



Thursday, September 19, 2019  
Board of Education MINUTES - Regular Meeting

Approved at the October 17, 2019 meeting.

**Meeting Location:**

Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School Library, 1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, NY 12033

**Meeting Time:**

6:00 pm

Present: Michael Tuttle, Christian Olsen, Michael Hiser, Michael Charsky, Sherri Gibson, Shelley Palmer, Charles Peter, Daniel Grandinetti and Bruce Romanchak

Absent: none

Also Present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Michael Bennett, James Derby, Keri Rosher, Jacqueline Hill, Jodi Sullivan and Michele Reickert

**1. MEETING OPENING**

- A. President Michael Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
- B. President Michael Tuttle asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. Michael Charsky moved for approval of the Present Agenda, Bruce Romanchak seconded, all present in favor.
- D. Christian Olsen moved for approval of the August 8, 2019 meeting minutes, Bruce Romanchak seconded, all present in favor.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Tuttle invited the public to speak.

**Nichole Henderson** - parent of two 4<sup>th</sup> grade students – expressed concern about the class sizes of the current 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Joe Earney** - parent of two 4<sup>th</sup> grade students – expressed concern about the class sizes of the current 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Chris Henderson** - parent of two 4<sup>th</sup> grade students – expressed concern about class sizes of the current 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Sarah Niematelo** – parent of two 4<sup>th</sup> grade students – expressed concern about class sizes of the current 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Rebecca Newell** – new parent to the district – expressed concern about class sizes.

**Thomasina Thomas** – expressed concern about VanHoesen Road Bridge with the barrels on it, and asked if is it a safety issue?

### 3. REPORTS

A. Audit Report – Jim Amell, CPA reported on the audit of the 2018-2019 fiscal year of the General Fund and Extra Classroom activity Fund. There were no significant findings and the district received a Clean Audit.

B. School Resource Officer - Michael Needham and Mark Spain, a School Resource Officer in the Watervliet Police Department shared information on the role and benefits of the School Resource Officer program.

C. Reserve Plan - Brian Carey shared the status of the Fund Balance and Reserve Plan that is on the agenda for approval as item 8. Finance C. Approval of Fund Balance and Reserve Plan.

D. 2019-2020 District Goals - Jason Chevrier shared the proposed district goals for approval on the agenda as item 9. Other Action D. Adoption of District Goals.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Joe Earney** – asked if the district will be responding to the parent questions and expressed appreciation to Jason Chevrier and James Derby and stated that his children love them and thanked Officer Reickert for being at the building every day.

**Melanie Szlenka** – spoke about the School Resource Officer Program, talked about a program offered through Children and Family Services, and expressed her support of the program.

**Sarah Haller** – expressed her support of the School Resource Officer Program and asked how parents can help.

**Kim Frasier** – expressed her support of the School Resource Officer Program.

**Dan Zobre** – spoke about the local Boy Scout Troop and that members of the troop are at this meeting observing.

**Regina Maier** – expressed support for the School Resource Officer Program and asked how she can help.

**Christa Valentine** – expressed support for the School Resource Officer Program.

**Chelsea Cavanagh-Webb** – spoke about the class sizes and asked for a better ratio of students to teachers. She spoke in support of the School Resource Officer Program.

**Eric Leonard** – current member of the State Police (not speaking on behalf of the State Police) spoke in support of the School Resource Officer Program.

### 5. DISTRICT / BUILDING / COMMITTEE UPDATES

#### A. District Updates

- Opening of School – Mr. Chevrier talked about the opening of the school for the 2019-2020 school year and its preparations.
- Enrollment Report – report shared as an attachment

- Grade 4 update – Classrooms are being visited by school administration, social workers, school psychologists and other district support staff and feedback is being collected. Meetings have taken place with the fourth grade teachers.
- Solar Farms – information was shared about solar farms coming into the area and the revenue they could bring.
- Questar III Annual Budget Vote -April 21, 2020 (Morning Meeting - mark calendars)
- Immunization regulation changes – Mr. Chevrier shared the work being done by the district to comply with the new law on immunization exemption.
- Update on K-2 Program – Mr. Bennett shared the success and progress of the new K-2 program at the elementary school.
- MHANYS Teenage Mental Health First Aid Pilot – Mr. Bennett shared about a partnership that has been created with the district on a national project bringing curriculum into the school to be taught to our 10 grade students.
- Curriculum Writing – Work has been done on Mental Health and Science in June and ELA, Social Studies, Music, Physical Education and Health in August.

**B. Building Updates**

- Castleton Elementary School
- Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School

Principals and Assistant Principals shared highlights of events that have taken place and will take place in the buildings as outlined on the attached document.

**C. Committee Updates**

<b>CES Building Planning Committee</b>	<b>Michael Tuttle, Sherri Gibson, and Charles Peter</b>	<b>10/21</b>
<b>Jr/Sr High School Planning Committee</b>	<b>Shelley Palmer and Michael Charsky</b>	<b>9/19</b>
<b>Professional Development Planning Committee</b>	<b>Bruce Romanchak</b>	<b>10/17, 11/21, 1/16, 2/13, 3/19, 4/23, 5/14</b>
<b>Technology Committee</b>	<b>Bruce Romanchak and Sherri Gibson</b>	<b>10/23, 11/20, 12/18, 1/22, 3/25, 4/29, 5/27</b>
<b>NYSSBA Legislative Liaison</b>	<b>Michael Hiser</b>	
<b>Health and Safety / SAVE Committee</b>	<b>Michael Tuttle and Michael Hiser</b>	
<b>Audit Committee</b>	<b>Daniel Grandinetti, Christian Olsen, and Michael Charsky</b>	<b>9/2019, 1/2020 and 6/2020</b>
<b>Policy Committee</b>	<b>Bruce Romanchak, Shelley Palmer and Charles Peter</b>	<b>As changes in policy are necessary.</b>
<b>Building Visitation Committee</b>	<b>All members as a whole</b>	<b>TBD</b>

Board members and Administrators gave updates on the content of the committee meetings that took place since the last board meeting.

**Bruce Romanchak moved to recess the meeting for a short break, Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

**Bruce Romanchak moved to reconvene the meeting, Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

## **6. ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP / BOARD DISCUSSION**

### **A. Action Item Follow-up**

- Tech Vision Committee – work will be done to for a committee.
- Coaches Code of Conduct – the new athletic director will begin working on a Code of Conduct for Coaches.
- Athlete Survey (Exit/End of Season) – survey will be shared with board, it will be utilized at the end of the fall sports season.
- Transportation Review Rensselaer Share in Fall 2019 – a meeting will take place with a retired Transportation Supervisor to look at the transportation share.
- Outcome of the Bus Run changes – will be discussed at a later meeting.

### **B. Board Discussion**

- There was discussion about bringing a STEM Day to CES and the possibility of the PTO helping with the day.
- Additional help in the Business Office as mentioned in the Audit report was discussed, it may be needed soon to comply with segregation of duties and regulations for such.
- The board discussed the class size of 4<sup>th</sup> grade and that they will continue to monitor the sizes and reassess as needed.
- SRO – Additional discussion ensued about the School Resource Officer, **the board held a straw vote by a show of hands (8 in favor, 1 not in favor (Bruce Romanchak))** indicating the Board's support for Mr. Chevrier to pursue discussions and research into the options, including financial impact to the district, for a SRO.
- Board of Education Code of Conduct - board members will be asked to sign, current members now and new members when they take their Oath of Office.
- Waiting time for buses at the elementary school was discussed, new routes have been put in place to help address this.

## **7. POLICY(IES)**

**Bruce Romanchak moved to approve items A. & B., Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

A. Approval of the 2nd Reading and Adoption of Policy(ies)

B. Approval to Rescind Policy(ies)

## **8. FINANCE**

**Bruce Romanchak moved to approve items A. through D., Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

- A. Treasurers Report
- B. Claims Auditor Report
- C. Approval of Fund Balance and Reserve Plan
- D. Approval of Contract(s)

## **9. OTHER ACTION**

**Bruce Romanchak moved to approve items A. through E., Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

- A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Special Education
- B. Authorization of Petty Cash Allotment
- C. Approval of District Wide Safety Plan
- D. Adoption of District Goals
- E. Adoption of Textbook Series

## **10. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS**

**Bruce Romanchak moved to approve items A. through E., Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

- A. Probationary Appointment of Teacher / Athletic Director
- B. Probationary Appointment of Teacher
- C. Appointment of Casual Worker
- D. Approval of Transportation Personnel Hours
- E. Approval of Staffing Actions

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Jessica Colvin** – spoke about the class sizes in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and the discussion that took place around making the decision.

**Christine Fowler** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher, thanked Mr. Chevrier and Mr. LaClair for following up on the shades in the 200 classrooms

**Tim Ryan** – HS Math Teacher & Coach, spoke about busing for sports teams and the timing of the arrival at the other school.

## **12. ACTION ITEMS:**

- Follow up on questions asked by parents of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Questar III Budget Vote doodle poll
- Report on Curriculum
- SRO research and report on the benefits of the program.

### 13. ADJOURNMENT

A. **Bruce Romanchak** moved to adjourn into executive session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation, a disciplinary matter of a particular person and a potential student disciplinary matter, **Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

B. Michael Charsky moved to reconvene to regular session and adjourn the meeting at 11:11 pm., Bruce Romanchak seconded, all present in favor.

Signed:

*Michele Reickert*