

*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

October 20, 2011

Maple Hill High School Library

Present: Andrew Fleck, President, Michael Hiser, Vice President, Paul Puccio, Bruce Romanchak, Mary Yurista, George Warner, Lisa Lafferty, Michael Charsky and Christine DiGuilio (arrived at 6:10).

Also present: Robert Horan, Monica Kim, Jason Chevrier, Michael Bennett, Ron Agostinoni, Donna Watson, Michele Reickert, Heather Briggs and Jason McCord.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR

1. Meeting called to order by Board President, J. Andrew Fleck at 6:03 p.m.
2. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of present agenda. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
3. Mary Yurista moved to appoint Michael Charsky as Member of Board of Education (vacancy created by resignation of Kenneth Flood) for a term from October 20, 2011 – May 15, 2012. New Board Member must take Oath of Office. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
4. Oaths of Office – Oaths of Office read aloud, signed and distributed for newly appointed Board Member – Michael Charsky; District Clerk – Michele Reickert and District Treasurer - Heather Briggs.
5. Michael Hiser moved to enter executive session at 6:08 pm. Paul Puccio seconded. All present in favor.
6. Michael Hiser moved to return to regular session at 6:55. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
7. President Andrew Fleck asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
8. Paul Puccio moved for approval of minutes of regular meeting of September 15, 2011. Christine DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
9. Reports:
 - a. Youth 2 Leadership Conference/SADD presentation – Schodack Students
 - i. Jacqueline Hill and 7 students who were involved with the Schodack Castleton Community Partnership ("SCCP") gave a presentation on anti-bullying. SCCP recently lost its

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Grant from the state but students will keep the message going . They believe in an Alcohol/Drug free environment . The seven students who gave the presentation had attended a youth leadership conference in Rhode Island over the summer. They explained how they were affected by the convention and the lasting friendships they gained. A skit was performed which involved students with signs such as: Freak, Nosey, Nerd, Gossip and Stuck Up. After two students talked negative and “gossiped” about each of the other relating to the signs they held, the students holding the signs got up and explained a little about themselves and showed that they were misinterpreted and how what is perceived of them was actually the opposite of what kids thought. The students related their experiences at the conference and how they formed lasting relationships with students from various states, some even keeping in touch with their new friends and looking forward to the next convention where they can see them again and form even more new friendships. There were workshops at the convention teaching against bullying, stereotyping and to not judge a book by its cover. At the convention they are put into “family groups” spending a lot of time with total strangers only to form lasting friendships. The family groups met one to two times a day, “everyone got close and did not judge each other”. Examples of how television and movies make light of alcohol were given: The group was asked to lead at a recent Rensselaer County Youth Summit, they lead a “Power Group” much like the Family Groups from the conference they went to in Rhode Island. A point made by one of the students was “even though a child can’t read, they recognize things like McDonalds, they see the sign, they know what it means” They gave examples of negative influence in television and movies such as ET, when Elliot was at school and ET was back at the house (after they were “connected”) ET was drinking and Elliot was acting drunk at school, the influence there was on a very young audience and the message was that drinking was fun; another example is That 70’s Show and the illegal influences it has in it. There are many shows that have bad messages.

ii. Board Members asked questions and made comments such as: Do you present to Schodack students? Answer: Yes, a presentation was given at CES last year on anti-bullying. Great skit, great job, it’s good to hear positive things. Have you done the skit from tonight for students here yet? No, not yet but we are working on it. Very powerful presentation.

b. Introduction to the Real Property Tax Levy (“Tax Cap”) Law

Beginning of Communication Plan – Monica Kim, Robert Horan and Jason McCord

- i. Robert Horan talked about a recent Board Workshop Meeting to introduce the Board, Administrators and the Public to the Tax Cap and what to expect.
- ii. The information was also shared at a recent Community Budget Advisory Team meeting “CBAT”. It was expressed at the meeting that the public feels the Merger is a done deal. IT IS NOT, a decision has not been made. There are votes that have to take place. There are meeting still to take place and then the study team will go off and create their plan. Steve McLaughlin came to the CBAT meeting and talked about the “Tax Cap”. Where do we go from here and what does the 2% tax cap mean? Most community members think 2% is Tax Rate Cap, it is not. There were invitations to many local community groups to come tonight and hear this presentation. Pre-budget planning is what this is all about and to education the public.

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- iii. We have seen a significant drop in state aid over the past three years and therefore, we are planning for a worst case scenario. Using the current formula from the state, we still have a lot of unknowns. In 2010-11, we had to use reserves and we are expecting to have to use them in 2011-12. We do not have hard figures and nothing is set in stone right now. TRS is still unknown, salaries, stipends and substitute payments are unknown. Paul Puccio commented that we need to supply some sort of cheat sheet to community members so that they understand the various aspects and definitions of this formula we have been given and must use. Another challenge to the district is that tax assessments are continuing to change through court challenges and small claims assessments. When there is a decrease in someone's assessment, it is distributed to the other tax payers in the district. We also need to pay attention over the next couple of months to what the buzz is in the community. We need to pay attention to what the Towns and Counties are doing. Their decisions and what they decide can be taken out on the school district. NYS asks a lot of its schools, there are unfunded costs and pension contributions are the biggest unfunded cost. It is required but we receive no state aid for it. Michael Charsky suggested that one of the slides be modified to exclude the 2007-08 figures, the focus should be on the last three lines, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. Mary Yurista expressed concern that being too transparent could have a negative effect and could change the community's view of teachers. Other board members and Mr. Horan expressed that we want to be transparent and show the community where we are. The 5.69 FTE we will lose with the loss of Educational Jobs Fund money could affect anyone in the district not just teachers. Bruce Romanchak reminded everyone of the Mission, that we must properly education our students and that's why we do what we do. Paul Puccio gave an example of the Middle School technology classes, they are not mandated, but would you take them away, they are beneficial to the students. The Governor had promised mandate relief but since the 2% cap passed, it was dropped.
- iv. Jason McCord gave a presentation about the possibility of using Facebook as a communication tool. He showed various Facebook pages of other schools currently utilizing Facebook and how they look. The Board expressed concerns about the necessity of it being consistently monitored and whether you can remove something once it is posted. The answer to that was Yes. Can commenting be limited? Yes, but that is not what people want, they want to communicate and comment. Bruce Romanchak asked if the school still has daily announcements and if so, could we look into having clubs do announcements during school. Jason McCord asked the board permission to move forward get questions answered and look into the risks. Bruce Romanchak commented that other schools are doing it, they must have had lawyers look into this and discuss the risks, but who is going to run it and monitor it. Jason McCord stated that he was prepared to do it and that he already updates the website so he would post on Facebook and linking people to the story on our website. George Warned added that comments need to be answered immediately as they are posted.

- c. Independent Auditor Report – Marvin & Company by Jim Amel
 - i. Mr. Amel began by going over the summary page of the report. He expressed that with a new Treasurer and new Director of Business and Support Services, they had concern as to how this audit would be. He stated that this was a very clean audit and there were no findings that required reporting. He was concerned about the reduction in the amount of monies being held in reserves, but acknowledged that this was a trend with school districts throughout New York State and not unique to Schodack. He discussed the new reporting requirements in relation to Reserves and also discussed the affect GASB 45 had on the financial statements. GASB 45 is the requirement that schools had to put a dollar value on the Other Post Employment Benefits that it offers its employees. Again, while it is a large number it is not unique to Schodack and all school districts in New York State are facing a huge liability that the state will not allow schools to fund. Paul Puccio asked if they thought there was any training necessities for the staff. Mr. Amel replied no, the knowledge was good, journal entries are being made well and they reached out to us during the year with any questions. We had suggested a spreadsheet and change to the extra classroom activity fund last year and found no concerns this year. Bruce Romanchak thanked the Audit Committee for a good job. Monica Kim stated that the audit report will be posted on the website.
10. Board Discussion: Paul Puccio mentioned the proposed Sports Complex that was talked about at the last Workshop meeting and passed out a two page narrative and a plan for everyone to take for their review. At this point, the parties are looking for support from the Board of Education. Robert Horan stated he would be sending a letter of support as the Superintendent of the school district. Bruce Romanchak felt the Board should support development but also felt it was premature for the Board to write a letter of support since this particular project is so early in the approval process. He also felt the Board should not be tied to any particular project. Robert Horan asked the Board on behalf of Lee Bordick, Interim Superintendent of Ichabod Crane School, if the Board would be willing to have the two Boards get together for meetings outside the Merger meetings for discussions. The Board didn't feel it would be good to the public eye if the two Boards were to meet in private. There is already the perception that the merger is a done deal and the communities might get the wrong impression. If there were going to be a presentation benefitting both districts, like something on the Common Core, and presenting to both Boards at the same time instead of individually that would be acceptable. Michael Charsky felt it would be best to let the Merger Committee Teams do their job and wait for the report from the Study Team.
11. Meeting open for public discussion: Maria Eastwood, representing the Castleton Seniors, spoke about the slide show and that she felt the slides should not be changed and none should be eliminated. It is easier to go with the truth when everything is exposed. It speaks for itself. She also thought the district could save on the budget by sharing in transportation to other schools with other districts instead of everyone sending buses with only a few students on them. She felt a lot of things were advancing: technology and media. Sometimes it is hard to understand the language like Levy issue and Tax issue language. Laura Cook spoke about a slide in the presentation with pie

graphs and expressed that there might be a way to use a slide that Donna Watson used in a presentation she did to help people understand. She spoke about the Facebook presentation and expressed to Jason McCord that she thought there was a way to monitor the posts/comments before they are actually posted and that way monitor what is being posted. She also suggested that starting out without postings might be a good way to begin and avoid malicious posts that can be misinterpreted. She feels the website is becoming passive and parents don't go to it as much. The calendars are not being used, teachers are constantly getting emails asking when things are and they are not using the handbooks for form letters. Linking parents to the website for articles might be a way for parents to start using the website again.

12. Policies:

- a. Reserve Funds – 3rd Reading and Adoption. Paul Puccio moved to adopt policy as written. Lisa Lafferty seconded. Michael Charsky abstained, all others present in favor.

13. Consent agenda:

- a. Christine DiGiulio moved for acceptance of Treasurer's Reports for the months of July, August and September 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Christine DiGiulio moved for acceptance of Revenue and Budget Status Reports for the month of July, August and September 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Christine DiGiulio moved for acceptance of Extra-Classroom Activity Report for the months of July, August and September 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Christine DiGiulio moved for acceptance of Claims Auditor Report for the months of July, August and September 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special Education regarding 2011-2012 students: #000011432, 000114041, 000114039, 000012390, 000012431, 000011231, 082490001, 000011304, 082490001, 000010891, 082490000, 000113438 and 082410000. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2011-2012 special education services for students: 000113758 and 000113824. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Christine DiGiulio moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Concerns U of Rensselaer County in the amount of \$500.00 in support of the class of 2018. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Christine DiGiulio moved for acknowledgement of a donation from Target Take Charge of Education in the amount of \$221.38 in support of the Maple Hill Middle School Student

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Supplemental Account. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

- i. Christine DiGiulio moved for acknowledgement of an anonymous donation in the amount of \$250.00 in support of the Maple Hill Middle School Student Supplemental Account. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- j. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of a Professional Services Retainer Agreement in the amount of \$2,500 with Computer Professionals International (CPI) with services billed in accordance with the following rates: Standard Systems Engineering \$130/hour; Advanced Systems Engineering \$145/hour, Enterprise Systems Engineering \$160/hour and Support Center \$120 hour. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- k. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of contract with SpecEd Solution\$ (Heidi Calhoun) in the amount of \$2,400.00 (\$200.00/month) from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 for preparation, submission and reconciliation of Medicaid Reimbursement claims for eligible students with disabilities. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- l. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of a resolution authorizing Schodack Central School District to participate in the Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective, for purposes of studying opportunities to reduce school district spending by sharing school transportation services, spare buses, and centralizing materials and equipment. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- m. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of Sixth Grade Science textbooks "Diversity of Life" and "Water and the Atmosphere" for implementation during the 2011-12 school year. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- n. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of Seventh and Eighth Grade Science textbooks "Life iScience" and "Physical iScience" for implementation during the 2011-12 school year. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- o. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of change in assessment for William and Georgia McCormick for real property located at 1130 Muitzeskill Rd., Schodack Landing, NY (208-2-2.2) from \$266,000 to \$250,000, pursuant to Small Claims Assessment Review Case 2011-019, resulting in a change in taxes due from \$5,160.40 to \$4,850.00 for 2011-12. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- p. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of change in assessment for Gerard and Elizabeth Seeley for real property located at 10 Johns Lane, Castleton, NY (188.2-3-29.115) from \$245,000 to \$225,000, pursuant to Small Claims Assessment Review Case 2011-08, resulting in a change in taxes due from \$4,753.00 to \$4,365.00 for 2011-12. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- q. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of a resolution accepting the Independent Audit

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Report of the financial statements of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

- r. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of the District Goals for the 2011-12 school year. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- s. Christine DiGiulio moved for approval of the following buses to be declared surplus and to be disposed of by the district in accordance with district policy:

Bus #	Year	Make	Passengers
83	1998	Ford	20
87	2000	Intl	43
88	2000	Intl	64
90	2001	Ford	30
91	2002	Intl	65
92	2002	Intl	65
93	2001	Ford	20
94	2003	Intl	65

Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

14. Resignations/Appointments

- a. Paul Puccio moved for approval of the tenure appointment of David Austin (certification: Health Education; Physical Education) as health and physical education teacher, effective November 3, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Paul Puccio moved for approval of a change in hours for Pamela Seiden, Bus Attendant, from 4.25 hours / day to 5.0 hours / day effective October 21, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Paul Puccio moved for approval of a change in hours for Tracy Sukup, Bus Attendant, from 5.25 hours / day to 5.75 hours / day effective October 21, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- d. Paul Puccio moved for approval of coach/Advisor(s):
- i. Michael Warner – 7th/8th grade Wrestling
 - ii. Jennifer Sober and Rebecca Blais – K-Kids Co-Advisors
 - iii. Doug VanAlstyne – 7th/8th grade Boys Track. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Paul Puccio moved for approval of volunteer assistant coach(es):

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- i. Brandon Lapp – Wrestling. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
 - f. Paul Puccio moved for approval of non instructional substitute(s): Candee Goodall. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
 - g. Paul Puccio moved for approval of substitute teacher(s): Ashley Hoffman, Tamera Tillman and Adrienne Ladd. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
15. Meeting open for public discussion: None.
16. Action items: Have Michael Charsky added to Tech Valley email distribution list, continue with communication plan and set up Doodle Poll with Board Members to attend local community group meetings.
17. Christine DiGiulio moved to enter executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 9:50 pm. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
18. Adjournment: Having no further business before the board,