

Jason M. Chevrier
Superintendent
518-732-2297



Michael Tuttle
President
Board of Education

Thursday, October 15, 2020
Board of Education Minutes - Regular Meeting

Minutes are final and were approved at the November 19, 2020, Board Meeting.

Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

Meeting Location: Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School, in-person for Board Members and required staff only. Members of the public can join remotely by clicking on the video button above or by entering the following link in their browser:

<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/onstage/g.php?MTID=eeb7a46946c2099e40b9c1b8a857e0a6f>

Join by telephone:
1-408-418-9388

Event/Access Number: 173 946 1952

Present: Michael Tuttle, Mary Yurista, Michael Hiser, Michael Charsky, Kyle Hurysz, Daniel Grandinetti, Sherri Gibson, Shelley Palmer and Charles Peter

Also present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey and Michele Reickert

1. MEETING OPENING

- A. President Michael Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:19 pm.
- B. President Michael Tuttle asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. **Mary Yurista moved for** approval of the Present Agenda, **Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.**
- D. **Daniel Grandinetti moved for** approval of the minutes of the Regular Meetings of September 10, 2020, and September 24, 2020, with correction (pointed out by Shelley Palmer) to the September 10, 2020 minutes item 12. change Michael Hiser to Michael Tuttle and to September 24, 2020, item 9. B. line 3 to read Birth instead of Girth. **Michael Hiser seconded** with edits, all present in favor.

2. REPORTS

A. Multi-year Fiscal Planning

Brian Carey shared a multi-year plan how the loss of 20% in state aid could affect the district, options for long term planning and the use of reserves, potential programmatic cuts and the impact on students, employees and the community.

B. Report - Reopening Update

Jason Chevrier spoke about a survey to gather feedback about how things are going, and plan to reconvene task forces that helped with planning the reopening over the summer to ask for feedback. There was discussion about remote instruction days and parent concern about lack of student engagement on remote days. The district is looking at options but more engagement with teachers needs to take place before the ideas can be shared at the November 5th workshop. There was discussion about the potential of using the gymnasium at CES for instruction, that comes with challenges, it is not set up for technology, the acoustics are not ideal for teaching and there will be a

cost to do this. Athletics are underway and going well. There is no decision on the winter season yet, it is projected to start at the end of November. If we can do it safely, we will give students the opportunity to participate. A parent meeting was held to talk to parents about the use of masks. The district is in need of substitutes in all areas. There was discussion about the School Report Card and the reporting that is required daily for COVID-19 referrals to doctors and testing that is done. The learning management system is at the tail end of setup. Teachers will have the opportunity to learn it and then it will be rolled out to the community. The recent power outage was a challenge on the two days that school was closed widespread outages made instruction impossible, the district used emergency closing days one districtwide and one just at CES, it became apparent that winter could bring difficulty with remote teaching on snow days.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Members of the Public May Address the Board

Sarah Lant spoke highly about Mrs. Rosher for her support to the remote teachers and students and wanted the board to know how supportive she has been.

Stacy Muscato parent of a 4th grader at CES, she is supportive of parents that have spoken out, she is concerned that the district is now in discussions for change to the plan. She shared ideas for implementing different instruction options, concern that online lesson plans are given by some teachers but not all, and suggested more use of Nearpod.

Isis Sample a parent of a 3rd and 4th grade students currently participating in the full remote option. The district is not meeting NYS standards on specials. Can we share resources with higher education? She would like the remote families were more included. The students in full remote only see their teacher.

4. DISTRICT / BUILDING / COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. District Updates

- Enrollment Report attached
- QIII - Positive COVID Case
Mr. Chevrier talked about a second COVID case of an employee at Questar. The district worked closely with Questar with both
- Utica National Award Letter - Titanium level for school safety excellence, 14th year we have received the award, of 353 eligible schools, we are one of 115 that received this award this year.

B. Building Updates

- Castleton Elementary School – Mr. Derby talked about the hybrid model at CES, there are improvements being worked on. Virtual open house was good, some parents even commented that it would be nice to continue with this. Castleton Kiwanis donated playground equipment for students at CES. He thanked Nurse Brewer for the outstanding work she is doing at CES. The PTO did not hold their Community Fair but did hold a Fun Run event to raise money. Mrs. Rosher shared that the Halloween tradition will not be held this year, but the PTO has a great idea for a virtual event, information will be coming out in the next few days. Parent teacher conferences are coming up, they will take place virtually.
- Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School – Principal Hill spoke about the virtual back to school night, it went well. Seniors are painting their parking spots, something seniors look forward to this. It is a way to celebrate them at the beginning of the year. Picture day was successful, remote kids participated as well. Interim reports were already sent out.

5. ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP / BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Action Item Follow-up

- Committee Advisory Group (Revisit in December 2020)
- Report on Reopening Challenges (November 5, 2020)

B. Board Discussion

- Michael Hiser asked about the comment made by the 4th grade parent that spoke. She expressed that there is no lesson plan on remote days. Mr. Chevrier shared that parents have said their child is done with remote day activities by 11:00 and there is nothing the remainder of the day.
- Mary Yurista spoke about the broad risk students face if they go out house to house for Halloween. She will be closing her door and turning her light off, but parents may still take their kids out. Jason shared that the PTO is going to do something to engage kids hoping to keep the kids safe. If CDC puts out guidance, the district will push that to the community.
- Michael Charsky asked about the supermajority requirement for the budget vote. He expressed that it is something the board needs to think about. The board needs to know what the community appetite is after hearing about the program cuts the district could face. Mary Yurista expressed that we don't know what the impact is to the community in job losses. Shelley Palmer asked if the losses in 2008/09 were at 20%? There was discussion about GAP elimination and that the district never got that back. Charles Peter asked about the savings referenced in the multi-year planning presentation by reorganizing positions after retirements and resignations. Mr. Chevrier shared that responsibilities have been spread out to allow those savings, but ideally the district would like to fill those positions. Mr. Hiser asked for a projection of Kindergarten enrollment.

6. FINANCE

Mary Yurista moved to approve items A. through F., Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
 B. Acceptance of Claims Auditor Report
 C. Acceptance/Acknowledgement of Donation(s)

Schodack Central School District				
Gifts & Donations for Acceptance (Increasing General Fund) at Board Meeting: Date: 10/15/20				
DONOR NAME	DONATION AMOUNT	PURPOSE	CODE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Castleton Kiwanis	Value: \$500	Recess Equipment		Playground Equipment for CES

- D. Approval of Contract(s) and/or Lease(s)

Schodack Central School District				
Contract / Lease Approvals for Board Meeting: Date: 10/15/20				
CONTRACTOR / VENDOR NAME	TERM OF CONTRACT	PURPOSE	RATE/RETAINER	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Hillcrest Academy	2020-2021	Placement Agreement (Day Program)	\$120,874.64 FY 2021 Annual Price	Educational Program for (1) student
TENANT NAME				

- E. Approval of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

Approval of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement (PILOT) between Rensselaer County, the Town of Schodack, the Schodack Central School District and Cedar Hill Solar, LLC.

- F. Approval of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

Approval of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement (PILOT) between Rensselaer County, the Town of Schodack, the Schodack Central School District and White River Solar, LLC.

7. OTHER ACTION

Michael Charsky moved for approval of items A. through C., Kyle Hurysz seconded, all present in favor.

A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Special Education and Preschool Special Education.

B. Approval of a Resolution – SEQRA

Approval of a resolution declaring that the new hot water system installation is a type II action and requires no further review and authorizes the district to enter into contracts associated with the project.

C. Approval of Corrective Action Letter

Approval of the corrective action letter for the 2019-2020 Audit and approval for the President of the Board of Education to sign on behalf of the Board of Education.

8. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

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

A. Appointment of Staffing Action(s):

Schodack Central School District				
Staffing Actions for Board Meeting Date: October 15, 2020				
RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON	COMMENT
Eric Nusbaum	Head Automotive Mechanic	December 31, 2020	Retirement	Has been with District 28+ years
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL APPOINTMENTS	APPONTMENT TYPE	AREA	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE
Sean Connors	Part-time 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	October 2, 2020	CSEA Start Rate
Jenna Ferracane	Part-time 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	October 5, 2020	CSEA Start Rate
Carly Bowe	Part-time 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	October 13, 2020	CSEA Start Rate
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL CHANGE IN APPOINTMENT	CURRENT APPOINTMENT	NEW APPOINTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE
Michael Guarini	Substitute School Bus Attendant	Temporary School Bus Attendant	September 22, 2020	\$16.01 per hour
SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS	SUBSTITUTE AREA			RATE
ADVISOR	ACTIVITY	DURATION	RATE	

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B. Appointment of IT Help and/or Custodial Help:

Approval of Ethan Maier as IT help and/or Custodial help effective October 16, 2020, on an as-needed basis, up to 30 hours per week at a rate of \$11.80 per hour.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Members of the Public May Address the Board

Amy Hirschhoff asked about the idea that is currently being discussed and if teachers are going to be a part of the process or has there already been a decision and teacher will be told what they are going to be expected to do. Mr. Chevrier expressed that nothing has changed since his last conversations with her; teachers will be engaged in discussion and decisions.

Kendra Severance a parent of a 4th grade student. She is thrilled to hear the district is committed to make a change. When can the community expect to hear more and when would the changes take place. Mr. Chevrier shared that there is internal work to be done first, parents will be engaged and the district will hold town hall type meetings to inform families of the intended changes potentially before the November 5th workshop meeting.

Tim Ryan teacher for 34 years and Co-President of the Teacher’s Union. Expressed that the union has been working with the district, the concerns have been heard, a solution is being worked on and everyone is putting their heads together to work through it. Teachers are working hard and putting in work on their own time, there are meetings taking place that people are not aware of. Mr. Ryan applauded Jason, and James and Keri at the elementary school and Jacqui and Mike at the high school everyone is trying everything, there are going to be hiccups, but we are working through them.

Mr. Tuttle expressed that public comment is usually not a back and forth, but there is some great concern so he felt it was necessary to answer some of the comments tonight. Normally members of the public comment and the board takes them into consideration.

10. ACTION ITEMS:

CDC guidance on Halloween and other holidays, information on a Super Majority and the community appetite, financial information on reduction during the last recession, a list of mandated and non-mandated programs, birth rate enrollment growth rate, Robert’s report and exploring options for having a new study done.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A. Having no further business before the board, President Michael Tuttle adjourned the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Reickert
District Clerk