

*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

**November 1, 2012**

**Maple Hill High School Library**

Present: J. Andrew Fleck, Michael Hiser, Bruce Romanchak, Michael Charsky, Lisa Lafferty, Mary Yurista, Paul Puccio and George Warner (arrived at 6:40)

Absent: Christine DiGiulio

Also Present: Robert M. Horan, Monica Kim, Jason Chevrier, Michael Bennett, Donna Watson, Michele Reickert and Ron Agostinoni (arrived 7:25)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – WORKSHOP**

1. Meeting called to order by President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:37 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Lisa Lafferty moved for approval of present agenda. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
4. Approval of minutes of regular meetings: None.
5. Reports:
  1. **The Science in STEM – What it looks like at Schodack, now and in the future.** Len Bacon and Jef Smith gave hands on demonstrations of some of the equipment used by the various science/biology classes in the high school. Board members were able to see and learn about the equipment from a student aspect. Mr. Smith and Mr. Bacon talked about a class curriculum they have created that better serves the non-regents students. Helping them to enjoy science, labs, and theory. They have seen great results in the students by implementing the class in this way. It teaches Skills and technique first and theory last. It has a competitive edge to it that kids enjoy. Students are using equipment that is used in labs at colleges and forensic science for criminal investigations. They expressed that weaker students became better at labs than their regents counterparts. They expressed an interest in a long term goal of a Regional STEM Academy here at Schodack.
  2. **Student Panel on Distance Learning and Video Conferencing Discussion** – High School Students Abby Fink and Connor Flanagan talked about their personal experiences with the distance learning programs they participate in. Board members asked questions ranging from how the students became exposed to distance learning, how they felt about the lack physical interaction with the teacher, the overall program and what they would like to see done different. Both students felt the program worked well. They felt it not to be impersonal and had positive things to say about the teachers and video classmates. Abby expressed she would like to get together with the other students on occasion

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

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but didn't feel that the video classroom prevented students from interacting and getting to know each other as if they were in the same classroom. Connor also expressed that he felt comfortable with the level of interaction and expressed that he felt it encouraged students to put themselves out there and step out and speak up for themselves.

Bruce Romanchak moved to table **the I-Ready – more than just an assessment tool for K-8 APPR's**. Jason, Donna, Mike, and Ron. High School Library – (25 minutes) presentation to the November 15, 2012 meeting. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.

6. Board Discussion: The board mentioned the completion of an audit by the NYS Comptrollers Office, they expressed that it was not available for the public yet, but that the board has been informed of the result. As soon as it able to be shared, it would be on the website. Monica Kim expressed her appreciation to the staff in the District/Business office for their dedication and their openness to work late to be sure paychecks were done before Hurricane Sandy so if we lost power, the paychecks would still be received. Mr. Horan talked about Incubator Businesses that work side by side with students. Once the business takes off and is sold, the district benefits by a percentage of the profits from the sale of the business. George Warner mentioned a board of advisors that he, Robert Horan and the Mayor of Castleton have been asked to be on involving micro-organics. Paul Puccio talked about information he received at a meeting with a large developer. The information gained was knowledge of what draws developers and what turns them away. He mentioned that the information would be shared with the Town Board in hopes of helping to get businesses into the Schodack District. Mr. Horan expressed concern of continuing a trip planned to NYC on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The board agreed that the condition of NYC at this point is valid concern and agreed that the trip should be postponed or changed. Mr. Agostinoni mentioned that the club would like to change the location to Boston, MA without any penalties from the Bus Company. The board agreed to make a motion:

**Bruce Romanchak moved to approve an amendment to the New York City trip to Boston, Massachusetts if they so choose. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.**

Michael Hiser commented that he felt it was a great presentation from the Science department and that they made a concrete proposal for a STEM Academy. He expressed that he would like to look at it more and talk about it. There was concern about the financing of a STEM Academy and who would the responsibility fall on as well as if the student base is large enough to support both a STEM Academy and another Academy. Mr. Horan expressed that he would like to, with the board, go out and tour different school districts and see what they are doing that is different and working. Paul Puccio commented on the YNN story about the Maple Hill Boys Soccer team having been in the sectionals 18 out of the last 20 years and that it was just remarkable.

7. Meeting open for public discussion: None.
8. Policies:
  - a. Local Wellness Policy for Physical Fitness and Nutrition, Bruce Romanchak moved for approval and adoption. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.

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b. Concussion Policy, moved by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

9. Consent agenda

- a. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of a memorandum of understanding between the Civil Service Employees Association and the Schodack Central School District regarding school bus driver meal reimbursement. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Bell Top Social Committee in the amount of \$100.00 in support of the Roberta K. Daly Literacy Fund. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Bruce Romanchak moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Columbia High School Reading Department in the amount of \$80.00 in support of the Roberta K. Daly Literacy Fund. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of change in assessment, due to Town of Schodack clerical error, for Hannelore R. Mueller for real property located on 329 Schodack Drive, Castleton, NY (210.3-1-8) pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 550 2(c), resulting in 2012-13 property tax refund of \$600.33. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.

10. Resignations/Appointments

- a. Michael Hiser moved for approval of a maternity leave of absence for Jennifer Gold effective January 28, 2013 or the birth of her child whichever comes sooner and to continue through June 21, 2013. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Michael Hiser moved for approval of Kelly Laughlin as regular substitute teacher for Jennifer Kosinski, effective October 2, 2012. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Michael Hiser moved for approval of 2012-13 coach(es) :
  - a. Lucas Ashby – Boys Modified Track & Field. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Michael Hiser moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Denise Prinzo and Joseph Emma. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Michael Hiser moved for approval of Non-Instructional Substitute(s): Jerome Keenan (School Bus Driver); Michelle Epting. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Michael Hiser moved for approval of the six (6) month probationary appointment of Nicole Henderson, Secretary I, for six (6) hours / day, effective November 2, 2012 through May 2, 2012. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Michael Hiser moved for acceptance of the resignation of Angie Francis, Secretary I, effective

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November 10, 2012. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.

- h. Michael Hiser moved for approval of a change in hours for Kerry Warner, Teaching Assistant, from 6 hours/day to 6.5 hours/day effective November 2, 2012. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- 11. Meeting open for public discussion. None.
- 12. Action items. Continue discussion at the Board Retreat on STEM and the possibility of a STEM Academy. Thank you be extended to Jason McCord for his quick turnaround of the district events, sports events etc. to the district website and Facebook. Donna Watson asked if she could comment to express her appreciation to Angie Francis for how well she served the district, how much she will be missed, and how grateful she is for all Angie did while she was here.
- 13. Lisa Lafferty moved to enter executive Session at 9:11 pm to discuss tenure appointment of an individual. Paul Puccio seconded. All Present in favor.
- 14. Andrew Fleck moved to leave Executive session and enter regular session at 9:35 pm. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- 15. Bruce Romanchak moved to approve the tenure appointment of Stacey Rattner (certification: Library Media Specialist) as librarian, effective November 12, 2012. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
- 16. Adjournment. Having no further business before the board, Bruce Romanchak moved to adjourn at 9:37. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.