

SCHROON LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
School Auditorium  
January 4, 2021

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bruce Murdock  
Susan Repko  
Kevin Kelly  
Jared Whitley  
Ashley Barry

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Supt. Gratto      Tamara Belanger  
Danielle Fosella      Laura Corey  
Marylou Shaughnessy  
Malena Gereau      Mary Gereau  
Beth Wissner      Melissa Whitley  
Natalie Royer-Loiselle  
Rick Dumolin      Lee Silvermail  
Brett Bernhard      Christian Gratto

**BOARD CLERK**

Lisa DeZalia

**MEETING  
TO ORDER**

President Bruce Murdock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Those present pledged allegiance to the flag.

**PREVIOUS  
MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ashley Barry, second by Jared Whitley to approve the minutes of November 19, 2020 as presented All Board Members voted Yes-5 No- 0 motion carried.

**PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION**

Malena Gereau spoke on behalf of the student council. A survey was sent to students regarding the 2:00 pm dismissal. 90% of the 70 students that responded would like to keep the 2:00 pm dismissal. Some additional comments from students were they had extra time with teachers that they might not be able to connect with if they dismissed at 3pm. Early dismissal allows more time at home to complete homework and spend time with their family. Some students feel they are very stressed and can not handle the amount of work that is given to them. Students respectfully ask that the 2pm dismissal remain unchanged.

**CERTIFICATION  
OF WARRANT**

A motion was made by Jared Whitley, second by Kevin Kelly to approve Warrant #5 dated 12/08/20 as presented. All Board Members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

A motion was made by Susan Repko, second by Kevin Kelly to accept the treasures report for December dated 12/10/20 as presented. All Board Members voted Yes-5 No- 0 motion carried.

EXTRA  
CURRICULAR  
REPORT

A motion was made by Jared Whitley, second by Ashley Barry to accept the Extra Curricular Report dated 11/30/20. All Board members voted Yes-5 No-0 motion carried.

SUPT  
REPORT

Mr. Silvernail presented the blueprint restoration project, explaining that he and Mr. Bernhard have been working to preserve the original blue prints. They would like to share with the Board the process to restore them. Board members will go to the shop at the end of the meeting for a presentation.

There is a large piece of exercise equipment in the weight room that Mr. Silvernail reported does not get much use. He would like to sell this piece of equipment and use the money to purchase a smaller one that is more functional for the space.

SALE OF  
GYM  
EQUIPMENT

A motion was made by Susan Repko, second by Jared Whitley to allow the sale of a piece of gym equipment. Money from the sale will be used to purchase a smaller piece of equipment. All Board members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried.

Mr. Silvernail reported on the winter sports program. He is pleased with the attendance. At this time winter sports have been cancelled, however he would like to continue with the program based upon participation levels to allow students to get some exercise and prepare for the upcoming Fall 2 sports season and spring sport season. Fall 2 sports are slated to begin March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Sharp and Mr. Wisser will also begin with Archery soon.

BOE  
ACKNOWLEDGES  
DONATIONS

Mr. Gratto was pleased to inform the Board of two donations to the district. The SLTA procured an anonymous donation in the amount of \$1777.91 to install equipment to allow outdoor WIFI. This will help provide a safe outdoor learning space and help with remote learning. Another donation of \$50,000 was made by the Adirondack Cloudsplitter Foundation for the sole purpose to support the shared cafeteria manager. This money will reduce the cost to school districts for the next school year.

The first budget meeting will take place at the January 28, 2021 Board meeting.

POLICY  
4321.3  
1st read

The first read of the Independent Educational Evaluations was completed by the Board. There was one area that needed clarification, which was in regard to mileage. This will be clarified prior to the second read.

## DISMISSAL DISCUSSION

Mary Gereau noted that the district has been successful up to this point with in person learning. She would like to see us continue to be successful. As the district reevaluates the COVID situation it is important for the district to acknowledge that COVID is on the rise. The social emotional health of staff and students needs to be considered. The 2pm- 3 pm time period is necessary for teachers to connect with remote students and families. Lesson plans for in person and remote may be different and need to be created individually. This takes a great deal of time and extra planning.

Ms. Corey stated that with the virus numbers continuing to climb, the staff is very concerned with the spike and how it has affected our district. On behalf of the SLTA she respectfully asks that the dismissal time remain unchanged for the remainder of the year.

Marylou Shaughnessy and Mary Gereau provided a visual chart of local school districts. Six school have at least one remote day and eight schools have early dismissals. They have no intention of changing their dismissal plans at this time. Out of an abundance of caution and to keep our staff and students safe, they feel it is necessary to remain with a 2pm dismissal.

Lee Silvernail stated that each day the amount of remote students change. It is difficult to keep track of who is remote, temporary remote or just joining your classroom for the day. It takes time and can be stressful and confusing.

Mr. Gratto acknowledged that the teachers, staff and students are doing a great job and understands the logic behind the 2 PM dismissal. However, on the flip side he feels it is difficult to get all the material covered within the 32-33 minute teaching periods. It is important to get more instructional time. There is also an inequity in teaching time for the in person learners. The amount of remote students has been reduced since September. The Shared Decision Committee discussed the early dismissal and felt the drawbacks outweigh the benefits.

Instructional time required by the state is 990 hours for grades 7-12 and 900 hours for elementary. SLCS has applied for the waiver, in the event we do not meet these hours. However, the state still has the expectation that districts make every effort to meet these requirements. The 2pm dismissal makes it difficult to hold afterschool homework club for students who are struggling and afterschool detention. One on one aides have an extra hour at the end of the day that they are not with their student. Although they are kept busy they are not performing duties that they were hired for. The benefits of going back to the 3pm dismissal would be we could almost meet the 990/900 hour requirement, in person learners would get more instructional time. It would be easier to institute the after school homework club and monitor detentions. We could use our aides more wisely.

Laura Corey stated that social emotional needs of our staff and students are far more important than meeting the 990 hour requirement. With COVID #'s surging why are we even having this conversation? We need to do more to accommodate our staff. We can not teach as we always have, everything is different. Teachers are overwhelmed and aides are going above and beyond to support the teaching staff. We need to do what is right for our students. Mr. Murdock stated that he understands that the social emotional well being of staff and students is important but we have to be aware of instructional time as well. Mary Gereu spoke from a parent perspective. Having a Senior in school this year she many things being done different. Colleges are not looking at Regent scores and have waived SAT scores, they are taking transcripts and recommendations and most are asking students to write essays as to how COVID is effecting them. Our history needs to be written that we did everything we could to support the staff and students throughout the pandemic. Mrs. Barry stated she felt instructional time was most important, and Mr. Whitley stated that he does not feel the drawbacks outweigh the benefits of an early dismissal. He feels it would be difficult to take the time away. Natalie Loiselle agreed that the social emotional well being of staff and students is most important. Internet is not the best and often a teacher will struggle to connect with students. Teachers need the hour to get back to students who have difficulty logging in. Students are learning and progressing. Teachers are stressed and anxiety ridden, they need time to take care of their own families. There were 57 new cases in Essex County today alone. This is not going away.

- BOE VOTES DISMISSAL** A motion was made by Jared Whitley, second by Kevin Kelly to keep the 2pm dismissal in place.  
All Board members voted Yes- 3 No-2 ( Bruce Murdock and Ashley Barry)
- REMOTE DISMISSAL** A motion was made by Ashley Barry, second by Susan Repko to note that if we are forced to go remote we will end the day at 3pm.  
All Board members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried
- TEACHERS REQUIRED TO BE IN THE BUILDING** A motion was made by Ashley Barry, second by Jared Whitley to require teachers to come to school to teach in the event we go remote.  
All Board members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried.
- CSE/CPSE RECS** A motion was made by Susan Repko, second by Kevin Kelly to accept the 504/CSE recommendations as presented for #10015, 10491, 10741, 40162, 10780, 40166,  
All Board members voted Yes-5 No-0 motion carried

**RESCIND MOTION** Upon the recommendation of Supt. Gratto, a motion was made by Jared Whitley second by Ashley Barry to rescind the motion made on May 28, 2020 appointing Jeff Cutting as Girls Modified basketball coach for the 2020-2020 basketball season.

All Board members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried

**WINTER SPORTS SEASON COAHES** Upon the recommendation of Supt. Gratto, a motion was made by Susan Repko second by Kevin Kelly to appoint Becky Hartwell as the Girls Modified Coach. Modified programs are approved for three days per week at \$50.00 per session All Board members voted Yes 5- No-0 motion carried

Upon the recommendation of Supt. Gratto, a motion was made by Jared Whitley, second by Ashley Barry to appoint Lyle Hartwell as the Boys Modified Coach. Modified programs are approved for three days a week at \$50.00 per session. All Board members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried

Upon the recommendation of Supt. Gratto, a motion was made by Jared Whitley, second by Kevin Kelly to appoint Jeff Cutting as the Girls Varsity Coach. Varsity programs are approved for three days a week at \$60.00 per session. All Board members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried

Upon the recommendation of Supt. Gratto, a motion was made by Jared Whitley, second by Ashley to appoint Lee Silvermail as the Boys Varsity Coach. Varsity programs are approved for three days a week at \$60.00 per session. All Board members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried

**WINTER SPORTS MOA** Upon the recommendation of Supt. Gratto, a motion was made by Susan Repko second by Jared Whitley to approve the MOA with the Teachers Association regarding the winter sports pre season.

All Board members voted –Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried

**BOE APPOINTS SUBSTITUTE** Upon the recommendation of Supt. Gratto, a motion was made by Ashley Barry, second by Kevin Kelly to appoint Suzanne Hurtado as a certified substitute for the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Hurtado will be compensated \$100.00 for the first 10 days then \$105.00 daily.

All Board members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried

**BOE APPROVES EVALUATOR WAIVER** A motion was made by Susan Repko, second by Jared Whitley to approve the Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver Certification regarding APPR.

All Board members Voted Yes-5 No-0 motion carried

PUBLIC PARTICATION Natalie Loiselle asked if there was ever a guideline agreed upon for times that students should be put in front of a computer screen. Were there different times for students in Pre-K through 5 and students 6-12. It was believed that this information could be found in the reopening plan. She was also disappointed that teachers did not have the choice to teach remote or be in the building. She had all her materials and was very comfortable teaching from home during the last shut down.

BOE APPROVES BLUE PRINT RESTORATION A motion was made by Jared Whitley, second by Kevin Kelly to approve the Blue Print Restoration project presented by Lee Silvernail and Brett Bernhard. The cost of labor will not exceed \$350.00 Materials will not exceed \$120.00 All Board members voted Yes- 5 No-0 motion carried

CSEA DISCUSSION This item was tabled

EXECUTIVE SESSION A motion was made by Jared Whitley, second by Ashley Barry to go into executive session at 8:55 to hold an information, strategy and negotiation session related to collective bargaining agreements or arbitration. All Board members Voted Yes- 5 No-0 Motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION A motion was made by Jared Whitley, second by Ashley Barry to move out of executive session at 9:41 pm. No action taken All Board members voted Yes -5 No-0 Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Kevin Kelly, second by Susan Repko to adjourn at 9:42 pm. All Board members voted Yes - 5 No-0 Motion Carried

  
District Clerk