

*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 4, 2009

Maple Hill High School

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES - SPECIAL

PRESENT: Paula Noll, President; Susan Megna, Vice-President; Andrew Fleck; Kenneth Flood; Beth Nichols Hesse; Phyllis Weber Scannell; George Warner

ABSENT: Seth Hendrick; Paul Puccio

ALSO PRESENT: Douglas Hamlin, Superintendent; Jason Chevrier, CES Principal; Michael Bennett, MHMS Principal; Robert Horan, MHHS Principal; Lorraine Colistra, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Donna Watson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Joyce Romanowski, Substitute District Clerk

1. Meeting CALLED TO ORDER by President Noll at 7:06 p.m.
2. APPROVAL OF PRESENT AGENDA. Andrew Fleck moved to approve agenda with additions and revisions. George Warner seconded. All present in favor.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 4/7, 4/21, 4/23. Phyllis Weber Scannell moved to approve minutes of special meetings of April 7 and April 21, 2009 and regular meeting of April 23, 2009. Andrew Fleck seconded. All present in favor.
4. Meeting open for PUBLIC DISCUSSION. Deb Walling thanked Board for approval of recent student trip to China; cultural eye-opener, important to her son.
5. BOARD DISCUSSION (moved to later in meeting)
6. WORKSHOP: PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES - Doug Hamlin outlined two possible Middle School staff schedules for 2009-10. Explained advantages, concerns, consequences, process by which "Options B and D" were determined. Important to maintain: students meet each core class daily; departments 5-8; special education at each level; AIS opportunities each day. Option D adds positions of third 6th grade teacher, library/media specialist, two reading teachers; increases speech and social worker time; eliminates proposed 12-month custodial worker position. Questions, comments, discussion. Option D better than Option B. Expands opportunities of teacher time with students. Restores positions for one year. Difficult decisions over next couple of years. Student

population decline requiring fewer staff may coincide with loss of federal stimulus money.

7. Meeting open for PUBLIC DISCUSSION. George Warner moved to open meeting for community comments. Beth Nichols Hesse seconded. All present in favor.

Dawn Renslow - parent of 6th grade student, uncomfortable with Option B, appreciates that the Board listened to parents' concerns. Teaching assistant Deb Walling - Option D provides consistency, a better plan for 6th graders. Faculty member Ken Malloy - comfortable with Board's direction, Option D provides more contact and continuity to benefit students. Additional questions, comments, discussion. Option D is administrative recommendation. One elementary teaching position and part-time guidance and part-time health positions at middle school will not be restored. Elementary teachers who also have reading certification may be able to fill new reading positions. Susan Megna noted importance of quality reading instruction. Questions, comments.

BOARD AGREED COMFORTABLE WITH OPTION D.

8. CONSENT

- a. Approval of 2009-10 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE. Questions, comments. Highlight that proposed budget and contingency budget are same. Susan Megna moved to approve 2009-10 School District Budget Notice. Phyllis Weber Scannell seconded. All present in favor.

9. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

- a. Approval of Rachel Hoffman as REGULAR SUBSTITUTE TEACHER. Phyllis Weber Scannell moved to approve Rachel Hoffman (certification: Students with Disabilities [Grades 1-6]; Childhood Education [Grades 1-6]) as regular substitute teacher for Andrea Hanna, effective April 8, 2009. Andrew Fleck seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Approval of NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SUBSTITUTES. Phyllis Weber Scannell moved to approve non-instructional substitutes: Max Donnelly. Andrew Fleck seconded. All present in favor.

10. BOARD DISCUSSION. George Warner moved to add Board discussion. Andrew Fleck seconded. All present in favor.

- a. George Warner - drafted resolution to request Questar III to plan collaborative cost savings among QIII and local school districts.
"Resolve that, in response to taxpayer concern over property taxes, coupled with the current economic situation, and the expiration of stimulus monies after the 2011/2012 school year, the Schodack Board of Education is requesting Questar III attend the Board's annual retreat this summer and present preliminary findings of how Questar III and the associated districts can cooperate and collaborate to maintain and improve delivery of education while decreasing the cost of education. These findings should be categorized as

follows: immediate savings, near term (1-2 years), long-term (longer than 2 years). Any needed legislative changes should also be included in the presentation. Follow-up meetings with Questar III and Schodack as well as with the other districts should be scheduled in the Fall and as needed."

Questions, comments, discussion. Resolution/formal request vs. informal request. Retreat vs. regular Board meeting. Message to devote more into initiative.

Doug Hamlin - public statement removes voluntary nature, Jim Baldwin very cooperative and will attend without a formal resolution.

George Warner moved to ADOPT RESOLUTION. Kenneth Flood seconded. All present in favor.

- b. George Warner: thanked all for efforts with budget process
 - c. Susan Megna: students well behaved during Arbor Day speeches
 - d. Andrew Fleck: concern regarding very loud noise from mechanicals in CES cafeteria. Will be added to list of items to be resolved.
 - e. George Warner: feedback from 21st Century Workshop attendees? Information provided at next BOE meeting
 - f. Bob Horan: prom next week preceded by pre-prom accident scene activities
 - g. Jason Chevrier: over 300 visitors at CES Grandparents Day; thanked Bob Horan and Scott Hanrahan for providing HS band; author illustrator; K-1 Read-In sponsored by CES PTO
 - h. Mike Bennett: all welcome to attend first induction into National Junior Honor Society to recognize outstanding achievement on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in MS cafeteria
11. Motion to enter EXECUTIVE SESSION. Phyllis Weber Scannell moved to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation, work history of specific employee at 8:15 p.m. Susan Megna seconded. All present in favor.
12. Motion to return to REGULAR SESSION. George Warner moved to return to regular session at 8:40 p.m. Andrew Fleck seconded. All present in favor.
- a. Motion to APPROVE BOARD PRESIDENT'S REQUEST. Andrew Fleck moved to approve Board of Education President Paula Noll's request for defense and indemnification by the District, pursuant to the Education Law and Public Officers Law. Phyllis Weber Scannell seconded. Aye 6, Nay 0. Paula Noll abstained.
13. ADJOURNMENT. Having no other business before the Board, meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Romanowski

Substitute District Clerk