

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

May 3, 2012

Maple Hill High School Library

Present: Andrew Fleck, Michael Hiser, George Warner, Michael Charsky, Mary Yurista, Lisa Lafferty
(arrived 6:42 pm).

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – WORKSHOP

1. Meeting called to order by Board President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:30 p.m.
2. Michael Charsky moved for approval of present agenda. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
4. Approval of minutes: None.
5. Reports/Presentations:
 - a. 2012-13 Adopted Budget Hearing – Monica Kim and Robert Horan
Monica Kim gave an overview of the budget summary; the process began with a roll over budget of \$20,871,341, Draft #2 totaled \$20,065,160 and Draft #3 (final adopted budget) totaled \$20,239,963. She explained if the budget fails, the Board can put it out for a second vote or go straight to contingency. She expressed that the district will not know what the tax rate is until August when the town gives us the total assessment, school districts have no control of the tax rate and that Hannaford's assessment reduction will affect this year's assessment base, putting more of the assessments to other tax payers. She reviewed what would be on the ballot: Proposition #1 – Adoption of an Operating Budget in the amount of \$20,239,963; Proposition #2 – Purchase of (1) Fuel efficient Minivan, sum not to exceed \$45,000.00; To elect three (3) Board of Education members each to a three (3) year term: Michael Charsky, Michael Hiser and George Warner. Mr. Horan introduced the candidates running and invited the public to join them after the board meeting for light refreshments and a chance to meet the candidates and ask questions. Mary Yurista questioned if the tax levy was 2.47% or 2.49% as she has seen both numbers on presentations, Monica Kim answered that the correct number is 2.47%.
 - b. iPad Technology in the Classroom – Donna Watson, Michael Bennett, Ron Agostinoni, Jason

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

Chevrier, Faculty and Students gave a presentation on the use of iPad's in the classroom. Jennifer Sober, school psychologist spoke about the success she has had using the iPad and applications with the students she works with. One application allows the students to create a story using themselves as the main character of the story, it was commented that kids like to hear, see and talk about themselves and this keeps them engaged. The iPads are motivating also that the teachers can use them as a motivating tool, if a student gets their work done that is expected of them, they get 5 minutes of free time on the iPad using applications downloaded by the teachers and saved in a folder, very effective. A video was shown of a student that has difficulty putting words together into a sentence; the video showed him working with a program and answering questions asked of him by the teacher and talking in small sentences. Two middle school students gave a detailed presentation of how the iPad assists them with their learning. iPads were handed out for board members to try their hands at an encrypted message that the students prepared as a sample to show how the iPads are used in assignments. Andrew Fleck thanked the students and faculty for taking the time to demonstrate some of the uses of iPads.

6. Board Discussion. George Warner commented that what they just saw was possibly a change in education. Mr. Horan expressed that students now are born into technology, it is what they know. Mr. Chevrier expressed that textbooks don't give the students interaction like they get if they click on a link and hear a speech rather than reading about the speech. Textbooks are out of date even once they are purchased. Mr. Chevrier also pointed out that there are software packages out there that would assist the Administrators with APPR requirements. Taking snapshots or recording a video for evidence in an evaluation. Mr. Horan shared that the iPads used by the Administrators were received through grant writing related to how iPads can help in being more efficient. Mr. Chevrier shared that he has used it in putting kids at ease that are waiting to be talked to in his office. Not kids that were in trouble but kids that were witness to an incident or to be questioned about something and were nervous to be in the principals office. Instead of sitting there anxious, he will let them use pre-loaded applications on the iPad and it helps puts them at ease.
7. Meeting open for public discussion. Laura Cook expressed that she always comes to board meetings but loves to see kids coming and getting involved.
8. Policies: None.
9. Consent agenda:
 - a. George Warner moved for approval of the 2012-13 Budget Notice. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. George Warner moved for approval of Health Insurance Premium Rates for Blue Shield of Northeastern NY, Express scripts, CDPHP, and MVP for the 12012-13 school year based on Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.

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- c. George Warner moved for acknowledgement of Schodack Central School District's receipt of Utica National Insurance's School Safety Excellence Award received April 4, 2012. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - d. George Warner moved for acknowledgement of the Schodack Castleton Community Partnership (SCCP) as an Extra Curricular Club beginning with the 2011-12 school year to provide an opportunity for the youth in the community to work in partnership with the adult coalition. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - e. George Warner moved for approval of an Independent Contract Retainer with Heather Briggs effective May 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012 on an as needed basis not to exceed \$300.00. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - f. George Warner moved for approval of a health services contract with Albany City School District for the 2011-12 school year in the amount of \$3,241.75 for five (5) resident students attending nonpublic schools. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
 - g. George Warner moved for acceptance of a donation from Box Tops for Education in the amount of \$219.00 in support of the Maple Hill Middle School Music Program for the purchase of Acoustic Guitar cases. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
10. Resignations/Appointments:
- a. George Warner moved for approval of a correction to the appointment of Denise Bates, Driver Trainee, from April 19, 2012 board meeting. Appointment is corrected to be non-instructional sub not driver trainee and therefore, not probationary. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
 - b. George Warner moved for approval of non-instructional substitute(s): Keith Mastromarchi . Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
11. Meeting open for public discussion. Robert Horan reminded the board about the upcoming Senior Citizen Lunch at the High School, the Budget Vote, Congressman Gibson's visit and the Bio Bus visit.
12. Action items. None.
13. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Lisa Lafferty moved to adjourn at 7:51 pm. George Warner seconded. All present in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Reickert
District Clerk