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Preparing World Class Citizens

November, 2007

Board of Education opens search for new superintendent

Michael Marcelle to retire in August after working 34 years in education

The South Colonie Board of Education has begun a search for a new Superintendent of Schools.

Superintendent Michael Marcelle, who announced his retirement earlier in the school year, will step down on August 1 after heading the school district for more than three years.

"I've truly enjoyed the years I've had here," said Marcelle, who was hired in April, 2005, to oversee the district. "We started a lot of great educational initiatives in South Colonie, and I appreciate the support from parents, staff, community and all of our district stakeholders over the years."

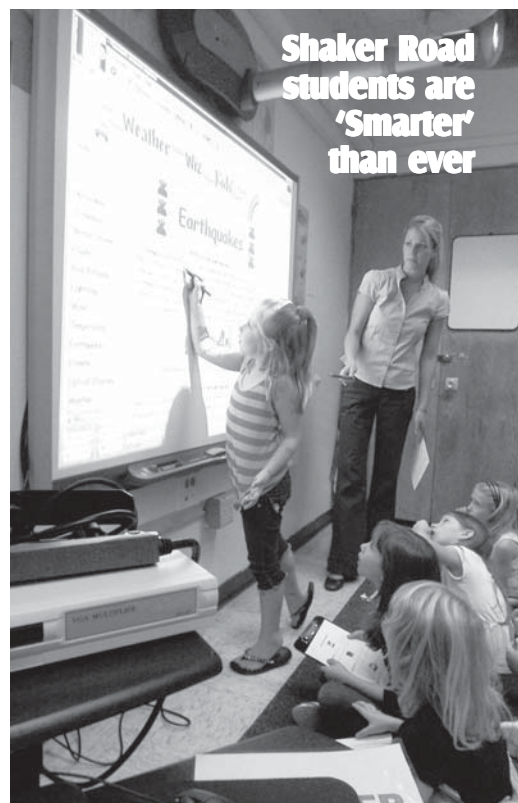
Before coming to South Colonie, Marcelle was a superintendent for nine years at Scotia-Glenville Central Schools, and before that, five years at Cherry Valley-Springfield Central Schools. He has also worked in administration as a school principal and assistant principal. He began his 34-year career in education as a social studies teacher.

In 2005, Marcelle replaced Dr. Thomas Brown, who retired after serving as South Colonie superintendent since 1989.

During his tenure, Marcelle worked with district stakeholders to create a new Strategic Plan that will serve as a blue print to guide the district in its educational and financial goal-setting and decision making over the next 3-5 years.

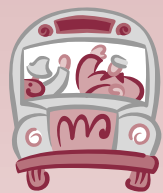
Also under his leadership, voters approved a large capital project in 2006 to improve South Colonie's schools, the district has introduced a Transitional Kindergarten program and expanded Universal Pre-K, and there have been many upgrades to the district's technology infrastructure both in and outside the classrooms.

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Shaker Road students are 'Smarter' than ever

Lisa Juliano's second grade class at Shaker Road Elementary School is enjoying using the newly-installed Smart Board with their student teacher, Jessica Mullens. The students are studying weather and are able to use the Smart Board — an interactive white display board, while visiting weather web sites. The high-tech boards allow South Colonie students to use their finger as the computer "mouse" to move forward and back between web pages. It also enables them to write and circle important information right on the displayed web site with specially-designed markers that work with the system.



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"It has been a privilege to work with Superintendent Marcelle for these past three plus years," said Board of Education President James Tim Ryan. "He has worked tirelessly to provide the students of South Colonie with the very best educational opportunities. He is an exceptional educator, and a man of the highest character, both personally and professionally. The South Colonie family thanks him for all he has done in his too brief stay with us."

The Board of Education has commenced a search for Marcelle's replacement — a process that is expected to take several months to complete. The district has contracted with search consultant Dr. Vincent Coppola from the Western New York Educational Service Council — an arm of the State University at Buffalo — to work with the school board to conduct the search. Dr. Coppola worked with South Colonie on the last superintendent search in 2004. The district expects to have a new superintendent in place by July 1, 2008.

Focus groups made up of various district stakeholders such as administrators, teachers, support staff, students, board members, parents and the community will aid Coppola in the search. The focus groups met for the first time in October to define the superintendent's position and discuss the attributes they would like in a new superintendent.

"The school board seeks and values input from all sectors of the district and community in this critical search process," Ryan explained.

A committee made up of focus group representatives will later help interview potential candidates and make recommendations to the Board of Education. The Board of Education will make the final determination on Marcelle's successor.

Lisha Kill Students Take Their Learning to the Pine Bush



Katherine Moehler's sixth grade team at Lisha Kill Middle School paid a visit to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve this fall to discover one of the best remaining examples of an inland pine barrens ecosystem in the world. This authentic firsthand experience introduced students to the Albany Pine Bush and the natural forces of fire and ice that have shaped this ecosystem yesterday and today. They also explored the unique diversity of life that depends on the pine barrens for its survival, and visited the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center.

South Colonie launches 'Stuff The Bus' with Toys For Tots campaign

Santa's sleigh will be colored yellow this holiday season, thanks to the efforts of the South Colonie Central School District.

For the first time, district employees, students and their families are teaming up with the U.S. Marine Corps to launch a unique campaign to "Stuff The Bus" with Toys For Tots.

Toys For Tots, sponsored by the Marine Corps since 1947, annually provides some 60,000 Capital District children with toys for the holidays. New, unwrapped toys are collected at various locations in November and December, and distributed to needy youngsters in time for the holiday season.

Kathy Ogborn, a South Colonie bus driver for more than 20 years, came up with the idea to get the district involved in Toys For Tots.

"It's such a great cause and one that the entire South Colonie family really wanted to be a part of," said Ogborn, who chairs the Stuff The Bus planning



Forest Park Elementary hosts Intergenerational Day

The fourth grade classes at Forest Park Elementary School hosted their annual Intergenerational Day in October. Students interviewed their grandparents to learn more about their way of life.

committee of school, town, village, and area business leaders.

There are three major phases to the Stuff The Bus campaign:

- **Phase I – Friday, November 23:** Black Friday marks the major kickoff to the campaign. South Colonie school buses will be parked at Colonie Center near Sears and at Northway Mall outside the Target store. Volunteers will be collecting new, unwrapped toys from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Phase II – Tuesday, December 4:** The district will host a Stuff The Bus reception for all South Colonie employees from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fuller Road Firehouse, 1342 Central Avenue. There will be free food and music. Admission is one new, unwrapped toy to help Stuff The Bus.
- **Phase III – Week of December 10:** Each of the district's five elementary schools will designate one day during this week for students to bring in a toy for the Stuff The Bus campaign. Collection boxes will also be stationed at the two middle schools and Colonie Central High School during the week.

Elementary donation days are as follows: **Monday, December 10** – Saddlewood School, **Wednesday, December 12** – Veeder and Forest Park Schools, and **Thursday, December 13** – Shaker Road and Roessleville Schools. The campaign will officially conclude on December 14.

If you would like to get involved, contact Kathy Ogborn at the South Colonie Transportation Department – 869-8527.



Halloween Happenings



South Colonie children, staff and parents celebrate Halloween with costume parades and activities at Saddlewood (top), Shaker Road (below left) and Roessleville (below right) Elementary Schools.



Voters approve annual bus proposition

South Colonie residents went to the polls in October and passed the annual school bus proposition to upgrade the district Transportation Department by a vote of 664-253.

The district was seeking voter approval to spend \$500,500 to purchase seven new transportation vehicles to meet the district's annual replacement schedule.



This included: three, 66-passenger school buses; two, 66-passenger school buses with luggage storage; one, 5-passenger Suburban; and one, 5-passenger minivan.

After receiving an estimated \$19,000 trade-in value on buses that will be taken out of service, the total cost to the district for the seven new vehicles will be \$500,500. The district is eligible to receive 52 percent of the purchase in state aid making the district's net cost \$269,070. The money will be borrowed over a five-year period.

Michael Marcelle
Superintendent of Schools

Anthony DeBlois
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Beverly Miller
Assistant Superintendent/
Management Services

David Seaver
Director of Human Resources

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In Focus Editor: John K. Noetzel

Roessleville Elementary Kicks Off Penny Harvest



Fourth graders at Roessleville Elementary School kicked off the annual Penny Harvest campaign at a school-wide assembly in October. From now until November 20, Roessleville students will be collecting pennies from their friends, families and neighbors, with the goal of filling all 25 penny sacks. After the money is collected, the students will form a philanthropy roundtable and discuss how the funds will be used to help various community organizations. Pictured here starting the collection are the fourth grade Penny Harvest Student Leaders.

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