## 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 16, 2012

Maple Hill Middle School Library

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – WORKSHOP**

- 1. Meeting called to order by Board President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:01 p.m.
- 2. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of present agenda. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- 3. Andrew Fleck asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- 4. Approval of minutes: None.
- 5. Reports/Presentations:
  - a. 2012-13 Budget Presentation Draft 3 Monica Kim and Robert Horan
    Robert Horan and Monica presented draft 3 of the budget which could potentially restore
    \$233,603 to the cuts proposed in draft 2 previously presented. Monica Kim pointed out the various variables that impact tax rate:

Budget Controlled by the District
 Tax Levy Controlled by the State
 State Aid Controlled by the State

Equalization Rate Calculated by Office of Real Property
 Assessments Determined by local Municipality

• Tax Rate Based on Assessments (determined in August, recently

settled assessment challenges will affect overall tax

rate)

Proposed restorations from the previous presentation included: .4 FTE Music (original proposed reduction was .8 FTE, 5<sup>th</sup> grade band will be eliminated), .5 FTE Library Media Specialist (original proposed reduction was 1.0 FTE), .2 HS Math (allowing district to keep 2 year Algebra program for struggling students), .65 Reading (keep support to the youngest struggling readers), .1 / .2 Social Worker/Psychologist, a Modified Intermural Program (potential for more kids to be involved, less transportation costs and coaching stipends), Co-Curricular changes (reducing the number of activities, rotating or possibly combining some), BOCES Database (important to students, teachers and librarians for research, ½ hour per day typist position at CES (to cover security concern at dismissal, five – four hour TA positions (reducing hours of 5 positions instead of eliminating 7 positions), increase in non-public textbooks. The Impact of a contingency budget was explained that if the proposed budget is not passed two times, the district will have to go to a contingency

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budget and cut an additional \$285,912 from the current proposed budget. The district is also looking to purchase a minivan to replace a Suburban currently used to transport long distance out of district students and used for the district courier runs. The maintenance, mileage and upkeep is costly, as well as the fact that the vehicle has outlived its useful life.

- 6. Board Discussion. Bruce Romanchak expressed concern that the candidate pool may not be strong for a position with a low FTE. It was explained that it has not been an issue, and the candidate pool for a .35 FTE last year yielded 90 candidates. Paul Puccio asked for an explanation of what exactly the reading teacher will be doing. Jason Chevrier explained that they handle small group targeted instruction for struggling students and work alongside classroom teachers and provide remedial instruction. Mr. Puccio also expressed that he was glad to see the BOCES databases brought back, they are a valuable tool. He expressed concern on the give back of the professional development days; it was something specifically negotiated in to the contract because it was needed, what has changed. Bob Horan explained that we still have more professional development days than other schools, the 5 we have remaining will probably be spent on APPR. Mr. Puccio thanked the Administration for their hard work and thoughtful process. Mary Yurista expressed her concern that students would not be introduced to band until 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There were discussions about the proposed Modified Intramurals, members felt it would give opportunity to all students, give opportunity to students who would not ordinarily go out for a sport, the was concern of what students would do from dismissal until 3:00 when the begin, there would be no difference in how sports are done now, there would still be competition at other schools, not as often. Andrew Fleck expressed his appreciation to the teachers for the MOU they have agreed to.
- 7. Meeting open for public discussion. Laura Cook expanded on the value of Reading teachers and also talked more about the MOU. Students read letters in support of Modified Sports, they spoke about the benefits of the program and how important they felt sports at the modified level are to students. They feel it keeps kids out of trouble and keeps them academically stable. Brian VanVliet spoke in support of Modified Sports, he felt JV may have been a better choice allowing 9<sup>th</sup> grade to play down. He also spoke in support of keeping all Teaching Assistants.
- 8. Policies: None.
- 9. Consent agenda:
  - a. Paul Puccio moved for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and Schodack Central School Faculty Association regarding the elimination of three professional development days for the 2012-13 Schodack calendar stated in Article 3.4 of the 2008 2011 Agreement (\$52,500 savings) and give back of the \$10,000 Professional Grants Fund Section 10.3 for the 2012-13 school year. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- 10. Resignations/Appointments

- a. Michael Hiser moved for acceptance of the resignation of Heather Briggs, District Treasurer, effective April 30, 2012. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Michael Hiser moved for acceptance of the resignation of Heather Briggs, Central School Treasurer, effective April 30, 2012. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Michael Hiser moved for approval of the appointment of Jill Filkins, District Treasurer, effective May 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Michael Hiser moved for approval of the appointment of Monica Kim, Central Treasurer, effective May 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- 11. Meeting open for public discussion. A resident asked what enrichment programs would be available to the students. Administrators said that at Elementary level, the core program incorporates breaking up into skill groups. There are other groups and competitions we can participate in that have no cost. Chris Yager stated that she understood how difficult thing are right now but was not in favor of the changes to modified sports. Dawn Gerrain also expressed that the class that will be affected by this change is also the class that has been disappointed two times already when they were held back in the elementary school instead of moving up to the middle school two year in a row. Now they would have sports taken from them.
- 12. Action items. Final Draft of the 2012-13 Budget. The board asked for a specific number of what it would cost to retain modified sports and keep all teaching assistants as well as what the dollar amount is for step increase is for 1 year: Modified Sports approximately \$25,000 and Teaching Assistants approximately \$54,000 and Step would be approximately \$90,000.
- 13. Bruce Romanchak moved to enter board discussion. George Warner seconded. All present in favor. Lisa Lafferty expressed support for the Modified Intramural Program, she sees it as modifying Modified Sports and feels it is a win-win situation, give more kids opportunity, there may be things to work out. She also expressed that maybe there are some stars out there that we don't know about. Paul Puccio talked about greater opportunity to donate, we have mentioned subscriptions to magazines but there has to be more. Can we get a more detailed or specific list for example uniforms. Robert Horan said that there are currently donations made for specific things like lighting for the music program. He also said that the district was creating an alumni page on the website to give alumni the opportunity to donate back to the school. The district is actively looking at sponsorship. Attorneys are looking at the law to be sure it is allowed.
- 14. Executive Session: Discussion of personnel matters. Michael Hiser moved to enter executive session at 8:39pm. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- 15. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Bruce Romanchak moved to adjourn at 9:50pm. Mary Yurista seconded. All present in favor.

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