

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 14, 2011**

**Maple Hill High School Library**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**

Present: Bruce Romanchak, Paul Puccio, George Warner, Lisa Lafferty, Susan Megna, Vice President; Kenneth Flood, Michael Hiser, Andrew Fleck, President; Christine DiGuilio (7:50pm).

Also Present: Michael Bennett, MHMS; Sherri Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services; Bob Horan, Superintendent; Ron Agostinoni, MHHS; Jason Chevrier, CES; Donna Watson, Director of Curriculum, Staff Development and Pupil Personnel Services; Liz Chipman, District Clerk.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Proposed Executive Session 6:05 p.m. (High School Conference Room) Re-enter regular session at 7:10pm.
3. Approval of present agenda. Michael Hiser moved to approve present agenda. George Warner seconded. All present in favor.
4. Paul Puccio moved to approve minutes of workshop meeting of March 2, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
5. Reports / Presentations:
  - a. Draft 4 Budget Presentation – Sherri Fisher. Bob Horan introduced budget presentation. Thanked community for their participation and input into the budget process. \$118k in state aid restored in state budget adopted on March 31, 2011. Foundation aid, largest portion of state aid, will not be restored until 2016-17. Property tax base has dropped by \$28million in last two years. In past two years the district workforce has been reduced by 15%. Sherri outlined 2011-12 budget summary. Draft 4 budget with tier 1 and tier 2 options. Projected tax rate based on property value. Outlined tier 1 budget reductions. Jason Chevrier spoke regarding plan for implementing 3 sections across all elementary grade levels. Donna Watson outlined reading instruction and core reading program in grades K-6. Questions, discussion. Bob Horan continued with summary of tier one reductions to budget. Highlighted revenue side of the budget. Tier 2 budget reduction options. K-5 music program, remove uniforms purchase and soccer goal purchase. Bus proposition (two buses). Sherri highlighted budget recap. Consequences of contingent budget. Bob Horan finished presentation with examples of what community can continue to do to support the school. What present day students need to be successful. Andrew Fleck thanked administration for their work on the budget.
6. Meeting open for public discussion. Laura Cooke: do outlined options include monitor time for CES and middle school? Yes. Discussion of lunch/recess monitoring. Since there is no

contract with the faculty, is assumption that teacher increase will be same as last year? 0.25% increase is in budget. Parent of current 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, biggest class in elementary school, concerned about 3<sup>rd</sup> grade next year. How is success measured for third grade? Reading data, math, report cards, and state tests. Class size at third grade level will be above 25 per classroom. Expressed concern regarding the increase in class size at third grade level for next year. Robin extended thanks to Sherri Fisher for all the work she has done on behalf of the district. Impact of change study: speak with students and parents. Current second grade and first grade have four sections each. Larger class sizes at elementary school, fewer teacher assistants, were the norm in the past. Student needs were met, they excelled, graduated, and attended excellent colleges. Expectations and style of instruction in present day classrooms.

7. Board Discussion. Susan Megna: impact of change regarding budget reductions. Kenneth Flood: class size, moving of students from classroom to classroom at elementary level. Discussion. Draft 4 budget, tier 1 and/or tier 2 options. Removing .25% salary increase would leave a bit of a cushion. Board consensus is to move .25% salary increase from salary line to contingent line. Discussion of next tier of possibilities if budget presented to voters is voted down. Property tax cap. This is very painful, grave reservations with many of the cuts that are outlined. Board should publicly recognize that the state is not dealing with us fairly, they have transferred a tremendous load to the taxpayers. This is really unworkable and untenable, don't see any movement forward. Reduction in state aid has been 20% over past four years. Honored to serve with this administrative team. Andrew Fleck: International Dessert Night is April 27, 6-8pm at Middle School. Michael Hiser to speak on behalf of the board at graduation. George Warner: community advisory committee for the Ichabod Crane/Schodack reorganization study needs members. Bob Horan: presented NYSSBA Board Achievement Award to Bruce Romanchak.
8. Policies: None
9. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Paul Puccio moved acceptance of Treasurer's Reports for the month of February 2011. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
  - b. Paul Puccio moved acceptance of Revenue and Budget Status Reports for the month of February 2011. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
  - c. Paul Puccio moved acceptance of Extra-Classroom Activity Report for the month of February 2011. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
  - d. Paul Puccio moved acceptance of Claims Auditor Report for the month of December 2010, January 2011 and February 2011. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
  - e. Paul Puccio moved approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2010-2011 students: #000113619, #000113833, #000113469. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
  - f. Paul Puccio moved approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2011-2012 students: #000113479, #000113233. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.

- g. Paul Puccio moved approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2010-2011 special education services for students: 000113780, 000113831, 000113778, 000113681, 000113828 and 000113755. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Paul Puccio moved approval of a contract for special education services with Parsons Child and Family Center for one (1) pupil for the period February 28, 2011 through June 23, 2011, in the amount of \$904.85 per week. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Paul Puccio moved adoption of a resolution for the appointment of Permanent Chairperson, Chief Election Inspector, and Inspectors of Election for the annual district meeting on May 17, 2011. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- j. Paul Puccio moved approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and Schodack Central School Faculty Association to adjust the 2011-12 School District Calendar. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- k. Paul Puccio moved approval of school district calendar for 2011-12. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- l. Paul Puccio moved approval to name the Schodack Central School District baseball field to be "Canonica Field". Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- m. Paul Puccio moved approval of 2010-11 School Facility Report Card, Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and Five (5) year Capital Plan. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- n. Paul Puccio moved approval of the in-kind rental of one (1) classroom to the Schodack Castleton Community Partnership (SCCP) for the 2010-11 school year; including the waiver of the facilities use fee outlined in Board Policy 3-208. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- o. Paul Puccio moved approval of the 2011-12 Approval of 2011-12 Final Service Request of Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene BOCES (Questar III) in the initial amount of \$-1,500,485.31. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- p. Paul Puccio moved authorization for Sierra Pizzola to move forward with the Diamond Strong Girl Scout Gold Award Project, to organize a softball player clinic and undertake field improvements at the Maple Hill Varsity Softball Field, contingent upon the execution of appropriate agreement to formalize the project requirements. Discussion. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- q. Paul Puccio moved approval of the 2011-12 Real Property Tax Report Card. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- r. Chris DiGuilio moved adoption of 2011-12 school district budget in the amount of \$20,125,047.00 to be presented to voters on May 17, 2011. Bruce Romanchak seconded. Andrew Fleck abstained.

- s. Bruce Romanchak moved adoption of 2011-12 school bus proposition in an amount not to exceed \$212,000 for the purchase of two (2) school bus vehicles, to be presented to voters on May 17, 2011. George Warner seconded.
- t. Paul Puccio moved approval of a contract with SES Study Team, LLC for the purpose of a Merger Feasibility Study between Ichabod Crane and Schodack Central School Districts and authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to sign the contract, subject to final contract review by legal counsel. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
- u. Paul Puccio moved approval of an anonymous donation in the amount of \$350.00 to benefit the Community Charities Account. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.

10. Appointments / Resignations:

- a. Paul Puccio moved acceptance of the resignation of Michele Fox, Social Studies 7-12, for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2011. Bruce Romanchak seconded. Board acknowledged the long service of Mrs. Fox, and thanked her for all she has done for students. All present in favor.
- b. Paul Puccio moved acceptance of the resignation of Kandace M. Eaton, Home Economics, for the purpose of retirement effective August 17, 2011. Bruce Romanchak seconded. Board acknowledged the long service of Mrs. Eaton, and thanked her for all she has done for students. All present in favor.
- c. Paul Puccio moved acceptance of the resignation of Sherri L.D. Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services, effective at the end of the work day, June 30, 2011. Board extended thanks Sherri for all the work she's done for the district. All present in favor.
- d. Paul Puccio moved approval of the permanent appointment of Steven Soltys as Custodial Worker effective October 29, 2010. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Paul Puccio moved approval of non-instructional substitute(s): Deborah Collins (Custodial Worker). Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.

11. Meeting open for public discussion. None.

12. Action items. Communicate with public regarding budget.

13. Executive Session: work history of specific employees and litigation. Mike Hiser moved to enter into executive session at 9:45pm. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.

14. Adjournment. Having no other business before the board, meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Elizabeth B. Chipman*  
District Clerk