

*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

**March 19, 2015**

**Maple Hill High School Library**

Present: Michael Hiser, Michael Charsky, George Warner, Jeanne Strazza, Paul Puccio, Christian Olsen, Bruce Romanchak and Daniel Grandinetti (arrived 6:18)

Absent: Victoria Adler

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR**

1. Meeting called to order by President Hiser at 6:04 p.m.
2. President Hiser asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Christian Olsen moved for approval of present agenda. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
4. Approval of minutes of regular meeting February 12, 2015.
5. Reports:
  - a. STEM Day Presentation – Jacqueline Hill, Kristopher Navratil, Karen Sweet and students presented on the Middle School’s STEM day. The district has had 3 annual STEM Days which began in house and have spread to include outside companies and colleges. Ms. Hill commented that it is nice to see students interacting and having the experience of different aspects of STEM. Mr. Navratil expressed that the incubator companies really were a benefit. They participated and taught students about their companies. Students participated in a survey about the day and gave highlights of their experiences. Each student expressed their favorite presentation at the STEM Day and why. They talked about why STE M day should continue. They expressed that they were presented with career opportunities they did not know were out there, it enhances ties with community members and gives hands on experiences. Ms. Hill expressed that seeing what they are learning about excites kids. Mr. Derby expressed that exposing students to STEM in a way they find exciting like STEM day allows teachers to refer to the various exercises through the year and keep them engaged.
  - b. 2015-16 Budget - Draft 2 – Monica Kim and Robert Horan talked about draft 2 of the budget. Mr. Horan expressed that he feels it is a good budget especially considering how little the State has told schools. State Aid is still unknown, the Governor has said that there will be no increases without his concessions being agreed to. Monica Kim expressed that the tax cap, with what we currently know, will be 2.23%. She expressed that with the WRAPS Grant being gone after the

---

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

---

current year, all salaries will be a part of the instruction as well as the district funding the full modified program. The district will experience a decrease in employee benefits due to a reduction retirement costs, keeping in mind the total decrease is offset by increases in health insurance and other benefits. Overall, the district faces a projected budget gap of 1.1 million dollars, which will be taken from fund balance. There was discussion of what the district would do if the Governor gave schools more funds. It was suggested by Ms. Kim that the district establish a capital reserve to use at a later date. Ms. Kim expressed that the transportation department is requesting the purchase of two buses, one 66 passenger and one wheelchair accessible 30 passenger. There was extensive conversation about what the district would with additional aid if the Governor increased the aid the district would be receiving.

- c. Capital Project Update – Robert Horan talked about the link on the website that is dedicated to the capital project. Material on the site under Welcome goes back to the beginning meetings over a year and a half ago in the beginning stages of the talks. He talked about a video on the site and encourages everyone to watch it. He talked about the individual meetings that have taken place with faculty and various teams and their feedback and input. He informed the board of the changes at the State Ed. Department that is pushing approvals of submitted projects months into the future. The delay in getting State Ed. Approval could potentially cost the district more money or even lessen what we can do in the project.
6. Meeting open for public discussion: There was discussion about the potential capital reserve and how it is explained to voters. There is concern that the voters may not understand the importance for a capital reserve. Mr. Ryan also encouraged watching the video and expressed how things have changed. He expressed that the district be careful moving forward with adding two additional grades to the high school building. Mr. Horan responded and expressed his confidence in the professionals that are advising the district and feels the project is being planned appropriately.
  7. Board discussion: Mr. Warner talked about the bond issue and technology need. He suggests a technology RFI for Technology to fit into a school district. A RFI give you the ability to ask questions and get a lot of information. There was discussion about the veterans exemption. There are different levels of the exemption, the standard would be approximately 102,000 in assessed value that would pass to other taxpayers and be credited to the veterans in the district. It was decided that the board should talk more and hold a public hearing to get the public's input. Mr. Romanchak talked about getting students involved in program like Odyssey of the Mind getting a diverse group of students involved in a team, working together to figure thing out. Mrs. Strazza expressed her concern that STEM day not be negatively affected by the middle school students moving to the high school. Mr. Puccio discussed tax certioraris and how complex the process actually is. He also talked about the new company the town has contracted with for appraisals and also the new attorney the town is using to handle the legal process. Mr. Horan talked about a joint meeting between the local municipalities to discuss sewer and water. The district will be creating a single user district once installed, the conversation can continue. Mr. Horan talked about the status of the APPR for the District, the district formed a committee that met a few times and has been put on hold until the Governor has decided what he is going to do. He talked about a newsletter that will be generated in the next few weeks. He asked the board members for two to three members to volunteer to be on the negotiation committee for the Administrator's contract which will be expiring, Mr. Hiser and Mr. Puccio volunteered to be on the committee. Mr. Hiser talked about and presented an award to Mr. Puccio for a

Level 2 Board Excellence Award from New York State School Boards Association; School Board U.

8. Policies: None.

9. Consent agenda

- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Treasurers report for the month of January 2015. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Claims Auditor Report for the month of January 2015. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2014-2015 special education services for students: **000114626, 0001014716, 000114620, 000114709, and 000114640.** Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2014-2015 students: **000113280, 000114065, and 000113749.** Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Karen Casey in the amount of \$1,700.00 proceeds from a golf tournament in support of the Christopher Beebe Memorial Scholarship Fund. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Target take Charge of Education in the amount of \$77.64 in support of the Middle School Student Supplemental Account. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Target take Charge of Education in the amount of \$114.59 in support of the High School Student Supplemental Account. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Stewart's Foundation in the amount of \$700.00 in support of Camp Scully Camperships. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Audiologic Solutions (Dan and Erin Sterantino) for 195 copies of the book "The Island of Dr. Libris" by Chris Grabenstein, valued at \$2,438.07 books are to be distributed to each 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
- j. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of change in assessment for Robert Bolt, for real property located at Schodack, NY (209.-11-2) from \$154,800 to \$90,000 pursuant to Stipulation of Settlement and Order (Index No. 00248138) and a refund of taxes in the amount of \$877.41.

---

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

---

Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.

- k. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of change in assessment for Hamilton Industrial Corp., for real property located at Schodack, NY (198.-4-1.11) from \$2,200,000 to \$1,100,000 pursuant to Stipulation of Settlement and Order (Index No. 00247425) and a refund of taxes in the amount of \$25,068.88. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
  - l. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of change in assessment for Pine Haven Mobile Home Court Inc., for real property located at Schodack, NY (209.-4-12, 210.-4-9, 210.-4-16) from \$2,048,200 to \$800,000 pursuant to Stipulation of Settlement and Order (Index No. 00243961) and a refund of taxes in the amount of \$25,956.99. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
  - m. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a health services contract with Lansingburgh Central School District for the 2014-15 school year at a rate of \$481.40 per student for 6 non-resident students attending non- public schools. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
  - n. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of an International Club overnight trip to Montreal, Quebec, Quebec Canada, May 22 – May 23, 2015. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
  - o. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from South Schodack Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary in the amount of \$345.00 in support of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trips. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
  - p. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Castleton Kiwanis Club in the amount of \$100.00 to assist with transportation costs for a College Fair. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.
10. Resignations/Appointments:
- a. Paul Puccio moved for the acceptance of the resignation of Clarence R. Lebrecht, Custodial Worker, effective May 18, 2015 for the purpose of retirement, with appreciation of his long service with the district. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
  - b. Paul Puccio moved for the acceptance of the resignation of Sandra Strock, English Teacher, effective May 31, 2015. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
  - c. Paul Puccio moved for the acceptance of the resignation of Sandra Strock as National Honor Society co-advisor for the 2014-15 school year effective September 1, 2014. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
  - d. Paul Puccio moved for approval of a revision to the appointment of Heather Flood, National Honor Society co-advisor to National Honor Society advisor from September 1, 2014 through January 30, 2015 and as National Honor Society co-advisor from February 1, 2015 through June 25, 2015. Bruce

Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.

- e. Paul Puccio moved for approval of the appointment of Jennifer Gold as National Honor Society co-advisor from February 1, 2015 through June 25, 2015. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
  - f. Paul Puccio moved for approval of the following coach(es) for the 2014-15 school year:
    - i. Alyssa Leavitt – Girls Modified (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade) Softball Coach. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
  - g. Paul Puccio moved for approval of the following volunteer assistant coach(es):
    - i. Regina Maier – Girls Modified (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade) Softball. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
  - h. Paul Puccio moved for approval of the appointment of Cheryl Bickford as substitute school bus driver. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
  - i. Paul Puccio moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Caren Malone, Victoria Austin and Matthew Pinchinat. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
  - j. Paul Puccio moved for approval of Tutor(s): Matthew Pinchinat. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
  - k. Paul Puccio moved for approval of non-instructional substitute(s): Cheryl Bickford (School Bus Attendant). Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
11. Meeting open for public discussion.
12. Action items. Tax Rate calculation projection, April 9<sup>th</sup> additional meeting and Kiwanis Chicken BBQ Saturday.
13. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board President Hiser adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.