

*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 29, 2008

Maple Hill High School Library

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES - SPECIAL**

Present: Paula Noll, President; Phyllis Weber Scannell, Andrew Fleck, Ricardo Cosgrave, Paul Puccio, Susan Megna, Vice President; George Warner, Seth Hendrick, Beth Nichols Hesse.

Also Present: Doug Hamlin, Superintendent; Sherri Fisher, Director of Business and Support Services; Michael Bennett, MHMS; Jason Chevrier, CES; Donna Watson, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development; Lori Colistra, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Robert Horan, MHHS; Liz Chipman, District Clerk.

1. Meeting called to order by President Noll at 7:10 p.m.
2. Approval of present agenda. Susan Megna moved to approve present agenda with additions and revisions. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
3. Meeting open for public discussion. Parent of children in school district, Castleton Kids parent, distressed that Castleton Kids has to pay for the space used at CES under contingent budget. State law requires that district must charge for use of space under contingent budget. NYSUT available to help district promote budget. Concern that public concern is too little, too late. Intern from NYSERDA disseminated information to board regarding energy saving to district through NYSERDA programs. Free energy benchmarking report available. Parent of middle schoolers spoke in favor of re-vote, spoke to "jamming" of voting machines. Transportation department employee spoke to possible savings: sports team transportation to outlying towns, mechanics greatly needed, mail run reduction, uniforms for custodial staff, eliminating late bus run. Castleton Kids parent, 1 out of 4 children in the school district attends Castleton Kids. Parent offered public relations help to market re-vote. Parent recommended to board that they go to re-vote, and aggressive communication campaign within the community. Parent thanked board for their work, stressed clear communication. Parent reiterated need for clear communication with district, concise information critical. Sherri Fisher explained why increase in state aid is not reflected in smaller increase (capital project, moving expenses, increase in energy costs, special education costs). Parent spoke in favor of re-vote. Parent who has lived in community 13 years, felt blindsided by budget defeat. Former board member spoke, asked board to do what is best for district. Questions about tax rate increases. Resident spoke to % increase in budget, only factor in determining vote. Importance of community members speaking to one another about the budget vote. Resident spoke against going to contingency budget, belief in community in the school and the district. Concern that that feeling has slipped. Communication is critical. Possible that people voted budget down because

they wanted to say no to a lot of different things, and the school budget was the only thing they could say no to. Budget and buses will be re-voted at the same time. No room for movement in contingent budget. Need for clear communication.

#### 4. Reports

- A. 2008-09 Budget. Paula Noll opened board discussion of budget decisions. Doug Hamlin reported on options for the board. Proposed re-vote budget. Contingent budget if second budget is defeated. Program reductions for consideration. George Warner moved to put 2008-09 budget up for re-vote. Paul Puccio seconded. Yes: Paul Puccio, Susan Megna, Phyllis Weber Scannell, Paula Noll, Beth Nichols Hesse, Andrew Fleck, George Warner, Ricardo Cosgrave. No: Seth Hendrick. Discussion. PBIS at MHMS. Student Information System. Andrew Fleck moved to restore Student Information Service back into budget. Paul Puccio seconded. Discussion. Yes: Ricardo Cosgrave, Andrew Fleck, Beth Nichols Hesse, Seth Hendrick, Paul Puccio. No: Phyllis Weber Scannell, Susan Megna, Paula Noll, George Warner. Motion carries. Paul Puccio moved to approve all other proposed cuts. Phyllis Weber Scannell seconded. All present in favor. Sherri Fisher presented revised bus proposal. Mary Mabb spoke to bus costs and digital video camera upgrades for bus. Discussion. Paul Puccio moved to put bus proposition up for re-vote. George Warner seconded. Discussion. All present in favor. Budget re-vote timeline. Communication plan. Members of the community who have experience with PR. Ricardo Cosgrave moved to add second public comment. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- B. Public discussion. Disagreement is healthy. Impact on budget defeat on quality of life. Educating/communicating with all voters. Increasing turnout of "yes" voters. Many voters do not have a continuing investment in school district because their children are no longer in school. Affect of school budget defeat on property values.

#### 5. Consent agenda.

- A. Ricardo Cosgrave moved approval of Independent Contractor agreement with Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Curriculum Designers, Inc. to perform staff development services on June 23, 2008 at a rate of \$4,000 plus \$600 travel expenses to be funded from NYS Teacher Mentor Grant. Andrew Fleck seconded. All present in favor.
- B. Ricardo Cosgrave moved adoption of 2008-09 school district re-vote budget in the amount of \$21,385,989.00 to be presented to voters on June 17, 2008. Andrew Fleck seconded. All present in favor.
- C. Ricardo Cosgrave moved to remove item C. from agenda. George Warner seconded. All present in favor. Item removed. Adoption of 2008-09 school district contingent budget in the amount of \$21,490,693.
- D. Ricardo Cosgrave moved approval of revised 2008-09 Real Property Tax Report Card based on 2008-09 school district budget adopted 5/29/08. Andrew Fleck seconded. All present in favor.
- E. Ricardo Cosgrave moved to approve bus proposition in the amount of \$240,000.00 to be presented to voters on June 17, 2008. Andrew Fleck seconded. All present in favor.

6. Resignations/Appointment
  - a. George Warner moved approval of Rachel Hoffman (certification: Students with Disabilities [Grades 1-6]; Childhood Education [Grades 1-6]) as regular special education substitute (Mikey Dady), effective May 9, 2008. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
  - B. George Warner moved emergency conditional appointment of substitute teachers: Brittany Dibble. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
7. Retirements. None.
8. Board discussion. none.
9. Meeting open for public discussion. PBIS is working.
10. Action items. Communication. Follow up on NYSERDA. Paul Powers.
11. Motion to go into executive session to discuss work history of specific employee, negotiations with SCFA. Phyllis Weber Scannell moved to enter into executive session at 9:50pm. Ricardo Cosgrave seconded. All present in favor.
12. Adjournment. Having no other business before the board, meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth Chipman  
District Clerk