a change in taxes due from \$7061.60 to \$6,305.00 for 2011-12. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Michael Hiser moved for approval of Twelfth Grade Media and Culture textbooks "Media and Culture: An Introduction to Mass Communication" for implementation during the second semester of the 2011-12 school year. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- j. Michael Hiser moved for approval of a High School Band and Chorus overnight trip to Williamsburg, Virginia from March 29, 2012 through April 1, 2012 for a music festival, competition and clinic. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- k. Michael Hiser moved for approval of an agreement with Vanderheyden for special education services for one (1) pupil for the period October 24, 2011 through June 30, 2012, at a rate of \$859.325 per week, if the pupil remains enrolled for the months of July and August 2012, the rate will be \$954.834 per week. Lisa Lafferty seconded. Christine

DiGiulio abstained. All others present in favor.

- l. Michael Hiser moved for acceptance of a donation from Christine & David DiGiulio in the amount of \$200.00 to help offset the costs for the Superintendent's trip to China. Michael Charsky seconded. Christine DiGiulio abstained. All others present in favor.
- m. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution authorizing the District Treasurer to increase the General Fund in the amount of \$200.00 by a donation from Christine and David DiGiulio to help offset the costs for the Superintendent's trip to China. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- n. Michael Charsky moved to acknowledgement of a donation from Scott Aitken of an Alto Saxophone valued at \$400.00 in support of the Maple Hill Music Program. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- o. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution authorizing the Treasurer to open a new account at KeyBank, N.A. for the purpose of investment as soon as fiscally possible. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

12. Resignations/Appointments

- a. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of a change in hours for Tracy Sukup, Bus Driver, from 5.25 hours / day to 5.75 hours / day effective October 21, 2011 (October 20, 2011 agenda had her listed as a bus attendant this is to correct the language on the October 20, 2011 agenda). Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of an extended unpaid leave of absence for Janel Gregoire, per the Schodack Faculty Association Contract for the remainder of the 2011-12 School Year. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Christine DiGiulio moved for acceptance of the resignation of Rosemary Giaquinto, Network Administrator, for the purpose of retirement effective December 31, 2011. Mr. Horan expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Giaquinto for her years of dedication and service to the Board. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of the tenure appointment of Patrick Austin (certification: Social Studies 7-12, 5-6 Extension) as secondary Social Studies teacher, effective November 18, 2011. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of Coach/Advisor(es):
 - i. Tim Prall – 7th/8th grade Girls Track & Field. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.

- f. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of volunteer assistant coach(es): None. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
 - g. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of non instructional substitute(s): None. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
 - h. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Christine Hamm, Lyndsey Marquit, Sarah Kowalski and Ruth Wormald. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
 - i. Michael Charsky moved to approve the request of Rachel Murphy to return from leave of absence, for personal reasons given, pending final review of legal counsel effective January 28, 2012. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- 13. Meeting open for public discussion.
 - 14. Action items. APPR Presentation to be added to the December 1, 2011 Workshop; 2012-13 Budget Calendar to be included in the Consent Agenda for the December 1, 2011 Workshop meeting.
 - 15. Lisa Lafferty moved to enter executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 8:54 pm. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
 - 16. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.