

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, George Warner, Jeanne Strazza, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak, Christian Olsen and Michael Charsky (arrived at 6:05)

Absent: Daniel Grandinetti and Victoria Adler

Also Present: Michael Bennett, Monica Kim, James Derby, Ron Agostinoni, Jason Chevrier and Michele Reickert.

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

**May 7, 2015**

**Maple Hill High School Library**

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – WORKSHOP 6:00 pm**

1. Meeting called to order by Board President Michael Hiser at 6:03 p.m.
2. Paul Puccio moved for approval of present agenda. Jeanne Strazza seconded. All present in favor.
3. President Hiser asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
4. Approval of minutes: None.
5. Reports/Presentations:  
  
Bruce Romanchak moved to switch the original order of the reports/presentations moving Meet the Candidates to last in the order. Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
  - a. Middle School Computer Club Presentation – James Derby and Students. Mr. Derby introduced Mr. Navratil and members of the Open Source Computer Club. Tyler, Alexis and Quint talked about the club and how it began. The students begin by cleaning the inside of computers and replacing hard drives. They have learned how to upgrade RAM and how to make Ethernet cords. In looking forward, students are planning to bring two computers to Castle Hill retirement home and teach the residents how to use them, and create a student help desk where they can help other students with computer problems as well as mentor upcoming students in the club.
  - b. 2015-16 Adopted Budget Hearing – Monica Kim expressed that this year the budget dollar amount has finally returned to that of the 2009-10 school year. She discussed the changes in the tax rate and property tax base of the last 7 years. She expressed the changes in the projected budget and what the changes are that affected the changes in the budget. There was discussion about the community reaction to the budget and that there are few questions

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

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- being expressed.
- c. Code of Conduct Discussion – Monica Kim talked about the district code of conduct and expressed that the current code of conduct was updated by school attorneys. The board discussed different topics of the code of conduct. The board asked if students really follow and read the code of conduct. Administrators stated that the buildings have a condensed version, but also stated that students involved in athletics and extracurricular activities pay attention to avoid being disqualified from participation in activities. Mr. Warner voiced his concern over the length of the document and whether is it too binding or overwhelming. There was discussion about the document being necessary but also that it allow for discretion.
  - d. Meet the Candidates – Introduction of Michael Tuttle, George Warner, Michael Charsky and Michael Hiser. Candidates for the board briefly introduced themselves and expressed their ambitions for running for the board.
6. Meeting open for public discussion. Pat Wood spoke about the Kiwanis meeting and asked the board not to forget about extra-curricular activities and expressed that she hoped more money could be allocated to extra-curricular activities. She expressed that the activities help to expand the students learning beyond the classroom.
  7. Board Discussion. Mr. Warner talked about an opportunity he had with graduate students and also participating in Mr. Porter’s classroom in the district and was pleased with what is being taught. There was discussion about the launching of the solar boat. Mr. Puccio expressed that Hamilton Printing closing could have a negative impact on property taxes in the near future.
  8. Policies: None.
  9. Consent agenda:
    - a. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of the Treasurer’s Reports for the month of March 2015. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
    - b. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of the Claims Auditor’s report for the month of March 2015. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
    - c. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the 2015-16 Budget Notice. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
    - d. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of Health Insurance Premium Rates for Blue Shield of Northeastern NY, Express scripts, CDPHP, and MVP for the 2014-15 school year based on Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
    - e. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the 2015-16 Final Service Request of Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene BOCES (Questar III) in the initial amount of \$1,154,725.58. Paul Puccio

seconded, all present in favor.

- f. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Eileen Secrist in support of the Middle School Community Charities account. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - g. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Lawrence & Kathleen Lauer in support of the Middle School Community Charities account. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - h. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation in the amount of \$25.00 from Donald & Evelyn Anderson in support of the Middle School Community Charities account. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - i. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation in the amount of \$40.00 from James & Donna Durivage in support of the Middle School Community Charities account. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - j. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Ellen B. Senisi of four (4) books for the CES library: Steel Drumming at the Apollo, Secrets, Brothers & Sisters, and All in a Rainforest Day. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - k. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between Schodack Central School District and Civil Service Employees Association decreasing one Secretary I position from 12 months less 10 days to 12 months less 20 days. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
  - l. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a Serial Bond Resolution to finance the construction of additions to and reconstruction of various district buildings, infrastructure and site work improvements, and acquire original furnishings, equipment and machinery or apparatus, pursuant to a voter referendum dated November 20, 2014, in the amount not to exceed \$20,160,000.00. Paul Puccio seconded, all present in favor.
10. Resignations/Appointments:
- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the temporary appointment of Cheryl Bickford, School Bus Attendant, at a rate of 14.29 per hour for 6 hours per day effective April 27, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.
  - b. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of the resignation of Michele Ellers, School Bus Driver, effective May 4, 2015. Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.
11. Meeting open for public discussion. There was discussion about the community charities account and how it is handled. Pat Wood spoke that the district, through teacher observation and student requests, help students and families with needs they cannot provide for themselves.

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12. Action items. Mr. Warner asked about the Questar Annual Dinner that was cancelled he expressed that he hopes Questar will come back to a leadership position soon. Mr. Puccio explained that there are transitions and changes Questar is undergoing through new leadership. Code of Conduct to be moved forward for 1<sup>st</sup> reading. May 13, will be Kwame Alexander visit, Mr. Chevrier invited the board to come meet him and welcome him to the district. May 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
13. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, President Hiser adjourned the meeting at 7:42.