

*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

February 27, 2014

Maple Hill High School Library

Present: Andrew Fleck, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak, Michael Hiser, Mary Yurista, Jeanne Strazza, Daniel Grandinetti (left 8:16), and Michael Charsky

Absent: George Warner

Also present: Robert Horan, Monica Kim, Michele Reickert, Jason Chevrier, James Derby, Michael Bennett, and Ron Agostinoni

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR

1. Executive Session 5:30 pm. to discuss an employee disciplinary matter.
2. Meeting called to order by President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:22 p.m.
3. President Fleck asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
4. Michael Charsky moved for approval of present agenda, Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
5. Michael Charsky moved for approval of minutes of regular meeting December 19, 2013, Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
6. Reports:
 1. Sports Plex Presentation – Lisa Despart brought a detailed site plan for a proposed Sports Plex for Route 9 in Schodack. She explained that the site has been excavated, but they cannot move forward with the building project until they have all approvals. The group is currently talking with the IDA about lengthening a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) for a longer period of time than what is usually approved. This would require the Town and School to both be in agreement with the longer term. She expressed that they would keep the district informed of their progress and that they hope to begin building in the near future. There was discussion about the potential of additional businesses coming, restaurants, hotels, etc. therefore offsetting the tax base even more. People currently travel to utilize places like this, there are none in Rensselaer County or on the Eastern side of the Hudson close enough to be utilized easily.
 2. Capital Project Update – Robert Horan – Mr. Horan talked about where the district is with the Capital Project. A company has been in to assess the pipe in the basement and how it would be best to handle with the asbestos. The district administrators and architects will be meeting with SED on Tuesday of next week to talk about a capital project and what we can and can't do. There will also be a meeting on Friday, February 28th at Whiteman Osterman & Hanna to talk about legal deadlines and the process for a capital project. He expressed that there is a great deal of

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

- behind the scene activity right now.
3. 2014-15 Budget Draft #1 – Monica Kim and Robert Horan - It was expressed that the district is facing the same challenges as last year. State aid is low and the tax cap is limiting and therefore, the district needs to be reactive not proactive. The district will continue to restructure program, administration and operations. The rollover budget included minimal increases in areas such as supplies, the district has cut supplies over the past 3 years, but will need to spend some money. Health insurance, pensions, insurance and Special Education services all have increased, but is not as controllable as other expenses. Athletics increased because the district budgeted to fully fund modified sports, keeping in mind that could change as the budget process moves forward. The district does want to keep modified sports if it can. Revenue is lower this year because of RCG Health Consortium and Utility consortium surplus reductions and the potential of the loss of shared services with New Lebanon. The district is aggressively looking at other shared services options, Technology being one of them.
 4. Veteran’s Exemption – Monica Kim – Currently the law leaves the decision to offer an exemption up to schools. There are limitations as to who qualifies for exemptions, there are 17 different levels of exemptions and 3 tiers: wartime veteran, wartime combat zone and disabled during wartime. Our district has approximately 144 wartime properties, 113 combat wartime and 29 disabled combat wartime properties.
7. Meeting open for public discussion: Member of the public stated there is an exemption for veterans who have not been in wartime or combat zone but are deemed disabled during service and discharged as disabled. Monica Kim said she would look into that detail more. Kathy Crowley addressed the board about boys’ volleyball being omitted from the sports offered by the district. She expressed that students and parents felt the process was not handled well and that kids did not take the survey seriously when they filled it out. She expressed that if kids knew the survey was being conducted to remove one sport and add another, they would have handled it differently. They asked that in the future, the process be more open and that parents and students be more informed. A few students spoke of their disappointment in the team being omitted and that they didn’t feel they were fairly advised of the intent to omit boys volleyball before it was officially decided.
 8. Board discussion: There was discussion about a fundraiser for CESAP and it was asked that it be added to the consent agenda.
- Bruce Romanchak moved to amend the consent agenda to add approval of the CESAP fundraiser. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- There was discussion about the Common Core Shifts and how they affect teaching and further discussed that Schodack has already begun the shift in Mathematics.
9. Policies:
 - a. Policy Development #2-104 – Michael Charsky moved for 2nd reading and adoption, Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. Smoking/Tobacco Use Policy #3-209 – Michael Charsky moved for 2nd reading and adoption, Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.

- c. Fundraising Policy #4-208 – Michael Charsky moved for 2nd reading and adoption, Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Communicable Diseases – Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of 1st reading, Michael Charsky seconded, moved by consensus to 2nd reading.
- e. Health Records – Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of 1st reading, Michael Charsky seconded, moved by consensus to 2nd reading.
- f. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Related Illnesses – Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of 1st reading, Michael Charsky seconded, moved by consensus to 2nd reading.
- g. Immunization of Students – Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of 1st reading, Michael Charsky seconded, moved by consensus to 2nd reading.
- h. Administration of Medication – Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of 1st reading, Michael Charsky seconded, moved by consensus to 2nd reading.

10. Consent agenda

- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Treasurers report for the month of December 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Claims Auditor Report for the month of December 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2013-2014 special education services for students: 000114575, 000114571, 000114583, 000114578, 00114563, 000114115 and 000114569. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2013-2014 students: 000113671, 000114081, 000114531, 000113430, 000114171, and 000113281. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of an addition to the 2013-14 rate schedule for a Teaching Assistant substituting as a Teacher. Individual shall be paid their current hourly rate from the CSEA contract rate tier schedule effective February 1, 2014. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of an International Club thirteen (13) day trip to Europe during the Spring of 2015 and to overlap with spring break. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Concerns U – Rensselaer County Catholic Charities in the amount of \$500.00 in support of the work study program. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

- h. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with CSEA adding the title and rates for Laborer – Seasonal (Grounds Helper) to the current CSEA Rate Tier Schedule “A”. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - i. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the CESAP fundraiser, Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
11. Resignations/Appointments:
- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of the resignation of Robin Amsler, with regret and appreciation for long service, for the purpose of retirement effective March 11, 2014. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Christina Dempsey, Annemarie Gleason, and Renee Gallagher. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of non-instructional substitute(s): Richard Janke, Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
12. Meeting open for public discussion. There was discussion about the recent STEM Day at the middle school and how successful and engaging it was. Mr. Horan talked about a series of meetings the district has participated in with the Village of Castleton Library, the Town Supervisor and East Greenbush Library. He discussed that there are more meetings scheduled and some anticipated to talk more about a Regional Library or a Community Library in the Schodack area. Sunday practice was talked about and it was thought that the district should revisit allowing Sunday practices, there has been some concern expressed in the community. There was discussion about sports overall and the competitiveness not only in our district but in others. There was concern that there is more attention on sports than there is with academics. People show up at board meetings if we are cutting sports, but when is the last time someone came in about an academic cut. Should the district address this and how, do we start with our coaches? They have a significant impact on kids. What does it say to a parent when a coach holds a closed practice? How do parents feel when a coach instructs a player on the court, by yelling, it gives a different impression to parents and grandparents watching the game. Should we make coaches aware of how their interaction affects students?
13. Action items: Draft 2 of budget, Capital Project, Sunday Practice re-visited, Library, Common Core Shifts and Reserves Detail.
14. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Bruce Romanchak moved to adjourn at 9:09 pm. Michael Charsky Seconded. All present in foavor.