

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 19, 2012

Maple Hill High School Library

Present: J. Andrew Fleck, Michael Hiser, George Warner, Bruce Romanchak, Mary Yurista, Paul Puccio, Lisa Lafferty, Michael Charsky, and Christine DiGiulio (arrived 7:00 pm).

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR

1. Meeting called to order by Board President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:00 p.m.
2. Mary Yurista moved to enter executive Session 6:00 pm to discuss contract negotiations and personnel matters. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

Returned from executive session at 6:50 pm.
3. Paul Puccio moved for approval of present agenda. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
4. Andrew Fleck asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
5. Paul Puccio moved for approval of minutes of regular meeting March 15, 2012. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

Bruce Romanchak moved to change the order of 7. Board Discussion and 8. Meeting open for public discussion. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor, order changed.

6. Reports/Presentations:
 - a. Softball Field – Sierra Pizzola spoke to the Board and thanked them for their support in her undertaking of the softball field project. She mentioned the fundraising that went into the project: bottle drives, bake sales, spaghetti dinners and garage sales. A large list of contributors of time, money, and materials was read at the meeting; Sierra presented Tom Hall a photo collage and thanked him for his time and input as project manager. Andrew Fleck presented Sierra with a proclamation for her efforts and Robert Horan presented Tom Hall with one of his own. Mr. Horan thanked the Schodack Board of Education and the Schodack Community for their support and contributions.
 - b. 2012-13 Budget Presentation – Monica Kim and Robert Horan

Every child will be challenged, and every child will challenge every assessment.

Monica Kim and Robert Horan began the budget presentation by going over a list of neighboring districts and their budget status' showing their 2012-13 Budget, Budget Gaps, % change, Levy Limit changes, proposed tax levy limit and number of positions eliminated ranging from 0 to 34.4 positions. She pointed out that even though it appears we are getting more State Aid, we actually are receiving \$208,006 less for 2012-13 because of the loss of the Education Jobs Fund money. The Three Part Budget was explained and summarized by a pie graph showing how much of the budget will be program vs. capital and administrative. Mr. Horan explained the reductions and positions that were restored from previous drafts of the budget. He also expressed that there are various schools eliminating Modified Sports completely and that Schodack is not eliminating but suggesting revising the program. An alumni page has been added to our website in hopes that alumni will get involved in donating to program or specific needs of the district. An overview of the reductions was outlined and a budget recap was shown indicating what the district budgeted for the current year and each draft has totaled right up to what a contingency budget would look like. A proposal for a fuel efficient minivan was presented to replace the Suburban currently used for in district courier/mail runs and out of district student transportation. The district cost per year would be approximately \$3,150 for 5 years after Aid based on a maximum cost of \$45,000.

- c. Video Conferencing Update – Robert M. Horan and Ron Agostinoni
An opportunity with HVCC, Averill Park, Schodack, and Saratoga School districts where schools can participate in a virtual learning opportunity was explained. Equipment is borrowed from HVCC allowing opportunity to students that they would not otherwise have. A video was played for the Board and Community members of an interview of a teacher who currently teaches a virtual interactive course. The idea is to have a teacher teaching a specific course to numerous students in classrooms in different school districts, classrooms can be seen by the teacher, students can see the teacher giving the lecture, questions can be asked from students to the teacher and even labs can be completed. A teacher is present in the actual classroom for supervision purposes but that teacher does not do the instruction, this allows students to take classes not offered by their school districts increasing opportunities. This would not replace hands on teaching but enhance it.
7. Meeting open for public discussion. Student Alec Yager read a letter supporting Modified Sports and expressed concern that intramurals would be like physical education rather than a sport. Lucas Bordeau and Connor Hall stood with him and spoke that they support Modified Sports as well. Their older siblings have all participated and they look forward to participating as well. Sierra Pizzola spoke in support of Modified Sports, she expressed that Maple Hill Sports are well known and that she feels if the district does away with Modified Sports, kids won't get involved in High School. Starting out with sports in middle school sets a foundation that continues. She also expressed that kids choose to join a sport but parents make kids do intramurals. Maddie Bryda talked about being on Modified Sports, and how it impacts friendships, exercise, grades and that schools know Schodack for being good at sports. Lisa Samarija read two emails from parents involved in Sports Booster in support of Modified Sports one of the emails expressed that without Modified Sports, our sports program would go downhill within two years. Is concerned that the intramural program would be like gym and would serve as a babysitting program after school. She felt that kids that compete in sports probably would not participate because it is not competitive enough, so what

would they do. Mary Mosher spoke in support of Modified Sports. She feels the kids are adventurous at a Middle School level, and they will try something new, not always the case for High School. Modified sports have a great number of students participating. If there is no Modified Sports, what would those kids do after school? Jennifer Felts asked for clarification on what is being changed. Mr. Fleck explained that the decision to make changes to Modified Sports was after talking to other schools and looking at athletics as a whole to see where the cut to athletics would be best. Mr. Horan further explained what the intentions are but also expressed it money could be raised and donated to the modified program, it could be continued as it is rather than changing to an intramural program, but the district can only budget \$11,000 for Modified Sports. The district is looking into Corporate Sponsorship and to community members and alumni for donations. Laurie Pizzola spoke about how involved the community is and asked the board to let people work on sponsorship to help support keeping Modified Sports. She thanked Mr. Horan and the Board for researching the idea of sponsorship. She asked that they not disassemble the program but fund Modified Sports and let the community work on the sponsorships. The board explained that the \$11,000 is all that the board can approve for Modified Sports and that if the money is raised through donations or sponsorship, there would be no need to change Modified Sports. This is a beginning. Laura Cook expressed how nice it was to see students she has taught speaking so passionately about something they feel strong about and she can see the value of Modified Sports.

8. Board Discussion. Michael Charsky spoke about the Sports Booster Club, expressed that he was a founding member and that the club was charged with supplementing sports within the district. He expressed that if there were no Modified Sports in the schools in our conference there is no competition, but if we have larger schools that are interested in an intramural program, wouldn't that be a good opportunity to play larger schools outside our conference like Averill Park and Ichabod Crane. Christine DiGiulio expressed that the money can be raised, but if the board has to choose between a Reading Teacher and Modified Sports, it is going to be what is best for the students. Andrew Fleck expressed that donations can come in specific for Modified Sports and that is where it will go. It will be added to the \$11,000 the district is budgeting. The board does not have many options, and taking more money from fund balance is not a wise decision.
9. Policies: None.
10. Consent agenda:
 - a. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Treasurer's Reports for the month of March 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Revenue and Budget Status Reports for the month of March 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - c. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Extra-Classroom Activity Report for the month of March 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - d. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Claims Auditor Report for the month of March

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2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2011-2012 students: None. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - f. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2011-2012 special education services for students: 000114074, 000114079, 000114054, and 000114071. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - g. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the 2012-13 District School Calendar. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - h. Bruce Romanchak moved to acknowledge an anonymous donation in the amount of \$240.00 in support of the Community Charities Account. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - i. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of a donation from Maple Hill Trivial Pursuit Team of a Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet to be added to the district inventory, valued at \$500.00, to be used for general use. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - j. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of a donation from Joe Darcy, Darcy Construction of (1) one Porta-Potty for the Lacrosse Field for the period of April 1, 2012 – June 1, 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - k. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of a donation from Maple Hill Athletic Booster Club of (1) one Porta-Potty for the Baseball Field for the period of April 1, 2012 - June 1, 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - l. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of a donation from the Schodack Police Benevolent Association in the amount of \$100.00 to help offset the costs of a field trip for advanced art students to Guggenheim Museum in NYC. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - m. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a resolution to increase the 2011-12 General Fund budget account #A2110460001200 by a check from Schodack Police Benevolent Association in the amount of \$100 to help offset costs of a field trip to Guggenheim Museum in NYS for the advanced Art students. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - n. Bruce Romanchak moved to acknowledge of a donation from Stewart's Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 in support of the Community Charities Account for Camp Scully. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

- o. Bruce Romanchak moved to acknowledge of a donation from Stewart's Foundation in the amount of \$750 in support of the Community Charities Account for Camp Scully. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - p. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a Retainer Agreement with Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP to provide legal services to the Schodack Central School District at an annual rate of \$8,000.00, (payable in quarterly installments of \$2,000.00) w/a blended hourly rate of \$195.00 for matters outside the retainer, paralegal rate will be \$90.00 per hour, for the 2012-13 school year. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - q. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a health services contract with East Greenbush Central Schools for the 2011-12 school year in the amount of \$6,498.60 (\$541.55 each) for twelve (12) resident students attending nonpublic schools. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - r. Bruce Romanchak moved to adopt a resolution for the appointment of Permanent Chairperson, Chief Election Inspector, and Election Inspectors for the annual district meeting on May 15, 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - s. Bruce Romanchak moved to adopt 2012-13 school district budget in the amount of \$20,239,963 to be presented to voters on May 15, 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - t. Bruce Romanchak moved to adopt 2012-13 school bus proposition in an amount not to exceed \$45,000 for the purchase of one (1) school bus vehicle, to be presented to voters on May 15, 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
11. Resignations/Appointments
- a. Paul Puccio moved for approval of a revision to the March 15, 2012 appointment of Lori Kolb, School Bus Attendant, from probationary to temporary, for 2 hours/day at a rate of \$13.87, effective March 16, 2012 through June 22, 2012. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. Paul Puccio moved for approval of the probationary appointment of Denise Bates, Driver Trainee, effective April 20, 2012. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
 - c. Paul Puccio moved for approval of the tenure appointment of Jennifer Sober (certification: School Social Worker) as school social worker, effective September 1, 2012. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
 - d. Paul Puccio moved for approval of the tenure appointment of Kerry Kakule (certification: Speech and Language Disabilities) as speech therapist, effective September 1, 2012. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

- e. Paul Puccio moved for approval of non-instructional substitute(s): None. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
 - f. Paul Puccio moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Annette Nazari, Sarah Tran, and Amber Robinson. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
 - g. Paul Puccio moved for approval of coach/Advisor(es):
 - i. Theresa Hovish – Olympics of the Visual Arts
 - ii. Evan Whitfield – Environmental Club
 - iii. Len Bacon – Science Bowl. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
 - h. Paul Puccio moved for approval of Volunteer Coach/Advisor(es):
 - i. Jacqueline Hill – Assistant 7th / 8th grade softball. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
12. Meeting open for public discussion. Laurie Pizzola expressed that there is a committed group of parents to work on sponsorship and that the board not disassemble the Modified Program before they have an opportunity to raise the money that is needed. Andrew Fleck and Robert Horan both expressed that the money budgeted is for a plan, the plan can be changed if the money is raised, and that the board does not feel it is a wise decision for the board to use money from fund balance when the future of taxes and state aid is so unknown. Mary Mosher expressed that Booster Club is doing what is expected of them and supplements sports all the time. They pay for travel costs, uniforms and many other things. Lisa Lafferty expressed that the board is making decision in the best interest of the students education and that the district would still be able to offer a sports program, if the title intramural is working change it. Ask the kids what they want to do. She also thanked the Administrators and Board for adding back the .5 FTE to help our kids increase research skills, the .2 FTE Math teacher to help kids struggling with Algebra II, the .65 FTE Reading teacher for those early readers who probably would not be able to play sports if they were not in a small group learning opportunity, thanks for the Social Worker and Psychologist who help kids who are struggling with other problems so they stay in school. The Board and Administrators have looked at things across the board and made decisions across the board. Chip Lebrecht expressed concern about the maintenance of the buildings. The district has buildings that need repairs and equipment that does not work that we cannot fix. He appreciates sports but expressed that he graduated from Schodack CSD and didn't have Modified Sports and only had JV and Varsity.
13. Action items.
14. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Paul Puccio moved to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.