

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 18, 2013

Maple Hill High School Library

Present: Andrew Fleck, Michael Charsky, Mary Yurista, Michael Hiser, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak, Lisa Lafferty
(arrived 6:34 pm)

Absent: George Warner and Christine DiGiulio

Also Present: Robert Horan, Monica Kim, Ron Agostinoni, Jason Chevrier, Donna Watson, Michael Bennett and Michele Reickert

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

1. Meeting called to order by President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:12 p.m.
2. Executive Session 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm: None at this time
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. Mary Yurista moved to approve the present agenda with a change to the order of the reports in item 6. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
5. Paul Puccio moved for approval of minutes: Regular Meeting February 28, 2013 and March 26, 2013. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
6. Reports:
 - a. Facilities and Architect Update – Monica Kim and Robert Horan updated the Board with regards to meetings that took place during the last week with Architectural Firms to get an idea of what other schools are doing and get ideas of what would work best for our needs. There was discussion about the timeline for a potential Capital Project and it was determined that the timeline presented is something the district can work with. The board asked for specific language to be in the RFP and for a termination clause or Phase I and Phase II with conditions.
 - b. Budget Final Draft – Monica Kim and Robert Horan presented the final draft of the 2013-14 budget. It was expressed that there were no changes from Draft #3 presented on April 9, 2013 to the Final Draft being presented. Mr. Horan stated that the board and district need to stress to the public that what is being adopted in the dollar amount the district can spend NOT how it can be spent. There are always changes that come up throughout the summer and school year that force modifications to the original spending plan. Families moving in and out of the district and special education IEP need changes are just two examples of things that can change the proposed spending plan. The district about one half of the way through the CSE meeting that will continue through

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June and continue to change by adding and removing services to IEPs.

7. Meeting open for public discussion: There was a question about the recent posting for a Teacher Aide of 6.5 hours while Teaching Assistants are being laid off. It was explained that the position to cover needs of a new student's IEP and that the need does not require the level of certification that a Teaching Assistant carries nor will it be academic assistance therefore allowing the district to use an Aide. A resident presented to the board a lengthy list of possible ways to save money, after he presented, the board thanked him for the extensive amount of time he put into his suggestions. Members of the board were able to show where most of the suggestions recommended have already been done or are in the works. There was mention of the possibility of a future IT Committee to look at the district's Information Technology status and recommend suggestions for improvement. Lisa Samarija thanked the board for the money in the budget for the modified program and expressed that the Maple Hill Athletic Booster Club would work to raise the money to keep modified sports as it always has been. She expressed that athletics help kids socially, academically and encourages good attendance; they have to be in school to play. She shared that 59% of HS students currently participate in at least 1 sport and 61% of MS students.
8. Board Discussion: There was discussion of the purchase of a propane bus versus a diesel. The district has been approached by an outside company to lease one of the district's surplus busses to convert it to an electric but on an experimental basis at no cost to the district. There was discussion about the upcoming BOCES budget vote and election. The qualifications and recommendations of each candidate were discussed in preparation for the vote on April 23, 2013. There was discussion about the ELA tests given in grades 3 through 8 as to the difficulty and the stress they put on students. The administrators praised the students and how they persevered and did their best. They really tried hard and showed great effort. Mr. Horan and Mr. Agostinoni spoke briefly about a recent trip they were asked to attend to two schools in Ohio; Early College High School and New Tec East. A more detailed presentation will follow at a later date.
9. Policies: None
10. Consent agenda

Michael Charsky moved to separate letters f. and g. and vote on them separately, Andrew Fleck suggested we vote on a. through e. then individually on each f. and g. and lastly h. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.

- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2012-2013 students: 000113479 and 000113247. Michael Charsky Seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2012-2013 special education services for students: 000114188, 000114184, and 000114183. Michael Charsky Seconded. All present in favor.

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- c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the 2013-14 District School Calendar. Michael Charsky Seconded. All present in favor.
 - d. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from South Schodack Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$100.00 in support of the Maple Hill Community Charities Account. 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 (1) one resident student attending non-public schools for the 2012-2013 school year. Michael Charsky Seconded. All present in favor.
 - f. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a resolution adopting the 2013-14 school district budget in the amount of \$20,773,047, to be presented to voters on May 21, 2013. Michael Charsky Seconded. All present in favor.
 - g. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a resolution adopting a 2013-14 school bus proposition in an amount not to exceed \$112,000 for the purchase of one (1) school bus, to be presented to voters on May 21, 2013. Michael Charsky Seconded. All present in favor.
 - h. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval for the district to move forward and release an RFP for Architectural / Engineering Services. Michael Charsky Seconded. All present in favor.
11. Resignations/Appointments
- a. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of the resignation of Nicole Henderson, Secretary I, effective April 30, 2013. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. Michael Charsky moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): None. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
 - c. Michael Charsky moved for approval of Non-Instructional Substitute(s): None. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
12. Meeting open for public discussion. A resident expressed that if the Early College in the Classroom could be done, it has great potential to save families money. There was additional discussion about the standardized testing and whether students knew about field testing within the test. The district responded that the teachers did know and they did talk with kids to let them know the tests would be difficult and to do the best they could. The district did inform parents by a letter of what was expected of students in the tests.
13. Action items. Information on Early College in the High School; finalize RFP for Capital Project
14. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Michael Charsky moved to adjourn, Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele A. Reichert
District Clerk

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