

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

**May 9, 2013**

**Maple Hill Middle School Library**

Present: Andrew Fleck, Michael Hiser, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak, Mary Yurista, Christine DiGiulio, Michael Charsky, and Lisa Lafferty.

Absent: George Warner

Also Present: Robert Horan, Monica Kim, Ron Agostinoni, Michael Bennett, Donna Watson and Michele Reickert

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – WORKSHOP 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

1. Meeting called to order by Board President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:00 p.m.
2. Michael Hiser moved to enter executive Session to discuss a student matter, personnel matter and legal matter at 6:04 pm. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
3. Michael Hiser moved to re-enter regular session at 6:35 pm. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
4. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of present agenda. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
5. Andrew Fleck asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
6. Michael Hiser moved for approval of minutes: April 9, 2013 workshop meeting, April 18, 2013 regular meeting, and April 23, 2013 special meeting. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
7. Reports/Presentations:
  - a. Meet the Candidates – Introduction of Bruce Romanchak and Jeanne Strazza. Each board candidate gave a brief introduction of themselves and their connection to the community and district.
  - b. Song Yang (Sirena) – Chinese Teacher Introduction – Sirena Song and Robert Horan. Sirena Song thanked the Board and District for their hospitality. She shared stories of her experiences both in the classrooms and outside the district. She expressed how hospitable everyone was and how much she enjoyed being here. She shared her observations of the

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differences in American Education and Chinese Education as well as how some Chinese traditions here in America are not really how they are done in China, such as, the fortune cookie, they do not have fortune cookies in China. She talked about her meeting with Dr. King from the State Education Department and how exciting it was. A board member expressed that her children were excited after having Sirena in the classroom and felt it helped them “think outside the box”. Mr. Horan expressed that everyone enjoyed having Sirena here and he hoped she would be able to come back again.

- c. 2013-14 Adopted Budget Hearing – Monica Kim and Robert Horan gave a presentation of the adopted budget for 2013-14. The total budget Proposition #1 \$20,773,047; percent change from 2012-13 is 2.63% or an increase of \$533,084 with a projected Levy Increase of 4.49%. A slide shared that the 2013-14 proposed taxes on a house assessed at \$200,000 would increase by approximately \$180.49 per year in the Town of Schodack and \$192.66 per year in the Town of Schodack Landing. She expressed that the District has no way of knowing what the tax rate will be until sometime in August. She also expressed that there would be a second proposition for a 66 passenger bus not to exceed \$112,000. There was discussion about the amount remaining in fund balance and that it is estimated that we have a little over two years of use left.

Bruce Romanchak moved to add public discussion. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

8. Public Discussion: A question arose about cellphone taxes and if school districts are entitled to some of the money. Monica Kim explained that it is called E-rate and that Schodack does get E-rate funds.
9. Board Discussion:
- Future Schodack Model – Robert Horan expressed that there has not been a decision about the direction Schodack’s education but that the goal has not changed and that is to do what is best for our kids. The district is exploring different options and doing extensive research into what may work for Schodack students and faculty. The district is working with Barbara Harm through Questar to help develop a plan. She is working with administrators and faculty and gathering ideas and data. The district is also actively working with three business startup companies who in turn will work with students and faculty.
  - Commencement – there was discussion about board representation at the commencement and who would be available. Lisa Lafferty and Chris DiGiulio will represent the board at commencement. Ron Agostinoni expressed that the students would like to ask for the board’s permission to have a 1998 graduate speak at the commencement. The board thought that having a board member involved to introduce the guest speaker would be a good idea, but also felt board representation was important. Monica Kim mentioned that she would like to start working on policies and updating the board’s current policies as necessary. It was decided that a committee would be formed, Mike Hiser offered to help as well as Mary Yurista (if additional help was needed). There was discussion about the parent portal and that there are inconsistencies building to building and how teachers use it. Parents are not all getting information based on the teacher’s use. There was conversation about the Storyplace Preschool’s request for putting a playground on CES

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grounds for their students. The location and requirements are still being discussed. Mr. Horan congratulated Ron Agostinoni and the High School students on the student's behavior at the Prom. Mr. Horan has received telephone calls from the facility and other people involved in the prom complimenting how impressed they were with the students. Mr. Horan mentioned the previous night's National Junior Honor Society's ceremony and how proud he is of the students and what they are involved with. He also talked about the Scholar Athlete teams. He wants everyone to know the great things the students are doing. Monica Kim shared that the school lunch program was audited for the additional 6 cents lunch program and that the district had zero findings. She thanked Tom McNay for all his hard work and effort with the school lunch program. There was discussion about AP classes and if there was a way to be sure a student was serious about the class when they sign up for it.

10. Meeting open for public discussion. There was additional discussion from the public about AP classes and college entry.
11. Policies: None.
12. Consent agenda:
  - a. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of the Treasurer's Reports for the month of March 2013. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - b. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of the Claims Auditor's report for the month of March 2013. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - c. Michael Charsky moved for approval of the 2013-14 Budget Notice. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - d. Michael Charsky moved for approval of Health Insurance Premium Rates for Blue Shield of Northeastern NY, Express scripts, CDPHP, and MVP for the 2013-14 school year based on Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Health Insurance Trust. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - e. Michael Charsky moved for acknowledgement of Schodack Central School District's receipt of Utica National Insurance's School Safety Excellence Award received March 14, 2013. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - f. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a health services contract with East Greenbush Central School District for the 2012-13 school year in the amount of \$7,497.36 for twelve (12) resident students attending nonpublic schools. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
  - g. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a health services contract with the City School

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District of Albany for the 2012-13 school year in the amount of \$3,237.05 for five (5) resident students attending nonpublic schools. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.

- h. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of a donation from CES PTO of an Otoscope valued at \$200.00 to support the Castleton Elementary School Health Office. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a Retainer Agreement with Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP to provide legal services to the Schodack Central School District at an annual rate of \$8,000.00, (payable in quarterly installments of \$2,000.00) w/a blended hourly rate of \$195.00 for matters outside the retainer, paralegal rate will be \$90.00 per hour, for the 2013-14 school year. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- j. Michael Charsky moved for acknowledgement of a donation from South Schodack Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary in the amount of \$2,000.00 in support of the Sun Lee Memorial Scholarship. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.

Items k-m were voted on separately.

- k. Michael Charsky moved for approval of 2013-14 Final Service Request of Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene BOCES (Questar III) in the initial amount of \$1,492,127.31. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- l. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution nominating Lynne Lenhardt to a two-year term on the NYSSBA Board of Directors commencing January 1, 2014. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- m. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a health services contract with the Enlarged City School District of Troy, New York for the 2012-13 school year in the amount of \$576.11 for one (1) resident student attending nonpublic schools. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
- n. Paul Puccio moved for approval with changes of a lease agreement with Microrganics, for the 2013-14 school year for office and ancillary space use at the Maple Hill Middle School, in lieu of rental payment, Tenant shall provide to Landlord during the Term, various services as agreed upon by the parties from time to time, which shall include, without limitation: (1) workshops and professional development opportunities for Landlord's faculty and students; (ii) educational opportunities for Landlord's faculty and students; (iii) community support related to employment opportunities and training; and (iv) grant-writing assistance; contingent upon execution of contract agreement. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- o. Paul Puccio moved for approval with changes of a lease agreement with Tumulow Energy Ingenuity, for the 2013-14 school year for office and ancillary space use at the Maple Hill

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Middle School, in lieu of rental payment, Tenant shall provide to Landlord during the Term, various services as agreed upon by the parties from time to time, which shall include, without limitation: (1) workshops and professional development opportunities for Landlord's faculty and students; (ii) educational opportunities for Landlord's faculty and students; (iii) community support related to employment opportunities and training; and (iv) grant-writing assistance; contingent upon execution of contract agreement. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.

- p. Michael Charsky moved to adopt a resolution for the appointment of Permanent Chairperson, Chief Election Inspector, and Election Inspectors for the annual district meeting on May 21, 2013. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.

13. Resignations/Appointments:

- a. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of the resignation of Nancy E. Agans, Teaching Assistant, for the purpose of retirement effective June 24, 2013. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of the resignation of Lisa Clevenger, Teaching Assistant, for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2013. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of the resignation of Tracey Roehr, Teaching Assistant, for the purpose of retirement effective June 24, 2013. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Michael Charsky moved for acceptance of the resignation of Nancy Dorr, Teaching Assistant, for the purpose of retirement effective June 24, 2013. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Michael Charsky moved for approval of an unpaid leave of absence for Jennifer Gold, Biology teacher, from September 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a leave of absence for Angela Beber, School Monitor for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Michael Charsky moved for approval of the temporary appointment of Angela Beber, Secretary I, for 6 hours per day at a rate of \$17.74 per hour effective May 13, 2013 through June 30, 2013. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Michael Charsky moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Ryan DeLosa. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.

- i. Michael Charsky moved for approval of non-instructional substitute(s): Mark Vogel. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- 14. Meeting open for public discussion. None.
- 15. Action items. Work on Schodack Model, RFP's, Policies and provide copies of contracts to board members.
- 16. Bruce Romanchak moved to enter executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 8:31 pm, Michael Charsky seconded. All present in favor.
- 17. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Christine DiGiulio moved to adjourn at 9:05 pm. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.