

IT IS THE MISSION OF THE SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

to develop our students to become "...active, reflective, creative learners acadé. In our schools, they will engage in rewarding work and practice behaviors that are intelligent in both present: Robert Horan, Monica Kim, Jason Chevrier, James Derby, Matt LaClair, Michael Reickert, Michael Bennett and Ron an mic 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."

Present: Michael Hiser, Paul Puccio, Christian Olsen, Michael Charsky, Victoria Adler, Daniel Grandinetti, Jeanne Strazza and George Warner.

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SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, New York 12033-1699

April 16, 2015

Maple Hill High School Library

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR

1. Meeting called to order by President Hiser at 6:00 p.m.
2. Michael Charsky moved to enter executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and personnel matter 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
3. President Hiser asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
4. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of present agenda. Victoria Adler seconded. All present in favor.
5. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of minutes of regular meeting March 19, 2015. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
6. Reports:
 - a. 2015-2016 Budget Presentation – Monica Kim and Robert Horan. Robert Horan began by expressing that the administrative team has spent a lot of time on this budget to make it good for students, and the community. He expressed that they have listened to what the taxpayers want and have tried to make a budget that takes their requests into consideration. Monica Kim talked about why our tax cap is the highest in the county, she expressed that growth rate and debt are both factors that contribute to a tax cap. She talked about varying tax cap percentages and how that would affect the use of fund balance. She expressed that tonight the board votes to adopt the budget and the district will be mailing out a newsletter, it would be good to be able to say we are under the tax cap. By using more fund balance, the district could lower its tax cap. There was extensive discussion about the tax cap and changes that could be made to reduce tax cap. There was discussion about the amount being used from fund balance and it was expressed that the district should have sustainable fund balance.
 - b. Legacy Planning & Capital Project Update – Robert Hendriks and Synthesis, LLC
Robert Hendriks of Legacy Planning briefly revisited the history of the planning for the capital project. He expressed that the Vision Statement that was developed expressed that the

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environment should be comfortable, welcoming and inspiring. He talked more about it being collaborative, flexible and offer aligned curriculum while being supportive for struggling students. It needs to include a rich array of co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Mr. Hendriks continued by talking about open learning, current educational atmospheres are isolated; a corridor with classrooms on each side. He showed different models with changes within each room to become a more engaging collaborating learning environment. He showed ways to extend classrooms through garage doors, or Nano walls. He showed a video of one of the planning meetings with faculty, administrators and students where small groups discussed the different tiers in the presentation and how changing the current model school classrooms could benefit our students. They then presented their ideas and came up with lists of needs, wants, and dreams. In closing his presentation he expressed that the progress that has been made in a year and a half is exciting. He expressed that the changes that the district is talking about making could have a great impact on students now and in the future.

Volker Husel from Synthesis, LLC presented the progress the architects have made in designing the model. He too talked about meetings that have taken place with faculty, administrators and students to design a new school. Technology and furniture were two of the biggest changes that were expressed. He shared a preliminary plan that was developed after talking with teachers and support staff. The footprint from the first design did not change, but the inside design and setup changed in this plan based on what teachers and students expressed they needed and wanted in a new school design. He expressed that once the design is agreed to in an idea, they will prepare a 3D design to share with the district, that is where the 21 century really comes into the design.

7. Board discussion: There was discussion about a recent meeting with attorneys to discuss the potential of the creation of an educational foundation that would support start up programs in schools. There was brief discussion about how the district handled students that refused the state tests. Students that were sent into school on testing days read books or worked on assignments in libraries or other spaces.
8. Meeting open for public discussion: Rich Noll spoke about the Veteran's exemption and asked if the district has discussed it or made any decisions. Mr. Hiser expressed that the board will be talking about the exemption in September. He also expressed that the timing of when the decision needs to be made must be decided on by March, the discussion did not take place this year until after that date. Mr. LaClair thanked his two recently retired custodial workers for their long service and dedication. There was discussion about the stairs leading down to the potential ELA rooms and whether they are safe for students to use every day.
9. Board discussion: Mr. Romanchak expressed that he likes the work being done on the current planning of the capital project and he sees good things happening. Mr. Charsky spoke about the assessment results and cautioned how the district intends to use them. He expressed concern that the questions may not have been fair questions. Mr. Warner thanked the facilities department and the hard work they did this winter. There was concern expressed about the design of the new school and how testing areas for students with handicaps will be handled. Mr. Hiser expressed that on April 25th from 11:30 – 1:30 the Castleton Library will be having an open house. There was discussion about the BOCES Budget Vote that will take place on the 21st.

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10. Policies: None.

11. Consent agenda

Bruce Romanchak moved to separate f, g, and h and vote separately on them. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

- ~~a. Approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2013-14 special education services for students: TBD~~
- b. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2013-2014 students: 000114116 and 000114684. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a health services contract with North Colonie Central School District for the 2014-15 school year at a rate of \$565.74 per student for 8 (eight) non-resident students attending non- public schools. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- d. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a health services contract with Rensselaer City School District for the 2014-15 school year at a rate of \$475.81 per student for 1 (one) non-resident student attending non- public schools. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- e. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a health services contract with Averill Park Central School District for the 2014-15 school year at a rate of \$547.27 per student for 1 (one) non-resident student attending non- public schools. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- f. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution adopting the 2015-16 school district budget in the amount of \$21,724,754.00 to be presented to voters on May 19, 2015. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution adopting a 2015-16 school bus proposition in an amount not to exceed \$249,500.00 for the purchase of one (1) 66 passenger school bus and one (1) 48 passenger wheelchair accessible school bus, to be presented to voters on May 19, 2015. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution to create a Capital Reserve Fund in accordance with Education Law § 3651(1) in a maximum amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, for the purpose of paying the cost of future building projects, to be raised by annual transfer of unappropriated fund balances, for a probable term of ten (10) years, effective immediately and expiring June 30, 2025. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the school district calendar for 2015-16. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- j. Bruce Romanchak moved for the adoption of a resolution for the appointment of Permanent Chairperson, Chief Election Inspector, and Inspectors of Election for the annual district meeting on

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May 19, 2015. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.

- k. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the 2015-16 Real Property Tax Report Card. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
 - l. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the contract for construction project manager services between the District and Turner Construction Co., dated March 26, 2015, and authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to execute the contract on behalf of the District. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
 - m. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of an renewal agreement between the Superintendent of Schools of the Schodack Central School District and CSEA Employee Benefit Fund for a period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017, and authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to execute the contract on behalf of the District. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
 - n. Bruce Romanchak moved to acknowledge Schodack Central School District's receipt of Utica National Insurance's School Safety Excellence Award received April 13, 2015. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
 - o. Bruce Romanchak moved to accept a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and the Schodack Faculty Association revising and replacing the language for Article 5.4 of the current Agreement for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
 - p. Bruce Romanchak moved to accept a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and the Schodack Faculty Association revising and replacing the language for Article 13.1 of the current Agreement for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
 - q. Bruce Romanchak moved to acknowledge a donation from Red-Kap Sales, Inc. / Exxon Mobil Education Alliance Program in the amount of \$500.00 in support of Maple Hill High School Math, Science, and Technology Departments. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
12. Resignations/Appointments:
- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the two year probationary appointment of Amy Hirschhoff (certification: Pre Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6 and Mathematics 7-12) as Elementary Teacher, effective September 1, 2014. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
13. Meeting open for public discussion. Mary Yurista talked about the recent public meeting held to discuss the potential of a pipeline running through The Town of Schodack.
14. Action items. Report on the potential education foundation, April 21st board meeting.

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15. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, President Hiser moved to adjourn at 9:44 pm