

*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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Present: Michael Hiser, Victoria Adler, Jeanne Strazza, Paul Puccio, Christian Olsen, George Warner (arrived 6:10), Michael Charsky (arrived 6:21) and Daniel Grandinetti (arrived 6:42)

Absent: Bruce Romanchak

Also present: Robert Horan, Monica Kim, Ron Agostinoni, Michael Bennett, James Derby, Matthew LaClair, Mary Mabb, Jim Yox, Matthew Purificato, Michele Reickert and Jason Chevrier (arrived 8:10)

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

**January 22, 2015**

**Maple Hill High School Library**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR**

1. Meeting called to order by President, Michael Hiser at 6:03 p.m.
2. President Hiser asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Paul Puccio moved for approval of present agenda, Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
4. Victoria Adler moved for approval of minutes of workshop meeting December 4, 2014, Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
5. Reports:
  - MS Maker Space – James Derby, Kristopher Navratil and Patrick Mason. Mr. Derby expressed that there is no real clear definition of Makerspace. Makerspace could be considered creative space, or utilizing any space you have to do creative things in education. Mr. Navratil talked about a club that has been started called the Open Source Computer Club. Students in the club take apart old computers, troubleshoot problems and refurbish them. The program uses Open Source Software, and once the computers are operational, they will operate on this system. One goal of the program is to create a student help desk where students can answer questions, and help peers. He expressed that the students are excited about the opportunity. Mr. Navratil expressed that another goal of the club is to teach students HTML coding. Mr. Mason talked about his involvement in the project. He spoke about the help and support they have received from Matt LaClair, in Facilities, Jim Yox and Matt Purificato, in the IT department. He expressed that one of the goals of Open Source Initiative is to create creators and engineers, not just consumers. Mr. Navratil continued with sharing about a project being worked on in the bus garage, the Solar Sal Project, students are participating in the construction of a 40 foot boat. They are being taught how a boat is built, and recently learned how to make scarf joints. The goal is to have this boat sailing on the Hudson River and Erie Canal. Mr. Horan talked about community involvement in the project as well. Representatives from the Erie Canal will be visiting the district to see the project. Mr. Navratil talked about assignments students

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

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are working on using the 3D printers at the middle school. There was discussion about how these types of projects will filter into the high school.

- 2015-16 Budget:
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Draft Expenditures** – Monica Kim presented Draft 1 of the 2015-16 Budget. There is little known out of the State as far as State Aid. She expressed that the presentation was not a rollover budget, but more of a “this is where we are, this is what we need” presentation. She mentioned that the WRAPS grant is no longer going to be funded, it was a three year grant and it will be ending this year. Gap Elimination Adjustment is still a big factor in the decline in revenue. Aid ratios are continuing to drop adding into the decline in revenue. Since the tax cap is 2% or CPI, whichever is lower, the district is limited in the amount of taxes the it can raise. The CPI rate came out as 1.62%. Ms. Kim also mentioned that there are three seats open for the board this year, and that petitions to run for the board are due to the District Clerk no later than April 20, 2015 aby 5:00 pm.
  - **Information Technology** – Jim Yox and Matt Purificato presented on Technology at Schodack. In the presentation, Mr. Yox gave historical data dating back to the 2001-02 school year, and estimating through 2016-17. Mr. Yox discussed a spending plan over the next four years to purchase computers and other equipment for classrooms, color laser printers and new servers. He continued to share that the technology department consists of 2.0 FTE employees supporting approximately 800 devices and he expects that to increase to 1,289 devices. He talked about the administrative equipment spending and that the district is not where it should be as far as replacing administrative equipment, it has piece mailed over the years to keep things going concentrating on teachers and students. Systems Management Planning, a company that assesses the infrastructure and computers, has done an assessment of the end users (actual computers) at the district and they found that the current computer hardware is in pretty good condition. There was extensive discussion about the infrastructure of the district’s technology and what needs to be done to bring technology into a stable state. Wiring is an issue that needs to be addressed, Mr. Yox expressed that there is money slated for technology in the Capital Project to address these issues as well as the Smart Schools Bond Act money.
  - **Transportation** – Mary Mabb presented the status of the transportation department. She talked about shared transportation services with other districts, shared bus runs to private and parochial schools to save on mileage and costs. She shared that Schodack now repairs all buses for Rensselaer City School District and shares our Transportation Supervisor and Dispatcher with Rensselaer as well. Shared efficiencies and upgrades such as upgrades to the routing system to include google mapping, upgrade to fuel vending and monitoring system, implementation of the Infofinder App for iPad and iPhone use, installation of onsite propane tank and fuel savings have all proven to be beneficial in cost savings.
  - **Buildings & Grounds** – Matt LaClair presented the status of the facilities department. He shared the changes over time that have produced savings: Groundskeeper from 12 months to 9 months, reduced head custodians from 3 to 1, total custodians from 11 to 8, shared Director of Facilities with New Lebanon, clerk of the works position for the 2014 project was kept in district and energy costs are down 50%. He shared numerous energy efficiencies the district has been successful in. He also discussed various repairs that were done to the sports facilities. He expressed that he is actively looking for shared services with local municipalities, using best practices to control costs.

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6. Meeting open for public discussion: Mr. Ryan expressed that he enjoyed the Makerspace presentation and asked that the district keep that in mind when they plan the Capital Project. He expressed that small common areas are important for students.
7. Board discussion:
  - Capital Project update - Mr. Horan updated the board as to where the Capital Project stands. He expressed that there have been education meetings taking place to identify the 7-12 program of the district. Once the program is identified, then you move forward to look at the building and what is needed for program. Administrators shared how the meetings have gone. They expressed that they are looking forward to getting started on the planning. Mr. Horan shared that the Architects are further along than expected. Mr. Puccio talked about the CES Planning Team meetings and how involved the faculty is. He expressed that there are a lot of different ideas being talked about to help in the upcoming changes. Mr. Chevrier expressed that there is excitement as well as concerns being shared and that there is a lot of creative thinking being shared. Mr. Warner talked about the history of Schodack Schools. He stressed that the changes made to the district must be well thought out, so the community will benefit from the changes for years to come. Mr. Horan expressed that the YMCA is looking to expand the relationship at the school and possibly use another room for additional spin classes. Kiwanis chicken barbecue is coming up this week and he encouraged the board to get involved. President Hiser encouraged the board members not on the individual planning teams to sit in on some of the meetings. He requested that if any board members have topics for the Board Retreat to email him. Mr. Puccio encouraged the board to be complimentary to the administration and not to create more work for administrators. Mr. Warner talked about the spelling bee contestants and how pleased he was with the outcome. Mr. Chevrier credited program and good teaching. Mr. Olsen praised the recent performance of the HS Musical.
8. Policies:
  - a. Employee Personal Identifying Information – Michael Charsky moved for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Christian Olsen seconded, moved by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
  - b. Information Security Breach and Notification – Paul Puccio moved for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Christian Olsen seconded, moved by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
  - c. Disposal of Consumer Report, Information and Records – Paul Puccio moved for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Christian Olsen seconded, moved by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
9. Consent agenda
  - a. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of the Claims Auditor’s Report for the month of October 2014 and November 2014. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - b. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of the Treasurer’s Reports for the month of October 2014 and November 2014. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.

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- c. Approval of recommendation of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2014-15 special education services for students: 000114181, 000114210, 00113310, 000113863, and 000114583. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
- d. Michael Charsky moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2014-2015 special education services for students 000114694, 000114716, and 000114717. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
- e. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a contract with SpecEd Solution\$, LLC for the 2014-15 school year at a rate of \$3,900.00. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
- f. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a Fund Surplus Resolution Agreement and Release between Schodack Central school District and Questar III to return a total amount of \$615,858.34 to Schodack Central School District; and to be returned over a prior not to exceed five years in the form of a credit against the amount the District otherwise is required to contribute to Questar III. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
- g. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a health services contract for the 2014-15 school year with South Colonie Central schools for one (1) resident student attending non-public school. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
- h. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a health services contract for the 2014-15 school year with North Greenbush Common School District for five (5) resident students attending non-public school. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.

10. Resignations/Appointments

- a. Christian Olsen moved for approval of a change in the appointment of Susan Wollner from HS Musical Advisor to HS Musical co-advisor. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- b. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the appointment of the following 2014-15 advisor(s):
  - a. Sheila Golden – HS Musical co-advisor. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- c. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the appointment of Lori Clesceri, Teaching Assistant, for (4) four hours a day at a rate of \$16.49 per hour, effective January 5, 2015. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- d. Christian Olsen moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Micaela Morse and Erin Faeth. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
- e. Christian Olsen moved for approval of non-instructional substitute(s): Denah Wildermuth. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.

- f. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the appointment of Gary Schultz as substitute school bus driver. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
  - g. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the appointment of Helen Carlone as substitute school bus driver. Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.
11. Meeting open for public discussion. A member of the public stated that the presentation was interesting and that it will be interesting to watch the Capital Project progress.
  12. Action items. Chicken Barbecue and Retreat suggestions.
  13. Michael Charsky moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 9:18 pm. George Warner seconded. All present in favor.
  14. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, President Hiser adjourned the meeting at 9:42 pm.