

*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."*

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

**January 16, 2014**

**Maple Hill High School Library**

Present: J. Andrew Fleck, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak, Michael Hiser, Mary Yurista, Jeanne Strazza, Michael Charsky (arrived at 6:07 pm), Daniel Grandinetti (arrived at 6:30 pm), and George Warner (arrived at 6:40 pm)

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR**

1. Meeting called to order by President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:05 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Paul Puccio moved for approval of present agenda. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
4. Michael Hiser moved for approval of minutes of regular meeting November 21, 2013 and workshop December 5, 2013, Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
5. Reports:
  1. College Project – Jacqueline Hill Jackie Hill talked about a project that was started after a SCCP trip last summer. One of the speakers at the conference asked of the hundreds of kids in attendance, who had a college poster hanging in their room. There were very few. Ms. Hill then got thinking about doing something like that in the middle school throughout the halls. She collaborated with other teachers in the Middle School and came up with a College planning project to get students thinking about their future and setting goals in middle school instead of waiting until high school. Students listened to guest speakers who talked about what college they went to and what made them chose that school. Students set goals for post high school, and “geared” up the middle school by picking a college or university, researching that school and writing a business letter requesting gear or information about the school. Once the gear was received, they displayed some and kept some for themselves. Marybeth Owen, Tyler Hanrahan and Conner Hill spoke about their choice(s) and what they received back from the schools they chose.
  2. Preliminary Budget Highlights – Monica Kim explained the highlights of the 2014-15 Budget and that benefit costs continue to be the biggest contributor to the budget. The district is facing a 1.4648% tax levy increase or \$180,000, a very small amount to work with considering the Tax Cap for this year being the lesser of 2% or CPI. She expressed that expense driven aid is going down, transportation being the biggest loss in aid. The better we get at saving money in expense driven aid areas, the less we get in aid. She also explained and talked about the vote

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

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they will need to take place for a Veterans exemption. In the current year, the district had 354 Veteran properties totaling approximately \$16 million in assessment. If the board wants to offer an exemption it will need to make a decision by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The preliminary numbers the district is looking at are a \$21,475,230 rollover budget, a \$702,183 or 3.38% increase she also expressed that the district is losing the Performance Grant (WRAPS), Efficiency Grant, and Race to the Top Grant.

3. Capital Project Update – Robert Horan presented on the Capital project, he talked about the educational summit from January 9, 2014 where the information from a recent demographic study would be shared with the public. He talked about the different reasons it makes more sense to repurpose the middle school over repurposing the high school, utilizing the libraries, computer rooms, auditoriums and other facilities and opening them to the public. He spoke about the sewer and water agreements anticipated to be agreed upon in February between the Village and Town which would allow the district to hook up to public water and sewer. He discussed the fact that this area is the fastest aging and shrinking area in the capital District, 75% of young move out and don't come back and older population do not leave. Andrew Fleck talked about making a decision or giving direction as to what the board wants to do as far as building configuration so engineers, architects and administrators can begin the planning.
6. Meeting open for public discussion: Tim Ryan spoke about the pending decision the board would need to make about the middle school and expressed that the numbers do support the restructuring of the grades and that it will hurt, but the faculty will make it work. Carol Altwerger, thanked district for space they rent and want to stay in the elementary school and possibly take another room.
7. Board discussion: There was extensive discussion about the reconfiguring of the grades within the district and which direction the board would direct the administrators and architects to go. They discussed the option of repurposing the middle school. The board discussed the communication that would need to take place with the members of the public. Andrew Fleck expressed that the district's communication specialist, Jason McCord has done a great job in the past communicating major topics to the public and he is sure it will be done as well this time.
8. Policies:
  - a. Policy Development #2-104 – Bruce Romanchak moved to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Daniel Grandinetti seconded, moved by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
  - b. Smoking/Tobacco Use Policy #3-209 – Michael Charsky moved to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Bruce Romanchak seconded, moved by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
  - c. Fundraising Policy #4-208 – Bruce Romanchak moved to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Michael Charsky seconded, moved by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
9. Consent agenda
  - a. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of Treasurers report for the month of November 2013. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.

- b. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of Claims Auditor Report for the month of November 2013. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - c. Michael Charsky moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2013-2014 special education services for students: 000114569, 000114575, 000114579, 000114581, 000114577, 000114576 and 000114540. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - d. Michael Charsky moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2013-2014 students: 000011276, 000113826, and 000113716. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - e. Bruce Romanchak moved to strike e. (Motion related to capital project following board discussion and final public input, and add h. and i., Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - f. Bruce Romanchak moved for Acknowledgement of a donation from Red-Kap / ExxonMobil in the amount of \$500.00 in support of Maple Hill High School Science and/or Math departments. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
  - g. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a resolution authorizing the District Treasurer to accept a donation in the amount of \$500.00 and to increase the General Fund Revenue Code A2705 and Expense Code A2110.450.30-2100 by \$250.00 and Expense Code A2110.450.30.2300 by \$250.00 for use. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
  - h. Bruce Romanchak moved to direct administration, architects and educational planner to take the steps necessary to investigate and prepare for a bond issue in May 2014 relating to water connection, replacing water pipes, and roof of middle school. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - i. Bruce Romanchak moved to direct administration, architects and the educational planner to take steps necessary to investigate and prepare for a bond issue in October 2014 relating to reconfiguration of the district's space including vacating the middle school for instructional purposes and reconfiguring CES and the High School. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
10. Resignations/Appointments:
- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Michaela Palmer, Sean Mulvey, Laura Aitken, Marion Gurdineer-Spar and Angela Ennis. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
11. Meeting open for public discussion.
12. Action items. Capital Project, Draft 1 of Budget, Veterans exemption and Capital Project Communication Plan.
13. Mary Yurista moved to enter executive Session at 9:12 pm to discuss specifics of contract negotiations of

CSEA, SFA and Superintendent. Bruce Romanchak seconded, all present in favor.

14. George Warner moved to return to regular session. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
15. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, George Warner moved to adjourn at 9:56 pm Bruce Romanchak seconded, all present in favor. Meeting adjourned.