

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."

Present: Michael Hiser, Michael Charsky, Bruce Romanchak, Jeanne Strazza, Victoria Adler, Daniel Grandinetti and Christian Olsen (arrived 7:14).

Absent: Paul Puccio and George Warner

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

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

May 19, 2015

Maple Hill High School Library

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

1. Meeting called to order by President, Michael Hiser at 7:03 p.m.
2. Bruce Romanchak moved to executive Session to discuss contract negotiations, Victoria Adler seconded. All present in favor.
3. Approval of present agenda.
4. Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Approval of minutes of board meetings: April 9, 2015, April 16, 2015, April 21, 2015 and May 7, 2015.
6. Reports / Presentations:
 - a. 2014-15 Educational Technology Specialist update– Tim Ryan
Mr. Horan explained the process the district took to make the decision to bring an Educational Technology Specialist into the district for the 2014-15 school year. Mr. Ryan began by showing the board some of the things he has done this school year with the position. He shared a video demonstrating some advanced technology and asked the board how far off they thought we were from being like the classrooms in the video, some answers were 2 or 5 years, he answered that some of the technology in the video is being used now, Google Docs being one of them. Schodack uses Google Docs and Google Classroom. There was discussion about a committee that has been started bringing districts together to see what they are doing in their schools with technology. Examples of the Educational Technology being used are MOOC, Gamification, Virtual Classroom and Digital Storytelling. He talked about the formation of a committee that developed the Vision of the Technology Plan as well as other committees, groups and conferences that have helped shape technology use in Schodack. He shared about a project he worked on with students in Mrs. Kosinski's classroom using a journal writing app. Mr. Ryan worked with students throughout the year helping them develop and write journals. He shared what he is planning for the position for the next school year such as to continue working in classroom with teachers, continue with professional development to enhance his knowledge, and

present at faculty meetings. There was discussion about his transition from a High school Teacher to working with elementary students. He stated that he enjoyed working with the teachers and students in the elementary school, and that he was impressed with the faculty and how they adapt to sharing equipment and work through roadblocks. Mr. Horan asked him what is the one thing that needs to be addressed to move forward with technology in the classroom. His answer was: Infrastructure, Mr. Ryan stressed that our infrastructure needs to be upgraded.

7. Meeting open for public discussion. None.
8. Board Discussion: There was discussion about the monthly meeting that was held today with architects to discuss the progress of capital project and how the new building may look. Mr. Horan shared some details of the preliminary plan that would bring a very modern look with a lot of glass and steel. The plan still has to be critiqued and finalized with the general contractor and architect. There was discussion about the CES project planning that will begin soon, hopefully before the summer begins. Mr. Chevrier talked about the recent visit from Kwame Alexander, an author who recently received a Newberry Award. He expressed that the collaboration with Questar really opened the door for the visit to take place and thanked them for their help. Mr. Chevrier also shared the sendoff that the elementary school held for retiring custodial work, Chip Lebrecht. Mr. Horan talked about the launching of the boat that was built in the bus garage. Mr Agostinoni shared a news clip from CBS6's – "Personal Best" featuring Kyle Hurysz a high school senior.
9. Policies:
 - a. Code of Conduct – Bruce Romanchak moved for 1st Reading, Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor, moved by consensus to 2nd reading.
10. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Christian Olsen moved for acceptance of the Claims Auditor's report for the month of April 2015. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
 - b. Christian Olsen moved for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2015. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
 - c. Christian Olsen moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2014-2015 students: 000114080 and 000114531. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
 - d. Christian Olsen moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2014-2015 special education services for student(s): 000114767 and 000114755. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
 - e. Christian Olsen moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2015-2016 special education services for students: 000114716, 000114620, 000114717, 000114625, 000114690 and 000114719. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
 - f. Christian Olsen 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 \$205.00 for matters outside the retainer, paralegal rate will be \$90.00 per hour, for the 2015-16 school year. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.

- g. Christian Olsen moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Target Field Trip Grants Project in the amount of \$700.00 in support of field trip costs to the Fireman's Museum.
- h. Christian Olsen moved for approval of an Agreement with Benetech, Inc. for third party administration of employer 403(b) plan effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, for an annual administration fee of \$1,500.00. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- i. Christian Olsen moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Catholic Charities of Rensselaer County – Concerns U in the amount of \$450.00 in support of the 8th grade field trip to Philadelphia, PA. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- j. Christian Olsen moved for approval of a health services contract with Albany City School for the 2014-15 school year, for (5) five district resident students attending non-public schools. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- k. Christian Olsen moved for approval of International Club trip Mainland China, in April 2016. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.

Bruce Romanchak moved to table item l. and m. until after the voting results have been calculated. Jeanne Strazza seconded. All present in favor.

- l. Bruce Romanchak moved for acceptance of a resolution of the 2015-16 School Budget Vote and Election results. Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.
- m. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a Serial Bond Resolution for the purchase of (2) two school buses, pursuant to a voter referendum dated May 19, 2015, in the amount not to exceed \$249,500.00. Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.

11. Appointments / Resignations:

- a. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the tenure appointment of Nathan Porter (certification: Physics 7-12) to the position of Secondary Science Teacher in the tenure area of Secondary Science, effective September 1, 2015. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- b. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the tenure appointment of Alissa Leavitt (certification: Literacy (Grades 5-12), Literacy (Birth – Grade 6), Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Students With Disabilities (Birth – Grade 2), Students with Disabilities (Grade 1-6), Early Childhood Education (birth - Grade 2)) to the position of Elementary Education Teacher in the tenure area of Elementary Education, effective September 1, 2015. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- c. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the tenure appointment of Zenia Skalić (certification: Literacy (Birth – Grade 6, Early Childhood Education (Birth – Grade 2) Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)) in the tenure area of Reading Teacher, effective September 1, 2015. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in

favor.

- d. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the probationary appointment of Craig Hadley, School Bus Driver, at a rate of \$21.13 per hour for 3.75 hours per day, effective May 11, 2015 through January 11, 2016. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- e. Christian Olsen moved for approval of a one year leave of absence for Janice Balogh, .4 FTE Mathematics Teacher for the 2015-16 school year. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- f. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the one year appointment of Janice Balogh as .4 FTE Math Coach for the 2015-16 school year. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- g. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the three year probationary appointment of Renee Egan, (certification: English 7-12) as English Teacher in the tenure area of Secondary English, effective September 1, 2015, salary MA Step 1. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- h. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the following Substitute Teacher(s): Nicole Fuller, Carissa Zungia and Renee Egan. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.
- i. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the following non-instructional substitute(s): Nicole Fuller. Victoria Adler seconded, all present in favor.

Bruce Romanchak moved to adjourn at 8:41 until after the polls close and the vote has been counted. Christian Olsen seconded. All present in favor.

Meeting reconvened at 9:16.

- 12. Meeting open for public discussion. None.
- 13. Action items: None.
- 14. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, President Hiser adjourned the meeting at 9:18.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Reickert

District Clerk