



Thursday, February 13, 2020
Board of Education Minutes - Regular Meeting

Approved at March 19, 2020 board meeting

Meeting Location:

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

Meeting Time:

6:00 pm

Present: Michael Tuttle, Shelley Palmer, Michael Hiser, Christian Olsen, Bruce Romanchak (left at 9:14), Daniel Grandinetti, Michael Charsky, Charles Peter, Sherri Gibson and Makaila Maier, Student Representative

Absent: None

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

1. MEETING OPENING

- A. President Michael Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
- B. President Michael Tuttle asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
 - A moment of silence was held in memory of Steven Soltys, a longtime employee who recently passed away.
- C. **Michael Charsky moved** to approve the present agenda with an amendment of adding executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the performance evaluation of a particular person, **Bruce Romanchak seconded, all present in favor.**
- D. **Bruce Romanchak moved** for approval of the Minutes of the January 16, 2020, Regular Meeting, **Charles Peter seconded, all present in favor.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Members of the Public May Address the Board

Nichole Henderson spoke about continuing concerns she has with the 4th grade's loss of a class section, 4th grade ELA being split between two teachers, availability of grades, and behavior in the classrooms.

Kolby Flach resident and faculty member spoke positively on the branding of the school district, he suggested bringing the alma mater back into sporting events, installing a sidewalk to the middle school to keep kids off South Schodack Road and that the deteriorating tennis courts are difficult to use for community members, physical education classes, and sports.

3. REPORTS

A. Foreign Exchange Student Presentation

Renata Saporova, a student from Kazakhstan, talked about the flex program she is participating in, that allows students to attend one year of school in the United States. She shared information and pictures of the history of her country Kazakhstan and spoke about the differences in education as well as her future plans.

B. 2020-2021 Budget Draft 1

Jason Chevrier talked about the budget draft 1, the results of a survey taken by the Board of Education and Administrative Team prioritizing the proposed budget addition and subtraction sheets, the process followed when adding or removing priorities to the proposed budget, expected state aid as well as explanation on the changes to aid. There was discussion about adding sections to the elementary school, floor plans and estimated costs were reviewed. Tax levy calculations with an estimate of what the tax increase could be for a home valued at \$200,000 if the tax levy increase were to be 9.824% as shown in the presentation. He expressed that there are a lot of unknowns in the budget draft 1. Administration asked for direction from the board for draft 2.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Members of the Public May Address the Board

Lindsay Childrose has a child in Kindergarten and asked for direction of where information could be found at the state level that the district is using for their resources.

Mary Mosher co-president of Schodack Faculty Association asked about where the four section additions in the presentation came from and expressed that it seemed impossible to add 4 sections at CES.

Nicole Henderson talked about the addition of sections at the elementary school and suggested options on prioritizing the budget proposals.

Rebecca Newell parent of a 4th grade student asked that the district consider the concerns of the parents.

5. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP

A. Board Discussion

- Makaila Maier thanked the board for the support they have given her and the opportunity to speak at a recent forum on sustainability of schools.
- Community Group –the district is working on forming a community group to gain more input from the community for budget, and future planning. The group met and is planning additional meeting to plan how to move forward.
- School Resource Officer – the estimate is larger than expected, is there a way to split the SRO with another district. Discussion continued about looking into other options. The board asked administrators to share why they feel the SRO is an important addition to the district.
- 4th Grade class size – the board has been informed positively and is confident in the administrative evaluation of the class sizes and the district is doing a good job with the students.
- There was discussion about what direction to take for draft 2.

(Bruce Romanchak left the meeting 9:14pm)

B. Action Item Follow-up

- SRO Information – discussed in board discussion.
- Look into a road sign for Blue Ribbon School Award – working on mockup signs for 4 approved locations in the community.
- Schodack Wildcat Foundation - information out to the community – the district is searching for people to take over running the foundation.
- Seatbelt harness installation costs - information was sent to board members
- Safety information on the use of seatbelts on school buses included in information sent to board members.
- Eden Renewables follow up will take place at a later meeting.

6. DISTRICT / BUILDING / COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. District Updates

- Enrollment Report attached
- Sustainability of Schools Forum – shared earlier in meeting
- Questar Annual Meeting Invitation – invite shared with the Board and will be emailed again for RSVP
- NASSP - Mental Health Advocacy - Michael Bennett shared about a conference he was able to attend relating to school violence. The group advocates for school districts for support for mental health.

B. Building Updates

- Maple Hill Jr/Sr High School – John Glasheen-Haase, an 8th grade student came in 5th out of 117 students in the capital region spelling bee, he won a spelling bee in our school that moved him to the next level. After break 10th grade will begin training on Youth Mental Health First Aid. Hoops against Hunger game is coming up.
- Castleton Elementary School – The 4th grade enrollment has not changed, referrals are up 6 referrals for 4 students and attendance percentage down last year 94% now 87.2%, a lot of sick students, information on illness prevention has been sent home with students. Students at CES enjoyed a fun day of learning math on Math Mania Day through funding from the PTO, students broke out into groups and played math games while teachers received professional development in math from Gregory Tang Jr. Fundamentals were shared with teachers showing the different ideas that can be implemented in the classroom.

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	2/13, 3/18, 4/23, 5/14
Professional Development Planning Committee	Bruce Romanchak	2/13, 3/19, 4/23, 5/14
Technology Committee	Bruce Romanchak and Sherri Gibson	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	3/30

Audit Committee	Daniel Grandinetti, Christian Olsen, and Michael Charsky	2/2020 & 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
Community Group Committee	Sherry Gibson, Michael Charsky, Michael Hiser and Bruce Romanchak	1/23

Committee members shared the discussions and work that took place at the committee meetings since the last board meeting.

7. FINANCE

Michael Charsky moved for approval of items A. through G. with mention of a typo of an incorrect name in item G. that will be corrected prior to signing, Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Treasurer's Report
- B. Claims Auditor's Report
- C. Student Activity Report
- D. Gifts and Donations
- E. Resolution to Increase General Fund
- F. Approval of an Inter-municipal Agreement
- G. Approval of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

8. OTHER ACTION

Christian Olsen moved for approval of items A. through B., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Preschool Special Education
- B. Approval of a resolution - Nominate candidate to BOCES Board

9. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Michael Hiser moved for approval of items A. through B., Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Approval of Staffing Actions
- B. Approval of Leave of Absence

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Members of the Public May Address the Board

Nicole Henderson talked about the number of Teaching Assistants at the elementary school, the number of referrals in 4th grade, recess losses, options for dealing with class sizes and a Facebook group she started for parents that has 71 members, she expressed that she is able to come to board meetings and speak but others are not.

Dana Brandow spoke about recess losses when her son was in 4th grade, kids go through growing pains and Mrs. Henderson needs to be patient, and expressed that she is part of the Facebook group of 71 parents that Mrs. Henderson mentioned and that not all parents in the group are unhappy.

Tim Ryan talked about the differences in students from when he began teaching and now and asked that the board do what is best for the kids.

11. ACTION ITEMS

Follow up with information requested in public comment, continue SRO dialog, AIS information, science materials (do we have the information).

12. ADJOURNMENT

A. Michael Charsky moved enter executive session at 9:53 pm to discuss the employment history of particular people and the performance evaluation of a particular employee, Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.

B. Michael Charsky moved to reconvene and adjourn the meeting at 10:34 pm, Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.

Respectfully submitted.

Michele A. Reickert

District Clerk