



**Thursday, December 19, 2019**  
**Board of Education MINUTES - Regular Meeting**  
**Approved at the January 16, 2020 meeting.**

**Present:** Michael Tuttle, Christian Olsen, Shelley Palmer, Sherri Gibson, Michael Hiser, Michael Charsky, Charles Peter, Bruce Romanchak and Daniel Grandinetti (arrived at 6:15)

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

**Meeting Location:**

Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School Library 1477 South Schodack Road, Castleton, NY

**Meeting Time:**

6:00 pm

**1. MEETING OPENING**

- A. President Michael Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
- B. President Michael Tuttle asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. **Bruce Romanchak moved** for approval of the Present Agenda, **Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.**
- D. **Bruce Romanchak moved** for approval of the minutes of the November 21, 2019 board meeting, **Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. REPORTS**

- A. Questar III – Dr. Gladys Cruz, District Superintendent and Harry Hadjioannou, Deputy Superintendent

Dr. Cruz shared information about the NYS graduation requirements as well as what other states require for graduation, Cybercrime facts and responses to Cyber-Attacks, leadership changes at New York State Education Department, staff changes at Questar III, and Early College High School Grant partnership set to begin in 2021.

Tara Civerolo a 12<sup>th</sup> grade Schodack CSD student shared her experiences in a typical day in a New Visions program, Visual and Performing Arts; she will earn 15 college credits by completing the program.

Bryan Jacobs talked about the admissions process for the program and shared his experiences in the New Visions STEM program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and what his favorite project was so far in the program. He expressed that he will benefit from the real world experiences he has had.

Mr. Hadjioannou talked about the programs Schodack CSD purchases from Questar III, additional services that are available. The modernization project for the Rensselaer Education Center, a three phase project to improve the current facilities; phase I is complete, a video of the progress was shared as well as a brief summary of Schodack CSD's share of the Questar III Administrative Budget.

#### B. Jr/Sr High School Program

Jacqueline Hill expressed that members of the faculty will be presenting on different initiatives taking place in the Jr/Sr High School.

#### **Middle School Math**

Janice Balogh talked about challenges that students face when they transition from one grade level math to the next, how teachers measure the success of students, a new program used to select students to move into an advanced math program and the curriculum development and alignment.

Karen Sweet shared the work that has been done to build curriculum maps and align content at conference days, the co-teaching that has taken place as well as upcoming lessons they will be co-teaching. A sample problem that is given to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to engage students in conversation was shared.

#### **Wellness – Mental Health**

The Wellness committee at the Jr/Sr High School has many members, the focus will be Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC).

Jennifer Delaney, school psychologist, talked about the data that has been reviewed to assess what percentage of students have reached out for help and the different interventions that are used to help students, an Equine Therapy program, sensory items that are available to student and a restorative program that involves community circles giving students a voice and helping resolve conflict between students.

Michelle Stilson, school social worker, talked about the different problems that children bring to school with them and the impact it has on their learning, a program called Word of the Month developed at the Jr/Sr High School assigning a word to each month, teachers work it into their classrooms and students are encouraged to use the words through their day.

Amanda Nebral, sophomore student, talked about a video shared at an assembly on the impact you can have on someone and never know it, how students participate in the Word of the Month program, and that students worked to develop new words to use in the future.

Joe Mastracy, teacher at the Jr/Sr High School, shared his experience with the circle discussion in his classroom and spoke praise to the mental health initiative in the district.

Also discussed were the future goals of the initiative, a plan to connect with the initiative at CES, training and professional development plans.

#### **STEM Institute, Vicarious Visions**

Caitlin Colwell and Nathan Porter shared their experiences at Vicarious Visions a video game design studio in Albany, NY. They participated in business meetings, modified board games, learned how the Studio operates and plans future projects, learned "Gamer Lingo", investigated different game engines,

created a 2D video game, and created curriculum for a course called “Introduction to Video Game Design”.

### **The Titanic Virtual Reality Experience**

Tim Ryan shared his experiences in his second and final year in a program at Globalfoundries. He has created a virtual tour of the Maple Hill Jr/Sr High School. Caitlin Colwell has worked with Mr. Ryan to bring a virtual reality experience of the Titanic into her classroom in a creative writing project. She shared student reactions and comments of their experience with the program.

### **C. Facilities Program – Matthew LaClair**

Matthew LaClair thanked his team for the hard work through the recent storm. He shared the staffing numbers of the facilities department, details of the building sizes, efficiencies created in 2019-2020, projects completed, the projects needed at Castleton Elementary School, Maple Hill Jr/Sr High School, District Office, and the bus garage.

### **D. Budget - Five (5) year projection**

Brian Carey explained the multi-year plan for the district using year to year assumptions for revenues, expenses, and reserves. He shared recommended practices to manage the budget, a multi-year debt outlook, and what projects to include in the next capital project.

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Christine Fowler asked the board to recognize Mike Nyhan who passed away a week ago, he was a valuable member of the SCSB faculty and administration. Tim Ryan expressed that the technology room needs to be upgraded sooner than later.

## **5. DISTRICT/BUILDING/COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **A. District Updates**

- Enrollment Report attached
- Advocacy event January 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm at East Greenbush School District. The group will be advocating for more state aid.
- Transportation Study – meeting scheduled to meet with Rensselaer to go over the findings of the study. A presentation to the board of the findings will be in January 2020.
- Solar Farm Update – The district asked the county if there was room to increase the school district percentage. There was discussion that if the request to increase the district’s percentage was not well received, then the 50% is acceptable.
- Auditorium Update – Project is nearing completion; the size of the soundboard is going to be looked at but the equipment is incredible.

### **B. Building Updates**

- Castleton Elementary School – Fourth Grade has no significant changes, class sizes remain the same, 2 referrals, attendance is good, no concerns. The new logo was unveiled at the Morning Program this morning, Mr. Biehler did a great job rolling it out. It will be unveiled to the Jr/Sr High School tomorrow. Ms. Rosher talked about a mindfulness week for each special area in the building, in art, rocks will be painted for the outdoor entrance area. The district received a grant to help fund the materials. In PE Yoga will be brought in, personal hygiene will be taught.

- Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School – There will be a book donation tree in the library. Thank you for sending Ms. Hill, Mrs. Loszynski and Mrs. Hebert to the Blue Ribbon Conference where they presented on the district’s at risk students.

### C. Committee Updates

CES Building Planning Committee	Michael Tuttle, Sherri Gibson, and Charles Peter	2/6, 4/28
Jr/Sr High School Planning Committee	Shelley Palmer and Michael Charsky	1/16, 2/13, 3/18, 4/23, 5/14
Professional Development Planning Committee	Bruce Romanchak	1/16, 2/13, 3/19, 4/23, 5/14
Technology Committee	Bruce Romanchak and Sherri Gibson	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

No committees met in December.

## 6. ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP/BOARD DISCUSSION

### A. Board Discussion

- The district should put up a Blue Ribbon School sign like what is on the roadside for sports.
- Community Group – Michael Hiser and Michael Charsky, Sherri Gibson and Bruce Romanchak have volunteered to be a part of the planning. Mr. Chevrier will be meeting with Anthony Tabai at Questar for guidance on fiscal planning.

### B. Action Item Follow-up

- SRO Information (Town/County) – The Town Supervisor is working on getting information on costs and other information.
- Transportation Study
- Presentation - Instructional Technology (Mr. Finney, Mr. Ryan, etc.)
- Solar Farm % negotiation
- Community Group
- Schodack Wildcat Foundation was discussed, the district is looking for public interest to serve on the board.

## 7. POLICIES

**Bruce Romanchak moved to approve items A. through B., Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.**

### A. Approval of 2nd Reading and Adoption 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

B. Approval to Rescind Policy(ies):

- 4-308 Meals and Refreshments at District Sponsored Events and Activities
- 7-104 Drug-Free Workplace

**8. FINANCE**

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

- A. Treasurer's Report
- B. Claims Auditor's Report
- C. Approval of Contract(s)
- D. Approval of a Resolution - Reserve Transfer

**9. OTHER ACTION**

**Michael Charsky moved for approval of items A. through C., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.**

- A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Preschool Special Education and Special Education
- B. Approval of a Resolution - Lacrosse Merger
- C. Approval of Revised Budget Calendar

**10. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

**Christian Olsen moved for approval of items A. through C., with the addition of "with appreciation of long service and regrets that she is leaving" to the retirement of Mary Mosher, Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

- A. Approval of Staffing Actions
- B. Approval of Leave
- C. Approval of Extended Term Substitute Teacher

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Giovanni Maruca talked about solar farm projects and offered to come in January and present to the board about the solar projects and what they are about.

**12. ACTION ITEMS:** Look into a road sign for Blue Ribbon School Award, Schodack Wildcat Foundation info to the community, facilities financials looking at 24-25 project, schedule Eden Renewables, update on District Solar.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

A. **Michael Charsky moved** to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent, **Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.**

B. **Michael Charsky moved to reconvene to Open Session and adjourn** the meeting at 10:50 pm, **Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele A. Reickert*

District Clerk