

Approved at the April 19, 2018 meeting.

Board of Education Agenda - Workshop (Monday, March 5, 2018) Location: Castleton Elementary School
Generated by Michele Reickert on Thursday, March 5, 2018

1. MEETING OPENING

- A. President Olsen called the meeting to Order at 6:00 pm.
- B. President Olsen asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. **Mary Yurista** moved to approve the present agenda, **Michael Tuttle seconded, all present in favor.**

2. REPORTS

Mr. Chevrier expressed that during Board Discussion, he will take the opportunity to address some questions about school security.

1. **Transportation** – Rhonda Greenway spoke to the current staffing at the Transportation Department, an outline of the current bus runs, the miles driven over the 2016=17 school year and shared that the DOT passing rate is 98%. She spoke about the shared Transportation services with Rensselaer City School District. She shared with the board the consideration and opportunities that may be gained through the reconfiguration, as well as a bus replacement proposal for the upcoming school year. Mr. Chevrier shared that the district is talking with other local districts of the possibility to share runs to some out of district runs in hopes of cutting down on the number of district buses on out of district runs.

2. **Facilities** - Matthew LaClair spoke to the square footage of the district buildings and athletic facilities, the staffing of the facilities department and the square feet of space cleaned by custodians each night. He shared the challenges of the department for the upcoming school year, construction challenges with moves and clean up, the needs of the department for the next three school years as well as the accomplishments in the past year.

3. **Special Education** – Michael Bennett shared the roles of the Pupil Personnel Department, the staff that support the needs of the students, the different disabilities of students serviced in district and the percentages by grade. He shared the process the district follows in identifying students with disabilities. How the district supports students by grade groups was discussed from Kindergarten through 12th grade including transition coordination for students graduating. There was discussion about the types of services students receive in district and the services that are received outside the district.

B. **Budget Update** – Jason Chevrier and Brian Carey shared the results of a meeting in February consisting of external auditors, bond counsel, state aid planning and legal counsel to discuss the use of \$250,000 that was intended for debt service fund. From that meeting it was determined that it is not recommended that the district use a debt service fund to offset debt payments. The fund is not intended for using in that capacity and the district does not have the authority to use general fund money that way. There was extensive discussion about the direction the board should take moving forward and how to plan for the future debt from the capital project. A budget update was discussed with a potential gap of (\$163.650). There was discussion of priorities that the district has that contribute to that gap.

Michael Hiser moved to move Public comment to before item C., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Tim Ryan spoke to the amount of information the board has been presented, and that the faculty is behind them, keep up the good work.

C. **Walking Tour of the Building** - Board members were given a tour of the building and discussed the upgrades from the capital project.

3. BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Board Discussion

Mr. Chevrier addressed questions about safety and the amount of glass at the high school. He stressed that the district must be careful about discussing how the district handles school safety in public. He did share that the glass gives a visual if a gunshot is heard, you can see into the hallways. Emergency drills provide training to students and faculty in how to handle an emergency. An assembly was held at the high school, Mr. Bennett spoke of his experience in a school shooting. Mr. Chevrier expressed that it was a powerful message. There was discussion about mental health issues and some of the possibilities of working with the County.

Mr. Romanchak spoke about student expression and how the district can handle. Student walkouts are slated for the near future and the district is working with students to try to come up with school sponsored productive activities to support students while maintaining a viewpoint that is neutral. The district want to encourage student to be advocates but be proactive in dealing with a potential walkout.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** moved above 2. REPORTS C. Walking Tour of the Building

5. **ACTION ITEMS:** None.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

A. **Michael Charsky** moved to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations for Schodack Administrators Association, and to discuss the employment history of two particular employees. **Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.**

B. **Michael Tuttle** moved to Reconvene to Open Session and adjourn the meeting at 9:43 pm, **Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.**