

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

April 9, 2013

Maple Hill Middle School Library

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – WORKSHOP

1. Meeting called to order by President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:32 p.m.
2. President Fleck asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Michael Hiser moved for approval of present agenda, Lisa Lafferty seconded, all present in favor.
4. Approval of minutes: None.
5. Reports:
 - a. 2013-14 Budget Review, Draft #3 – Monica Kim and Robert Horan presented Draft #3 of the 2013-14 School Budget, proposing a reduction of 1.9 FTE effecting LOTE, HS Math, HS English, Special Education, Librarian and Social Worker anywhere from a .2 FTE to a .5 FTE rather than the 6.0 FTE proposed in Draft #2. Draft #3 continues with the elimination of a tractor, elimination of Administrative Professional Development, an Increase in Retirement Health, and further adjusts the previously proposed TA reductions to (3) 7 hour TA's and (16) 4 hour TA's. Monica Kim reported on Fund Balance Projection for the 2013-14 school year. It is projected, without any further use, that fund balance will be \$1,715,040 at the end of 2013-14. Should there be any costly repair / maintenance, this could change dramatically. There was discussion about the proposed bus proposition and why the district is looking to replace a diesel bus with a propane bus.

Bruce Romanchak moved to add an additional public discussion after Report a. 2013-14 Budget Review, Draft #3, Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.

Public Discussion: There was concern expressed the district should look at cost savings in athletics and transportation rather than program. The board responded that it has cut transportation but still has the same territory to cover, there is nothing more to cut in transportation, athletics have been cut and this year's budget still only allows for a modified intramural program. The district shares a Transportation Supervisor and Mechanics as a cost saving measure and has cut athletics last year which the public largely responded against doing last year. There was also discussion to the benefits of athletics both academically and socially, students are held to a high standard for grades and behavior. Schodack has consistently had scholar athletes. Discussion ensued regarding the reduction in Teaching Assistant time and the possible effect on students. The district responded that they will be closely monitoring students and their needs and that with the current economic state of education there are fewer options. There was discussion about the safety and cost of maintaining a propane bus rather than a diesel bus. A member of the public spoke in support of propane fueled vehicles as far as cleanliness, and lower cost of operating and maintaining. It was discussed that the public will need to be better informed about the benefits of switching to

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propane buses.

- b. Conversation about Facilities and Direction for the Future – Robert Horan opened conversation about the district facilities and their condition. He explained the findings and recommendations of the facilities committee by building needs and wants. The district has areas of repair that have the potential of becoming an emergency repair rather than a maintenance matter therefore causing the district to deplete its fund balance dramatically. The water main pipe in the HS is 50 + years old with numerous patches, and the septic system is the same age, if these were to go, it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair, money the district does not have not to mention the repairs would not be eligible for state aid. There are safety and security items that should be addressed as well as upgrades to classrooms. The district needs to move forward in maintaining their current facilities and upgrade the buildings to maintain quality safety and education for the students. It was discussed that should a capital project proposed, it would be eligible for state aid currently at 76.6%; security projects currently receive an additional 10% in aid; and if done before repairs become emergencies it could save the district from using reserve funds some of which are set aside for uncontrollable expenses such as Workers Comp, Unemployment, ERS Retirement, Tax Certiorari's and employee benefits, all of which are out of the district's control. It was also expressed that a current bond will be paid in 2015-16 and by not undertaking an additional bond; it could cause a dramatic fluctuation in the tax rate and endanger the district in becoming bankrupt if emergency repairs take place. There was extensive board discussion about the direction of Schodack School District and what the district will look like in the future. The options of STEAM and STEM education, upgrades that would need to take place for different directions in education and changes/upgrades that need to be done if there is no change in the direction of education.
6. Board Discussion: There was discussion about the RFP for Architects/Engineers to help the district with the decisions they may need to undertake relating to a new model school; suggestions of what other schools have done that have had success. There was discussion about the district looking into other bachelorette schools as another option for the future. There was discussion on how important it is to explain to members of the public what STEM means, there is a misconception that it only encompasses certain students and leaves others behind.
7. Public discussion: Member of public commented that it was interesting conversation and liked the ideas discussed.
8. Policies: None
9. Consent agenda
 - a. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a health services contract with North Colonie Central School District for (13) thirteen resident students attending non-public schools for the 2012-2013 school year. Lisa Lafferty seconded, all present in favor.
 - b. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a 2012-13 Tutorial Contract with Four Winds of Saratoga, at a rate of \$31.00 per hour, based on a schedule of ten (10) hours per week for Middle or High

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School Students or five (5) hours per week for students in elementary school who may be admitted to Four Winds Saratoga. Lisa Lafferty seconded, all present in favor.

10. Resignations/Appointments

- a. Michael Charsky moved for approval of Erica Zampella as regular substitute teacher for Rachel Murphy, effective March 6, 2013. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
- b. Michael Charsky moved for approval of the probationary appointment of Rhonda Greenway, Dispatcher, for 4 hours/day, effective April 10, 2013 through October 10, 2013. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
- c. Approval of substitute teacher(s): none.
- d. Approval of Non-Instructional Substitute(s): none.

11. Meeting open for public discussion: None.

12. Action items: Additional facilities report with Architects; report on Ohio New Tech Network Schools; try to contact Bachelorette schools.

13. Executive Session: None.

14. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Bruce Romanchak moved to adjourn at 9:43 pm, Michael Hiser seconded, all present were in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm.