



**Thursday, January 16, 2020
Board of Education Minutes - Regular Meeting**

Approved at the February 13, 2020 Board Meeting

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, Bruce Romanchak, Shelley Palmer, Sherri Gibson, Michael Hiser, Michael Charsky and Charles Peter

Absent: Daniel Grandinetti

Also present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, James Derby, Keri Rosher, Jacqueline Hill, Jodi Sullivan, 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. Bruce Romanchak moved for approval of the present agenda, Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.
- D. Shelley Palmer moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2019 regular meeting, amending the date to reflect the correct date of the meeting, Bruce Romanchak seconded, all present in favor.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

3. REPORTS

A. Pupil Transportation Management Study - David Christopher

Mr. Christopher complimented the transportation department for their hard work and recommended that an improvement could be made by adding a Head Bus Driver position at Rensselaer City School District and have the Transportation Supervisor oversee both locations. There is a driver shortage across the state, recruitment at Rensselaer City School District is important. The share overall is good and could continue. The maintenance share is doing well, the DOT rate at both districts is very good. There was discussion about the use of seatbelts on school buses.



B. 2019-20 Rollover Budget and Program/Department Presentations - Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Administrators and Department Heads

The rollover budget was shared, with many unknowns, assumptions for Employee Retirement System, Teachers Retirement System, BOCES Costs, Health Insurance and other insurances were discussed as well as known and unknown revenues and expenses.

Each building and department shared their highlights, challenges, and priorities with backup documentation shared on BoardDocs explaining their additions/reductions.

There was discussion about preparing two budgets, one to increase sections at CES that would require a super majority vote and another that would be the standard budget, discussion continued about class sizes at Castleton Elementary School.

4. DISTRICT / BUILDING / COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. District Updates

- Enrollment Report attached
- An invite to January 30, 2020 Sustainability of Schools Forum at East Greenbush School District was shared with the board of education.
- Meeting with Amazon took place to talk about partnering with Amazon to benefit our students and community.
- HVCC meeting to discuss Start Up NY took place to be sure we are still designated as a Start Up NY Facility.
- Meeting at CS Arch to present to other Architects about our design here at the Jr/Sr High School.
- Meeting with Jim Graham to talk about a potential future project in 2024-2025.

B. Building Updates

- Castleton Elementary School – Wellness week is taking place with a different wellness focus each day. There are no significant changes in enrollment in the current 4th grade, there were two discipline referrals and attendance is up a bit for the grade.
- Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School – Cabaret was fantastic, there was appreciation from parents, community and students for the performance and for the new lights and audio equipment. Students participated in a Game Show assembly about the dangers of vaping and the incidents involving vaping has decreased. Parents and community members are welcome Tuesday for a presentation on Mental Health First Aid Training. Information on the presentation and to register is on the website.

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

Board members shared discussions that took place at meetings that have taken place since the last Board meeting.

5. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP

A. Board Discussion

- Cabaret was a nice event. There is a need for more headsets for performances.
- Look into making a section in the library for Alumni authors. The alumni authors could donate their books or the public could donate their books to library.
- Display at the Middle School of historical items is nice, everyone should stop over and take a look.

B. Action Item Follow-up

- SRO Information (Town/County) – work in progress
- Presentation - Instructional Technology (Mr. Finney, Mr. Ryan, etc.) – will keep planning
- Community Group – planning meeting is being scheduled.
- Look into a road sign for Blue Ribbon School Award – research has been done, updates will follow.
- Schodack Wildcat Foundation - info to the community – work is still being done on this
- Facilities - financials looking at 24-25 project – today’s meeting discussion was shared in District Updates



- Schedule Eden Renewables – meeting scheduled to discuss financial aspects of solar projects.
- update on District Solar units – The district panels were sold to another company who is maintaining the units. The district is still benefiting from the panels.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

January 28th Narcan training is being offered to the community.

7. FINANCE

Christian Olsen moved to approve items A. through D., Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- B. Acceptance of Claims Auditor's Report
- C. Acceptance of Donation(s)
- D. Approval to declare Surplus

8. OTHER ACTION

Michael Hiser moved to approve items A. through C., Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Preschool Special Education and Special Education
- B. Approval of an Overnight Class Trip
- C. Approval of an Overnight Class Trip

9. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Bruce Romanchak move to approve item A. with the addition of “with appreciation of long service and regrets that she is leaving” to the retirement of Laura K. Christensen, Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Approval of Staffing Actions

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Remove the birthdate from SpecEd documents that are posted to the BoardDocs Agenda.

11. ACTION ITEMS: The cost of 3 point harness seatbelts on school buses, research and share statistics on the safety of students wearing seatbelts, look at 1 million increase on budget, branding ideas, Birthdate removal and follow up with Eden Renewables.



12. ADJOURNMENT

A. Michael Charsky moved to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent Contract Negotiations and a disciplinary matter of a particular person.

B. Michael Hiser moved to reconvene to open session and adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm, Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Reickert
District Clerk