



Thursday, November 21, 2019
Board of Education Minutes - Regular Meeting

Approved December 19, 2019

Meeting Location:

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

Meeting Time:

6:00 pm

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

Absent: Charles Peter

Also Present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Jodi Sullivan, Keri Rosher, James Derby, Makaila Maier and Michele Reickert

1. MEETING OPENING

- A. President Michael Tuttle called the meeting to Order at 6:02 pm.
- B. President Michael Tuttle asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. **Michel Hiser moved** for approval of the Present Agenda, **Bruce Romanchak seconded, all present in favor.**
- D. **Christian Olsen moved** to approve the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes, **Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.**
- E. **Michael Charsky moved** to approve the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes, **Christian Olsen seconded, Shelley Palmer abstained, all others present in favor.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Members of the Public May Address the Board

- Tim Ryan presented books that the Schodack Faculty Association will be donating to the District's Libraries in honor of the Board of Education.

3. REPORTS

A. Solar PILOT - William Film, Rensselaer County Department of Taxation

William Film explained tax exemptions offered to solar farms, and how Rensselaer County has handled negotiating an agreement for PILOT payments. There was discussion about the Town's responsibility

and the different options for handling the billing.

B. Castleton Elementary School Building Report

James Derby, Keri Rosher talked about the new initiatives at the elementary school.

ELA Initiative - ELA will be phased in over a four year period using the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Christine Yager shared about the philosophy of the Teachers College Program and the active engagement that the program brings. Jennifer Carlson expressed that the program is fun and kids have a good time with it, Kindergarten through 2nd grade teach the phonics piece and classes have mascots that help kids feel comfortable. Marlene Macri shared about a recent lesson, and expressed that the program lets teachers meet students where they are. Allison Streeter talked about how the 6th grade uses the program and the different ways students are learning from it, as well as the Professional Development that teachers received from one of the writers of the program.

Mental Health Initiative – Lauren Simon-Friedfel talked about the Mental Health Committee and the work that was done by the committee. The committee chose to use the Caring School Community Program. Jamie Colloton expressed that the program aligns with the new ELA program. Jen Sober shared that it is a fun program that can be used across the building teaching life skills and shared that the day starts in each classroom with a morning circle. Tara O’Grady-Day and Jamie Colloton passed around one of their calming bins, that are in each classroom, and shared how they help kids release frustration and reset. The CES pledge has been reintroduced, students and teachers are recognized for displaying characteristics of the caring community and a sub-committee has been created to help faculty and staff.

CES Innovative Learning Lab – Sarah Lant expressed how welcome she has felt in the district and asked everyone to follow the ILL room on Twitter, shared what is happening in the Innovative Learning Lab “ILL” and the different experiments and presentations that students have completed, shared videos of students explaining their projects and talked about how she ties the work in the lab to what they are learning in the classroom.

C. Transportation Report - Rhonda Greenway

Praise was given to the mechanics, drivers and substitutes at the transportation department for their hard work and cooperative attitudes. Efficiencies were created for 2019-20 by changing bus routes, converting the fuel island, and adding additional support in the transportation office in the morning and afternoon. A transportation study is underway to determine if the transportation share is beneficial moving forward.

D. Technology Report - Jim Yox

The department consists of 2 employees, additional support is gained at the buildings through the computer specialists as well as the summer student help. A recent IT Audit was clean with no findings. New devices have been added to the elementary school, the student help desk is up and running, there is IT help in the buildings in the morning and after school. Security has increased as cyber scams have increased against schools, the firewall has been updated, and security tips are shared with users. The department will continue to strengthen and increase security and work through new ED Law 2 regulations.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Members of the Public May Address the Board

None.

5. DISTRICT/BUILDING/COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. District Updates

- Enrollment Report attached for review.
- Mr. Chevrier spoke about a meeting he had with Supervisor Harris to talk about SRO, Solar Farms, potential library space being used at the middle school building, the bridge on VanHoesen Rd., which is really a County issue.
- Conversation has been made with a local BOCES for resources on strategic planning
- A group from the district attended the 5th annual Bob Horan Workforce Readiness Event put on by the Rensselaer County Chamber of Commerce.
- Superintendents have created advocacy partnerships and they will be advocating for more aid.
- The Auditorium work is nearing completion.
- Branding – pictures were shared of the final wildcat mascot symbol, additional work will be done to incorporate CES more.

B. Building Updates

- Castleton Elementary School – 4th grade update, there is no change in 4th grade enrollment from the previous month, attendance is up 1 percentage point and there have been only 2 discipline referrals.
- Maple Hill Jr/Sr High School - The middle school bowling event was successful, it was created years back to replace the dances. Most 7th and 8th grade students don't participate in dancing. There are music concerts coming up and three people will be presenting at the Blue Ribbon Schools conference in Orlando, FL.

C. Committee Reports

CES Building Planning Committee	Michael Tuttle, Sherri Gibson, and Charles Peter	11/12, 12/16, 2/6, 4/28
Jr/Sr High School Planning Committee	Shelley Palmer and Michael Charsky	11/18, 1/16, 2/13, 3/18, 4/23, 5/14
Professional Development Planning Committee	Bruce Romanchak	11/21, 1/16, 2/13, 3/19, 4/23, 5/14
Technology Committee	Bruce Romanchak and Sherri Gibson	11/13, 12/11, 1/15, 3/18, 4/22, 5/20
NYSSBA Legislative Liaison	Michael Hiser	Updates as things change at State Level
Health and Safety / SAVE Committee	Michael Tuttle and Michael Hiser	1/13, 3/30
Audit Committee	Daniel Grandinetti, Christian Olsen, and Michael Charsky	1/2020 and 6/2020
Policy Committee	Bruce Romanchak, Shelley Palmer and Charles Peter	As changes in policy are necessary.
Building Visitation Committee	All members as a whole	TBD

Committee members highlighted on the discussions that took place at meetings since the last board meeting.

6. ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP / BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Action Item Follow-up

- Community group working on SRO
- Transportation study coming shortly.

B. Board Discussion

- Community Group – Suggestion to have the committee look into what a STEM school is and what is needed to really be a STEM school. Mikaila Maier expressed that more attention should be spent on helping kids know what they can do with the classes they are taking. Discussion ensued about the trades and getting students familiar with what is out there.
- Solar farms were discussed more, the board does not want to take on the billing themselves but would like to discuss the percentage split more.

7. POLICIES

A. **Michael Hiser moved** for approval of 1st reading of policy(ies):

- 9000 Personnel Goals
- 9120.1 Conflict of Interest
- 9140.1 Staff Complaints and Grievances
- 9170 Meals and Refreshments at District Sponsored Events and Activities
- 9240 Recruiting and Hiring
- 9320 Drug-Free Workplace
- 9350 Staff Requests for Accommodations Under the American With Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAAA)
- 9500 Compensation and Benefits
- 9620 Child Abuse in an Educational Setting

Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.

8. FINANCE

Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of items A. through P., **Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

- A. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report
- B. Acceptance of the Claims Auditor Report
- C. Acceptance of the Student Activities Report
- D. Donations
- E. Donation to Increase General Fund
- F. Donation to Increase General Fund
- G. Donation to Increase General Fund
- H. Acknowledgement of Corrected Tax Roll
- I. Acknowledgement of Corrected Tax Roll
- J. Acknowledgement of Corrected Tax Roll
- K. Acknowledgement of Corrected Tax Roll
- L. Approval of change in rates
- M. Approval of a Resolution - Creation of Position
- N. Acceptance of Tax Collectors Report
- O. Approval of a Resolution - Close projects and Transfer Unused Funds
- P. Approval of Contract(s)

9. OTHER ACTION

Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of items A. through C., **Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.**

- A. Approval of recommendations of the District Committee on Special Education / Preschool Special Education
- B. Approval of Student Representative to the Board of Education
- C. Approval of Budget Calendar

10. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Christian Olsen moved for approval of items A. through C., **Bruce Romanchak seconded, all present in favor.**

- A. Approval of Staffing Action(s)
- B. Approval of Leave
- C. Approval of employment termination

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Members of the Public May Address the Board

Regina Maier - thanked the board for the upgrades in the Auditorium and stated that kids love it and are thankful too.

Timothy Ryan - talked about the proposed changes to the technology standards at the state level and expressed concern that kids would be learning advanced technology curriculum at young ages, as well as the concern that teachers will need to incorporate coding into their curriculum.

12. ACTION ITEMS – Instructional Technology Update, Community Group topic (Technology Vision), Presentation by Mr. Finney on NearPod, Solar Farm % negotiation

13. ADJOURNMENT

A. Having no further business before the board, President Michael Tuttle adjourned the meeting at 10:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele A. Reickert