

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 26, 2013

Maple Hill High School Library

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

Absent: Lisa Lafferty and Christine DiGiulio

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

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 6:04 pm. Mary Yurista seconded. All present in favor.
3. Bruce Romanchak moved to reenter regular session at 6:28 pm. Mike Hiser Seconded. All present in favor.
4. President Fleck asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
5. Michael Charsky moved for approval of the present agenda. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
6. Michael Hiser moved for approval of minutes: Workshop meeting February 7, 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. J. Andrew Fleck abstained, all others present in favor.
7. Reports:
 - a. Facilities Committee Update – Matt LaClair presented the findings and recommendation of a facilities committee made up of faculty, administrators, staff and community members who recently toured and examined each building to see where the level of need was for each one as far as maintenance and repairs. Members of the committee also toured science and music classrooms and labs in area schools and colleges to see what other facilities looked like. Administrators talked about a meeting with State Ed where they were advised as to what projects are allowed aid and what is not allowed aid. There are areas of absolute need at each building as well as areas students would benefit from upgrading. The district buildings have serious repairs that must be done because of the age of the current facilities currently the High School uses the original 1955 water pipes, sewer, and well. If something were to happen to the water or sewer, not only would the school effected have to close but the cost would come from the general fund which there is no money budgeted for these kinds of costs which would reach into the hundreds of thousands. Having to do these as repairs rather than a capital project, the district would not receive any state

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aid. The entire cost would be on the district and tax payers. There are safety matters that need to be addressed like security cameras and door swipes. Currently the State Aid is at 76.6 meaning for every 1 million we spend the state will give us \$766,000 in aid. The state is also giving additional 10% aid on security projects. There was talk about the future of Schodack CSD and the direction the district should take. The facilities committee talked about a campus atmosphere between the high school and middle school, repurposing the middle school and moving 7-12 into the high school and K-6 into the elementary school.

George Warner moved to accept the facilities report. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

Andrew Fleck thanked the committee for all their hard work and that it was appreciated.

- b. Budget Draft 2 – Monica Kim and Robert Horan presented draft 2 of the budget. The changes effecting draft 2 were the elimination of a tractor, reducing Teaching Assistants to IEP levels, adding monitor time, BOCES expenses are in and unchanged from Draft 1 and an increase in Retirement Health Insurance. There are no state aid numbers in so there are still a number of unknowns in order to finish drafting the budget. There was extensive discussion about the Teaching Assistants and how the district would handle the reduction; there is a possibility that monitors would be added to cover cafeteria, recreation, arrival and dismissal of students.

Bruce Romanchak moved to switch the order of Board Discussion and Meeting open for public discussion. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

- 8. Meeting open for public discussion: Residents and Teaching Assistants proposed to be cut expressed concerns regarding the cuts to Teaching Assistant positions. It was expressed that kids search them out; they assist in diffusing situations before they get out of control and asked the Board to reconsider. One resident asked the district to invest in academics over non-essential athletic programs, and not to have a knee jerk reaction to the news. There was concern expressed over teacher salaries being in the same range as administrators. There was concern expressed that not having assistance in the classroom causes disorganization because teachers are forced to handle things they would normally not handle, it may identify special education students when a teacher has to interrupt class to direct their attention to a special education student's needs where a Teaching Assistant would have handled the situation without the interruption. One resident reminded everyone that the Federal Sequester may still effect government and municipalities which included schools. It was expressed that the Administrators should be standing up for Teaching Assistants, Jason Chevrier extensively spoke about the time and thethought that went into every decision of the budget process; and spoke that every decision was difficult and would be felt. The Teaching Assistants are appreciated and the decision was not personal, there is simply no money. Paul Puccio expressed that the Board does not take these things lightly, and that cuts come with pain across the board.
- 9. Board Discussion: Paul Puccio spoke to the last four (4) years and the fact that the district has had to cut 44 FTE's overall, the district has cut transportation from 3 runs to 1 run and that we need to prepare for the future. Standardized testing will be online and we have to get prepared for that. There was comment about the role of parents with homework, volunteering and being partners with the district. People have to be

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responsible for their families. Mr. Horan congratulated Tammy Seres for obtaining National Board Certification; currently she is the only Schodack Teacher to hold this certification. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to be National Board Certified. He was sorry she had to leave the board meeting before he could recognize her in person.

10. Policies: None

11. Consent agenda

- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Claims Auditor report for the month of February 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of Treasurer's Reports for the months of February 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2012-2013 students 000113865, 000113735, and 000113824. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2012-2013 special education services for students: 000114174, 000114182, 000114010 and 000114114. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a health services contract with Lansingburgh Central School District for (5) five resident students attending non-public schools for the 2012-2013 school year. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of bid from Michael Quint in the amount of \$302.00 for 3 (15 year old) high jump pit mats, pursuant to a surplus bid opening on March 14, 2013. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Concerns U, Catholic Charities of Rensselaer County in the amount of \$1,485.00 in support of the class of 2017 Field Trip / Activities Account. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Red-Kap / ExxonMobil in the amount of \$500.00 in support of Maple Hill Science and/or Math departments. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of an Inter-municipal Agreement with New Lebanon Central School District to establish a shared service arrangement from March 18, 2013 through June 30, 2013 for Information Technologist services on an emergency as needed basis at a rate of \$80.00 per hour inclusive of travel time. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

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- j. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of International Club trip Mainland China, in April 2014. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- k. Bruce Romanchak moved to acknowledge a donation from the Maple Hill Youth Lacrosse Foundation, Inc. of a portable restroom for the months of April and May of the 2012-13 school year in support of the Maple Hill Varsity Lacrosse team. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- l. Bruce Romanchak moved to acknowledge of two donations from Stewart's Foundation, \$1,000.00 in support of Camp Scully and \$750.00 in support of the Maple Hill Work Study Program. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

12. Resignations/Appointments

- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the appointment of Catherine Hogan, Teaching Assistant, for 4 hours per day, effective March 21, 2013 at a rate of \$18.60 per hour. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a correction to the reduction in FTE in the tenure area of ESL (English a Second Language) to read: 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 .2 FTE of one incumbent in the tenure area of ESL (English a Second Language), effective March 1, 2013: Susan Gomes. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Elizabeth Ayers, Erica Zampella. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Approval of Non-Instructional Substitute(s): None

13. Meeting open for public discussion.

14. Action items.

15. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Michael Hiser moved to adjourn at 10:26 pm. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.