

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."

Present: J. Andrew Fleck, Michael Hiser, Paul Puccio, Christine DiGiulio, Bruce Romanchak, Michael Charsky, George Warner, Lisa Lafferty and Mary Yurista

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

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

February 28, 2013

Maple Hill High School Library

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

1. Meeting called to order by President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:04 p.m.
2. Michael Hiser moved to enter executive session at 6:05 pm to discuss a personnel matter. Mary Yurista seconded. All present in favor.
3. Bruce Romanchak moved to reenter regular session at 6:25 pm. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
4. President Fleck asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
5. Mary Yurista moved for approval of present agenda. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

Paul Puccio moved to add another board discussion after public discussion. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
6. Michael Hiser moved for approval of minutes: Regular meeting January 17, 2013. Lisa Lafferty seconded. Michael Hiser abstained, all others present in favor.
7. Reports:
 - a. Newbery Project – Stacey Rattner, Karen Harris and students presented a project based learning opportunity that students took advantage of. Students were selected to be on a committee to choose a book that they felt should receive a children’s literacy award. They each read pre-chosen books and determine which one they felt should receive the award. Students expressed that they learned to work together as a committee by talking about the books and listening to others feedback, they learned to have patience and work as a team. They also expressed they wished they could see how the next year’s students do the selection process. The students expressed that they felt they learned a lot from their experience. They wished they could be there next year as the current fourth graders went through the process. As a part of the project, students were required to complete rubrics and some students participated in a debate. Students showed demonstrations of Animotos (video slideshows) and podcasts (digital media) they created while working on the project. Mrs. Rattner stated that the students enjoyed reading the books so much, they continued

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to sign the books out to read even after the Newbery Award was chosen.

- b. Budget Presentation – Draft 1 - Monica Kim and Robert Horan . Mr. Horan first expressed that the district is entering its 4th year with reductions, and faces a \$1.6 million deficit for 2013-14 and that NYS is in a major education change/overhaul. He also expressed that the district is doing everything it can to apply for grants and keep in contact with our elected officials letting them know the difficult times schools are facing. Monica Kim and Robert Horan expressed that the district faces restricted revenue streams, diminished programs, no real mandate relief, Governor’s Grants, a drive towards consolidation and shared services and the Governor’s Education Agenda. Schools are being forced to change and need to be pro-active, not reactive. One historical slide showed budget numbers continuing to increase with the increases not going to program but to pension and healthcare increases, while another slide showed a continued decrease in State Aid. With increases in mandated expenses and decreases in State Aid, the tax burden falls on tax payers. The district is proposing that it keep the cuts from the 2012-13 budget as well as additional cost/program reductions of approximately 6.0 FTE effecting LOTE (Language Other Than English), HS Science, English, Math, and Social Studies, ESL (English Second Language, School Psychologist, Speech/Language Pathologist, Librarian, Special Education Teacher, Social Worker and Reading Specialist. The exact breakdown of the individual areas was not given, it is still being worked on. The district still faces unsettled contracts for Teachers and CSEA, posing a lot of unknowns. If the budget does not pass and the district will be forced to contingency and therefore will need to cut an additional \$504, 816 to the 1.6 million. Mr. Horan expressed that the district has always tried to cut in a way that would least effect students and program, but at this point, there is really no other option but to make cuts that will effect students and program. Mr. Horan encouraged residents to contact their legislators and elected officials in support of schools. There was discussion about how to properly advocate for the school and what to write about at a state level and also a federal level.
8. Board Discussion: Michael Hiser asked if there was more of a breakdown of the 6.0 FTE in cuts, Mr. Horan again stated that until all the variables from the State are known Administrators could not be that specific. There is a plan in place, people have been informed of the possibility of being cut but Administrators would prefer to wait and see what happens with State Aid. There was discussion about distance learning and a question of whether an additional distance learning classroom would benefit the district.
9. Meeting open for public discussion: Concern was expressed about the Special Education Mandates and whether we were at risk of not meeting mandates. Donna Watson expressed that the district is still providing more than is required by mandates for special education and that the district is not at risk. There was extensive discussion about the reduction of Teaching Assistants to 4 hours per day across the board. Concerns were for struggling students not having a constant because of shifting of schedules, employees who have been with the district for 20 years are now not going to have benefits when a newly hired bus attendant and monitor could have benefits. There was discussion about the middle school wing and the students exposure to the Questar students, are our students being prepared for the possible behavior they might see? Mr. Bennett expressed that there has been discussion with students preparing them for behavior they may experience. There was discussion about the responsibilities of Library Media Specialists. Librarians do more than just help kids check out books. They work with the teachers finding resources and articles to assist in

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classroom teaching. The provide students with research skills.

10. Board Discussion: The board asked for clarification on Teaching Assistant and monitor duties. The board made a decision to change the next meeting from March 21, 2013 to March 26 2013. The board discusses looking into the historical results where a super majority was needed and passed. It was expressed that a 4.4% increase is already high and going above would be risky. Members of the board recognized that the decisions the Administrators and the board are forced to make are difficult and no one is happy about some of the options. We have made cuts for the past 4 years and none of them are easy. Paul Puccio shared extensively about some research he has done into a “new model” for education and future possibilities for the Schodack School District. The possibility of a partnership with Questar and other districts with the same model ideas, and the repurposing the Middle School, as well as incubators and business relationships to utilize space at the Middle School. The possibility of creating a Tech Model much like those located in New York City, there is nothing like anywhere near here.
11. Policies: None
12. Consent agenda
 - a. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Claims Auditor report for the month of January 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Treasurer’s Reports for the months of December 2012 and January 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - c. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of the Student Activities Report for Quarter ended December 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - d. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2012-2013 students 000011403, 000113617, 000114136, 000012395, 000113554, 000114132, 000113696, 000011114, 000114181, 000114057 and 000113479. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - e. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2012-2013 special education services for students: 000114178 and 000114054. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - f. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of an additional 25 KW Photovoltaic solar panel installation at the Transportation Building (Bus Garage) through NYSERDA and Monolith Associates at no cost to the district. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - g. Acknowledgement of a donation from Fraternal Order of Eagles in the amount of \$800.85 in support of the Art Program for supplies. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

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- h. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of a donation of a drum set from Matthew and Maureen Heffner valued at \$600.00 in support of the Music Program. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - i. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a resolution to reduce one .40 FTE position in the tenure area of ESL (English a Second Language), effective March 1, 2013; and approval of reduction of employment to .20 FTE of one incumbent in the tenure area of ESL (English a Second Language), effective June 30, 2012: Susan Gomes. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
13. Resignations/Appointments
- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a change in hours for Lori Kolb, School Bus Attendant, from 4.75 hours/day to 5.00 hours/day. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of Susan Hopp as regular substitute teacher for Stacy (Herron) Wozniak, effective January 30, 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of Frank Simon as regular substitute teacher for Kenneth Malloy, effective January 23, 2013 through February 15, 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - d. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of Jeremy Mann (certification: Biology 7–12) as extended term substitute teacher for Jennifer Gold, effective January 24, 2013. Salary for the position is MS Step 1. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - e. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Anthony Mancini. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - f. Approval of Non-Instructional Substitute(s): None
14. Meeting open for public discussion: A community member thanked Paul Puccio for his extensive research and work that he put into the discussion about a future model. Tim Ryan expressed that there has always been a good relationships within Schodack and help with the future of Schodack.
15. Action items. Do notification and publication of change in meeting date for March 2013; Draft 2 of the 2013-14 Budget; Spending per student report.
16. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Bruce Romanchak moved to adjourn at 10:02. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor. Meeting adjourned.