

*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

**September 15, 2011**

**Schodack Central School District Office**

Present: Michael Hiser, Vice President, Mary Yurista, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak, Christine DiGiulio,  
George Warner, Andrew Fleck, President (arrived at 8:00 pm), Lisa Lafferty (arrived 8:10 pm)

Also present: Robert Horan, Ron Agostinoni, Jason McCord, Monica Kim, Michele Reickert, Michael Bennett  
(arrived 7:48), Jason Chevrier (arrived 8:37 pm)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR**

1. Meeting called to order by Board Vice President, Michael Hiser at 6:08 p.m.
2. Christine DiGiulio moved to enter executive session at 6:09 pm. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
3. Christine DiGiulio moved return to regular session at 6:49 pm. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
4. Vice President, Michael Hiser asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of present agenda. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
6. Mary Yurista moved for approval of minutes of regular meeting: August 18, 2011(Regular) and September 1, 2011 (Special). Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
7. Reports: Christine DiGiulio made a motion to amend the agenda to switch the order of the reports. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All Present in favor.
  - a. Recent Storm Damage Report (Tree removal, High School Windows and Middle school Gym Floor) – presented by Edward Costigan. (Robert Horan introduced Ed Costigan, Interim Superintendent of Building and Grounds, and thanked him for an outstanding job filling in for the past 6 months. He recognized how difficult it must have been not being familiar with the district and the staff.)
    - i. Monica Kim reported to the Board that with the recent costs associated with hurricane Irene, the tight budget we are under and being so early in the year, we may need to increase the budget in the future should there be any additional

---

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

---

substantial repairs needed throughout the year.

- ii. Ed Costigan reported the following damage:
  - 1. Two trees fell and had to be removed, one on either side of the High School.
  - 2. Minor leaks in a couple classrooms in the High School
  - 3. Leak in main office at high school, coming through windows. This is an ongoing problem. The window systems are not designed for horizontal rains at 30, 40, or 60 mph like we had. Can possibly look into contractor re-caulking or a warranty issue. There is caulk missing in spots and other spots have been re-caulked already.
  - 4. Wet carpets have been cleaned up.
  - 5. CES had rain blow in through an air vent leaving a 2 foot wide puddle on the gym floor, it was caught and cleaned up before any lasting damage.
  - 6. Ceiling leaks in 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classrooms at CES and vestibule
    - a. Should be under warranty with Firestone, they will be contacted.
  - 7. Middle School gym floor heaving, this happened last year and had to be repaired, possible causes will have to be investigated more such as:
    - a. The boiler room drain may not handle the rainfall volume. When the boiler room was built, a galvanized pipe drain was put down the wall to piping that conveys water away, possibly a coupling on the pipe or even rusting pipe is the cause.
    - b. If it is between the walls, it will find a path of least resistance. The floor is on a sleeper system and when water gets beneath it, it soaks into the boards and causes bowing.
    - c. There is a louver high on the wall into the unit hanging in the gym. Driving rains could get into the unit and run out during the night, it lines up right with the unit, but we can't be sure.
    - d. Ed Costigan recommended having the floor taken up and try to recreate the leak before any more costly repairs take place.
- b. Monolith Associates – presented by Mark Fobare and Steven Erby
  - i. Robert Horan gave an overview of some of the events and projects involving “going green” leading up to the possible relationship between Monolith Associates and the school district. There are three common themes: Cross curricular activities at all levels of instruction focusing on student and faculty/staff success; Systematic underlying projects across the board showcasing great teaching and learning; Encourage faculty to concentrate on education opportunities that invigorate and rejuvenate both students and adults in the community.
    - 1. CES Garden Project
    - 2. Contacts with CES, Global Foundries, Staten and County Legislators, Colleges, and Global Business Partners.
    - 3. RPI – Richard Frederick and Brent Solina introducing our math, science and technology teachers to Micro-organic Technologies – turning sewage waste into electricity. This is where Mr. Horan met Mark Fobare and began

- discussing solar energy usage at the school.
4. NEATEC (North East Advanced Technology Education Center – one of five in the country starting up at HAVCC involving Semiconductor, Photovoltaic and Nanotechnology curriculum for students K-12 with potential college bearing course work in high schools through distance learning and traditional instruction. Schodack is a pilot school and part of initial development.
  5. Rensselaer CTE Center, June 2011
  6. Jiangsu China & USA Trade and Business Summit in NYC; George Warner and Robert Horan attended.
  7. August 2011; Solar Development in New York, Saratoga Springs – focus was Green Technologies
- ii. Monolith Associates, LLC is owned by lifelong residents of the Capital Region, Statts family built their house on Statts Island, Castleton on Hudson in 1680 (Steven Erby). A Premier provider of Solar Services in NYS – NYSERDA eligible and NABCEP certified. There are many local governmental bodies using solar panels to produce their own electricity: Northside Fire Department, East Greenbush Town Garage, Grace Fellowship (Latham, NY)
1. Benefits of Solar:
    - a. Responsibility: Allows you to be socially and fiscally responsible to your community and environment.
    - b. Kids and Education: School district becomes an integrated and active, hands on role model and educator to the children and community it serves.
      - i. Students will be able to monitor the daily energy produced through the internet as well as a TV monitor on the wall in the building.
      - ii. Kids will want to be a part of it. Jobs will be developed in this field impacting them.
    - c. Cutting Edge: Cutting edge technology increases awareness and attractiveness of Schodack Central School District to potential home buyers, business investors, and foreign educational partners.
    - d. Reduced costs: Solar energy leads to saved money which can then be used for other educational or capital projects.
    - e. Green Implementation: Reduce green house gas effects and your carbon foot print in our planet. This may lead to future acknowledgements and credits from governmental agencies for the school.
    - f. Educational Implementation: The ability to implement solar and renewable energy in real time, with real on the spot date, equipment and monitoring systems into science and math programs.

The solar equipment and installation would be at no cost to the district, and

---

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

---

could produce 30% cost savings on electricity produced by the system. A 30 year system could save up to \$360,000.00 over the lifetime. There would be zero burden of ownership, no insurance, maintenance, or worries. Having the panels on the roof would actually prolong the life of the roof. The solar panels protect the roof from the sun's damaging UV rays.

Bruce Romanchak moved for a motion to allow the Superintendent to proceed with the project. George Warner seconded. All present in favor.

Students in Schodack School District are already learning and experimenting with Solar Energy evidenced by Mr. Kenneth Malloy's (one of our Technology teachers) "Solar Wolff", a go-cart, which was built in his one of his classes that is run by solar charged batteries. It was on display at the board meeting that night.

8. Board Discussion: Paul Puccio reminded the Board of a breakfast workshop at Questar on October 1<sup>st</sup> for Board Members for an overview of the property tax cap; all board members will be attending. Robert Horan would like to meet with the board to prepare for the October 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting to let the public know more about the tax cap. The board asks where the open board seat stands. Mr. Horan reports that we have had one interested party as of the board meeting, there is an article on the website, and announcements have been made at the parent's nights that have taken place to date. Interested parties are being asked to notify the Superintendent of their interest by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Horan thanked Board members for making appearances at open houses. He said it is important. He also wanted to thank everyone who collected things and sent them to other schools like our Girls Soccer team presented school supplies to Greenville's team at their last game.
9. Meeting open for public discussion: Laura Cook, SFA Co-President said that the Faculty was thrilled to be back for the new school year. Everyone is happy and hit the ground running. Stacey Herron has been approached by many faculty and staff to help people affected by Hurricane Irene. She stated that the Monolith Associates presentation was fantastic and the program will fit well into curriculum. We are already recycling bottle caps, students learn to think about water usage and conserving electricity with the lights going off automatically or using 1 set of lights instead of 2 sets in classrooms. These things are talked about even in Kindergarten.
10. Policies:
  - a. Reserve Funds – Moved by consensus to third reading.
11. Consent agenda
  - a. Paul Puccio moved for acknowledgement of a donation from New York Council of Non-Profits in the amount of \$1,762.93 in support of the Continuing Education Program. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - b. Paul Puccio moved for approval of a resolution authorizing the District Treasurer to increase the General Fund in the amount of \$1,762.93 by a donation from New York Council of Non-Profits

---

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

---

in support of the Continuing Education Program. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.

- c. Paul Puccio moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2011-2012 students: # 000113194, 000011191, 082590002, 082410000, 000113213. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Paul Puccio moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2011-2012 special education services for students: 000114010, 000113758, 000114021. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Paul Puccio moved for approval of change in assessment for Michael & Lisa Wilson, for real property located at Castleton, NY (210.10-1.1) from \$260,000 to \$250,000 pursuant to Small Claims Assessment Review Case 2011-004 and approval of a reduction in taxes billed in the amount of \$194.00. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Paul Puccio moved for approval of change in assessment for Christopher & Ashley Phelan, for real property located at Castleton, NY (177.9.31) from \$187,000 to \$126,000 pursuant to Small Claims Assessment Review Case 2011-044 and approval of a reduction in taxes billed in the amount of \$1,183.40. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Paul Puccio moved for approval of change in assessment for Gerald and Elizabeth Seeley, for real property located at Castleton, NY (188.2-3-29.115) from \$245,000 to \$225,000 pursuant to Small Claims Assessment Review Case 2011-008 and approval of a reduction in taxes billed in the amount of \$388.00. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Paul Puccio moved for approval of an Independent Contractor Agreement with Joseph Sweeney for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 to perform computer network and technical support services on an as-needed basis, at a rate of \$28.75 per hour. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Paul Puccio moved for approval of contract for special education services with Wildwood Programs for one (1) pupil for the 2011-12 school year, in the amount of \$43,088.00. (Note: This is the 2010-11 rate. 2011-12 rate is pending upon final SED approval.) Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.

## 12. Resignations/Appointments

- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a change in hours for Kerry Warner, Teacher Assistant, from 6.00 hours/day to 7.0 hours/day, effective September 6, 2011. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval for Jan Peter, Teacher Assistant, to work one (1) additional hour on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, effective September 6, 2011.

---

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

---

Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.

- c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a change in hours for Terri Jackson, Teacher Assistant, from 6.00 hours/day to 7.0 hours/day, effective September 6, 2011. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a change in hours for JoAnn Clynes, Teacher Assistant, from 6.00 hours/day to 7.25 hours/day, effective September 6, 2011. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a change in hours for Deborah Walling, Senior School Monitor, from 6.50 hours/day to 7.25 hours/day, effective September 6, 2011. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of probationary appointment of Lori Kolb, School Monitor, for 2.25 hours/day at a rate of \$13.87/hour, effective September 6, 2011 through March 6, 2012. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the one (1) year appointment of Jaclyn Dunn, (.2 FTE) Career Exploration, at Maple Hill Middle School, effective August 29, 2011. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the one (1) year appointment of Patricia Racz, (.2 FTE) 8<sup>th</sup> grade Family and Consumer Science, at Maple Hill Middle School, effective August 29, 2011. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a one (1) year appointment of Susan Gomes (.2 FTE), ESL (English a Second Language, effective August 29, 2011. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- j. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of probationary appointment of Jennifer Davids, Health Care Aide, for 6.0 hours/day at a rate of \$16.01/hour, effective September 6, 2011 through March 6, 2012. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- k. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the 2011-12 Transportation Runs and Driver and Bus Attendant Hours. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- l. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of the resignation of Susan Wollner as HS Student Council Advisor effective immediately. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- m. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of the resignation of Kenneth Malloy, MS Student Council Assistant effective immediately. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- n. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of the resignation of Jacqueline Hill, Builders Club

---

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

---

Advisor, effective immediately. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.

- o. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of an increase in one part-time position in the tenure area of music K-12 from .41 FTE to .46 FTE, effective August 29, 2011 and approval of addition of employment to .46 FTE of the part-time incumbent in the tenure area of music K-12, effective August 29, 2011: Leah Phillips. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - p. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of an increase in one part-time position in the tenure area of physical education k-12 from .53 FTE to .55 FTE, effective August 29, 2011 and approval of addition of employment to .55 FTE of the part-time incumbent in the tenure area of physical education K-12, effective August 29, 2011: Jaclyn Dunn. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - q. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the following Coach(es) / Advisor(s):
    - i. HS Student Council Co-Advisors – Melissa Golden and Caitlin Donahue
    - ii. Key Club Advisor – Susan Gomes
    - iii. CES Co-Computer Specialists – Brenda Kelliher and Stacey Rattner
    - iv. CES Visual Aide – Leah Phillips
    - v. MS Student Council Advisor – Kenneth Malloy
    - vi. Builders Club Co-Advisors – Jacqueline Hill and Lisa DiLorenzo. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - r. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Lisa M. Beerle. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
13. Meeting open for public discussion: None
14. Action items: The Board asked Robert Horan to follow up with Monolith and obtain a contract for our attorney's to look at. The board asked that they be kept up to date on the Middle School Floor situation. The Board asked that a Doodle poll be done to see availability for a Workshop meeting prior to the October 20<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.
15. Adjournment: Having no further business before the board, Bruce Romanchak motioned to adjourn. Christine DiGiulio seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.
16. Chris DiGiulio moved to re-enter regular session and enter Board Discussion at 9:17 pm. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
17. Board Discussion:
- a. A question was asked as to why all of the teacher's assistants hours were changed in July and some were being increased. The answer was that it was a request of CSEA so that all TA's get leveled out at the beginning of each year allowing everyone a chance at any

---

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

---

- additional time by applying for the additional time.
- b. Jason Chevrier explained bus drills at Castleton Elementary School and changes that have been made to them this year. The buses were staggered not only in how they lined up but also by having 6 come at a time. They were held at a time that allowed the students that don't normally ride a bus to school to participate and learn what to do in an emergency. Faculty, Staff and Transportation personnel participated and helped the students. The drills took a little longer than usual but went very well.
  - c. Robert Horan talked about a bus drill initiated by the SAVE Committee to take place on October 1<sup>st</sup> involving a retired bus that has been used for parts and is scheduled to be scrapped. The bus will be turned on its side, students, local schools and local emergency response personnel will be participating. There will be mock injuries and rescues. Andrew Fleck thanked the SAVE Committee and stated that a lot was learned by taking what happened last year and educating our drivers.
18. Christine DiGiulio moved for a motion to approve the Superintendent to spend up to \$3000.00 for legal fees for Beebe Associates. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
19. Adjournment: Having no further business before the board, Lisa Lafferty motioned to adjourn. Christine DiGiulio seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.