

*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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Present: Michael Hiser, Michael Charsky, Jeanne Strazza, Victoria Adler, Christian Olsen, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak, George Warner, and Daniel Grandinetti

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

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

**October 2, 2014**

**Maple Hill High School Library**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – WORKSHOP**

1. Meeting called to order by President, Michael Hiser at 6:10 p.m.
2. President Hiser asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Michael Charsky moved for the appointment of Jill Filkins to District Clerk Pro Tem in the absence of the District Clerk for the meeting of October 2, 2014, Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
4. Michael Charsky moved for approval of the present agenda. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
5. Workshop Topics:
  - a. Capital Project - Robert Horan, Monica Kim and Jim Graham  
Mr. Horan talked briefly about the history of the events that led up to the district deciding to look into a capital project. It began with a Merger study which began about 6 months prior to Mr. Horan becoming Superintendent, from that study the district learned that it needed to enhance and maintain for our students. The district then formed a facilities committee to look over the buildings and see what the facilities needs were and then to a program capacity study which showed that it is possible to consolidate buildings and enhance education in the district. Administrators visited numerous schools and colleges to determine what would be best to enhance the education opportunities for Schodack students. The presentation continued with an outline of what the project could mean at each building. The topic of security was discussed and it was expressed that the two buildings will have very similar entrances so the parents will see very little difference between the two. The track was also discussed with two options, one option would be to resurface the track and the second option would be to completely replace the track with a bigger track including a soccer field in the center. Monica Kim explained the tax impact of each resolution.

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

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6. Board Discussion (30 minutes): There was discussion about the debt that will be coming off and the debt for new project and how the changes could affect the taxpayers. The proposed sizes of the nurse's offices, science rooms at the elementary school, and music rooms were discussed.

Bruce Romanchak moved to add another 5 minutes to board discussion so George Warner can say what he is thinking. Daniel Grandinetti seconded. All present in favor.

Mr. Warner spoke against the proposal for a new track and felt it was a disservice to the community. He felt that proposal one should be where the board puts their focus.

7. Meeting open for Public discussion. There was a question about the sewer hookup and if State Education has approved it as a separate project and if it would be aided. Mr. Horan answered that the sewer is calculated into the 20 million project and that State Ed. has approved it to be aided. Michele Rose from Story Place preschool thanked the district for having them at the district and for their hospitality and open welcome. Tim Ryan expressed that the concept is great but there is still concern about classroom space and how the space will be used. He also felt bringing the track and soccer field here is a good idea rather than having separate locations for everything. It was suggested by one of the taxpayers to keep proposition 2 so the taxpayers have a choice. Michael Bennett spoke in support of keeping proposition 2 for the track. He commended the board for their thoroughness he has seen over the years and hoped that they will keep it. Mr. Chevrier expressed that he feels the community needs options and expressed that he feels proposition 2 should go on the ballot. Carol Altwerger expressed her confidence in the board and that even though she doesn't have children in the district anymore, as a taxpayer, she would support the track.

8. Board Discussion: Discussion continued about the proposition for a new track. Dan Grandinetti felt that the upcoming votes are signs of economic growth and he supports keeping the track as a separate proposition. Mr. Warner continued to express that he feels having the new track proposition on the ballot is wrong. He continued by talking about the cuts we have had to make to sports and asked Booster Club to pay for modified sports, but now we want to ask the community to pay for a new track. He further expressed that he would not support the new track and would not stay on the board if they board puts it on the ballot and he would be forced to talk to the public against the track. Paul Puccio asked Mr. Warner that if a majority decision was made by the board, would Mr. Warner actually go out into the public and speak out against the board? He expressed that his comments could be taken as a threat. It was expressed by President Hiser that the discussion was not going in the right direction and that board members need to make personal choices. Mr. Romanchak expressed that the board needs to consider when making their decisions, what is the best way to spend the money. President Hiser talked about the last 5 years and the failing economies we have faced. If proposition 1 is for efficiency how can we then add a proposition for a 1.2 million dollar proposition that is un-aidable on the ballot. He asked if there is an urgency of need for the new track. Could we set aside a reserve over the next few years to do this at a later date? There was discussion about how long the resurfacing would last, the answer given was 8-10 years, it was discussed that a new track would need to be resurfaced in 8-10 years as well.

9. Policies: None

10. Consent agenda:

- a. Paul Puccio moved for approval of a resolution designating the School District as SEQRA Lead Agency for a Capital Improvement Project and adopting a Negative Declaration under SEQRA. George Warner seconded. All present in favor.

- b. Paul Puccio moved for approval of a resolution establishing the scope of the Schodack Central School District Capital Project and scheduling a vote at a regular district meeting. George Warner seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution authorizing the Board of Education to (1) construct additions to and reconstruct various buildings, infrastructure and site work improvements, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus at a maximum cost of \$20,160,000; (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefor, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid received, and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$20,160,000 and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due. George Warner seconded. All present in favor, unanimous.
- d. Michael Charsky moved for approval of a resolution authorizing the Board of Education to: (1) construct a track and feature field at a maximum cost of \$1,185,000; (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid received, and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$1,185,000 and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligation when due. Daniel Grandinetti seconded. After much additional discussion, Michael Charsky, Daniel Grandinetti and Jeanne Strazza voted in favor of the motion; Michael Hiser, Victoria Adler, Christian Olsen, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak and George Warner voted against. Motion Failed.

11. Resignations/Appointments:

- a. Victoria Adler moved for approval of the probationary appointment of Allison Pinto, Teaching Assistant, for 4 hours per day at a rate of \$16.49 per hour. Bruce Romanchak seconded. Michael Charsky abstained, all others present in favor.
- b. Victoria Adler moved for approval of the following substitute teacher(s): Rachel Amento. Bruce Romanchak seconded. Michael Charsky abstained, all others present in favor.

Dan Grandinetti spoke about the voting on item 10 d. expressed that he has never been a part of something that did not allow the public to speak. He is surprised at the outcome.

- 12. Meeting open for public discussion. Paul Puccio spoke to Mr. Grandinetti's comment that the board's obligation is to present things to the public after much consideration of what is good or bad for the community. The board presents things to the public that they believe in. This is not an act of taking away someone's right to speak but an act of doing our due diligence and looking out for the best for students and the community.
- 13. Action items. Work on the numbers and how it will be communicated to the public on October 21, at the first community forum.
- 14. Adjournment. Having no further Business before the board, President Hiser adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.