

Jason Chevrier
Superintendent
518-732-2297



Shelley Palmer
President
Board of Education

**Wednesday, August 18, 2021
Board of Education Minutes - Regular Meeting**

Minutes are final and were approved at the September 16, 2021, board meeting.

Meeting Location: Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School Library, 1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, NY 12033

The public can participate by attending in person or view/listen only by using this link:
<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/onstage/g.php?MTID=e096cfbbd714bdecd8ee2811823a0b58a>

A Board member will be joining via videoconference from 400 West 119th Street, Room 12J, New York, NY 10024

Interested parties can attend in person at either location.

To join by telephone:
1-408-418-9388
Access Code: 179 675 2303
Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

Present at 5:00: Shelley Palmer, Tylea Gebbie, Sherri Gibson, Marion Gurdineer-Spar, Mary Yurista and Kurt Maier arrived 5:30

Absent at 5:00: Daniel Grandinetti, Charles Peter and Kyle Hurysz

Also present at 5:00: Jason Chevrier and Brian Carey

Present at 6:02: Shelley Palmer, Tylea Gebbie, Sherri Gibson, Marion Gurdineer-Spar, Mary Yurista, Kurt Maier, Charles Peter and Kyle Hurysz present via video conference.

Absent at 6:02: Daniel Grandinetti

Also present at 6:02: Jason Chevrier, Michael Bennett, Brian Carey, James Derby, Nicole Martin and Michele Reickert

1. MEETING OPENING

- A. President Shelley Palmer called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.
- B. **Mary Yurista moved** to enter executive Session to meet with school attorney for legal guidance, **Sherri Gibson seconded, Shelli Palmer, Sherri Gibson, Marion Gurdineer-Spar, Mary Yurista, and Tylea Gebbie all voted in favor.**

B. **Mary Yurista moved** to reconvene to open session at 6:02 pm., **Sherri Gibson seconded, Shelley Palmer, Sherri Gibson, Marion Gurdineer-Spar, Mary Yurista. Tylea Gebbie and Kurt Maier all voted in favor.**

C. **President Shelley Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.**

D. President Shelley Palmer asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

E. **Mary Yurista moved** for approval of the present agenda. **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in person and via video conference voted in favor.**

F. **Mary Yurista moved** for approval of the minutes of the August 5, 2021, meeting, **Charles Peter seconded, all present in favor.**

2. REPORTS

A. Reopening School September 2021 – Proposed plan presented by Jason Chevrier.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Christine Fowler, SFA Co-President, talked about the planning for the upcoming school year, and the efforts of the district teachers and administration. Teachers worked through multiple changes in the previous year schedules. She explained that a contractual grievance is used for things that effect the welfare or terms of employment of a teacher, and expressed that there were no grievances last year. She praised the combined efforts of employees for the successful year.

Melissa Seeberger, parent of 3 resident students, 1 in private school, shared flu season facts, child deaths from the flu and COVID and expressed she was against kids wearing masks.

Charles Crane, parent, thanked the Superintendent Chevrier, the administration and the BOE and asked that the BOE give weight to the recommendation of the Superintendent, expressed that this is about safety and education of children and he supports the wearing of masks.

Heather Ketzer, parent, referenced studies that indicate mask wearing does not prevent sickness and disease, and expressed that mask wearing prevents speech development and want it to be a parent's choice.

Kyle Keenan, parent, lives on Irish Hill Road, stated masks do nothing, lets get rid of them.

Scott Seeberger, parent, expressed that his children will come to school from day 1 without masks and expressed that there needs to be a back up plan. If a parent wants their kids to wear a mask, please do.

Mark Donohue, parent, lives in Strawberry Fields, talked about effectiveness of masks, and suggested a P6000 mask with two filters, wont bother the kids, comfortable.

Lou Rosato, parent, spoke in favor of kids wearing masks; taught last year wearing a mask, disn't get COVID, also didn't get the stomach bug, flu, cold, not a single illness, encouraged people to watch the local news, large news sources for US.

4. DISTRICT UPDATE

A. District Updates

- Seymour Fox donation to Regional Food Bank – Brian Carey explained that the money goes directly to the Regional Food Bank to be used for the Backpack program at Schodack CSD.

5. ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP / BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Action Item Follow-up: **Action items will be discussed at a later meeting.**

- Enrollment Study
- Debt retirement
- Gymnasium Roof
- The plot of land by CES and researching of the title
- Look at the voting process at board meetings

B. Board Discussion

Kurt Maier spoke about a Duke University study using the 3 w's, wear mask, wait 6 feet and wash hands. Supported more discussion.

Kyle Hurysz – after reviewing information, recommendations from attorney, insurance company, school physician and risk management team, it is difficult to come to a different conclusion. Under recommendations, school would be similar to what it used to be.

Mary Spar – can see both sides, would like to see a happy medium, people go out and live lives, why is there a different set of rules for school? If we come back with masks, why do kids have to wear them all day, restaurants don't require them sitting at a table. She is hopeful for compromises and deeper discussions.

Charles Peter – likely new governor is going to do something and it will be a moot point for the community, has mixed emotions, spoke about personal experience with child's hindrance from mask.

Sherri Gibson – Sees both sides, need to take into account everyone's perspective teachers and the community, would like to see flexibility to adjust with data and numbers.

Tylea Gebbie - Fluid, Psychologist by career, would like to see as close to normal experience for students, moving between classes, no cohorts, sports, more kids in classrooms, monitor and relax if we can.

Mary Yurista – numbers tell us what we need to do, high infection rate, do more. There is the Delta Variant, and another one behind it, we need to watch, zipcode zoning will help.

Shelley Palmer – Could be a moot point next week, hopeful that the tone will be different, use the date in our towns, communities and adjust. Important for all kids to be in school as many days as possible. Keep kids home when sick, protect those around us.

6. FINANCE

Mary Yurista moved to approve 6. A. through C., **Sherri Gibson** seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Approval of a revised contract with Top Form, Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year.
- B. Approval to Declare Surplus items on the attached list and dispose of in accordance with district policy.
- C. Approval of a resolution acknowledging a donation and increasing general fund:

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Education of the Schodack Central School District No. 1, Towns of Schodack and Stuyvesant, Counties of Rensselaer and Columbia, State of New York:

WHEREAS, The Gelatt/Mackay Families made a donation in the amount of \$400.00 to assist in the costs for Castleton Elementary School Physical Education Department and High School Cross Country Track Program; AND

WHEREAS, Section 1718 of the Education Law provides that no school board shall incur a district liability in excess of the amount appropriated by a district meeting unless the board is specially authorized by law to incur such liability; AND

WHEREAS, Section 2023 of Education Law provides for exceptions to the general rule of Section 1718 of certain ordinary contingent expenses, including expenses offset by gifts and donations; AND NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Schodack Central School District hereby authorizes and directs the District Treasurer to increase the General Fund budget Account A2110 450 10 1800 by \$200.00 to assist in the costs of the Castleton Elementary School Physical Education Department and Account A2110 450 30 1800 by \$200.00 to assist in the costs associated with the Maple Hill Cross Country Track Program and offset by a \$400.00 donation from The Galatt/Mackay families.

7. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Mary Yurista moved to approve items 7 A. through B., Tylea Gebbie seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Approval of Staffing Actions

Schodack Central School District				
Staffing Actions for Board Meeting Date: August 18, 2021				
RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON	COMMENT
Andrea Califano	Teaching Assistant	August 10, 2021	Resignation	
Lorraine M. Warner	Spanish Teacher	September 1, 2021	Resignation	
Bryce Bachus	Technology Teacher	August 2, 2021	Resignation	
Augustine Greco	School Bus Driver	August 2, 2021	Resignation	

Nancy Dorr	Teaching Assistant	August 9, 2021	Resignation	
Hanna Martin	Teaching Assistant 4 hours per day	August 31, 2021	Resignation	Appointed as 6 hour Teaching Assistant effective 9/1/2021
Sandra Benoit	Teaching Assistant 4 hours per day	August 31, 2021	Resignation	Appointed as 6 hour Teaching Assistant effective 9/1/2021
Emilia Matacchiero	Teaching Assistant	June 18, 2021	Resignation	
David Lee	Teaching Assistant	August 16, 2021	Resignation	
Destiny Lebrecht	Teaching Assistant	August 31, 2021	Resignation	
Maureen Squier	Library Media Specialist	August 13, 2021	Resignation	
Crystal Martin	Elementary Education Teacher	August 30, 2021	Resignation	
APPOINTMENTS	APPONTMENT TYPE	AREA	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE
Hanna Martin	4 year probationary term	Teaching Assistant	September 1, 2021	CSEA Contract Rate
Sandra Benoit	4 year probationary term	Teaching Assistant	September 1, 2021	CSEA Contract Rate
SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS	SUBSTITUTE AREA			RATE
Samantha Siciliano	Teacher			Rate set at July 6, 2021 Organizational Meeting
Danielle Kush	Teacher			Rate set at July 6, 2021 Organizational Meeting
Augustine Greco	School Bus Driver			Rate set at July 6, 2021 Organizational Meeting
Emilia Matacchiero	Teacher and Teaching Assistant			Rate set at July 6, 2021 Organizational Meeting
Brett Lauterbach	Extended Term Substitute Teacher for			Rate set at July 6, 2021

	Danielle Griner for the 2021-2022 school year.			Organizational Meeting
ADVISOR/COACH	ACTIVITY/SPORT	DURATION	RATE	
Jamie Colloton	Girls Modified Soccer Coach	2021-2022 season	Stipend in accordance with Appendix C	
Melissa Seeberger	Girls JV Basketball Coach	2021-2022 season	Stipend in accordance with Appendix C	

B. Motion to approve a (4) four-year probationary appointment of Christopher Schichtl, (certification: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)), commencing on September 1, 2021, as Elementary Education Teacher, in the tenure area of Elementary Education, at a salary of MA Step 1, provided that, except to the extent required by law, in order to be granted tenure, he shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law §3012-c or §3012-d of either effective or highly effective in at least 3 of the 4 preceding years, and if he receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, he shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Ketzer – parent, harming children’s development, speech affected, therapy needed. Where does this end, relying on DOH and the State. Masks are disgusting. Considering pulling his kids out of this school.

Mike Tuttle - not a whole lot of choice when there are mandates, what is going to allow you to keep as many kids in school as possible, that is what you need to do.

Heather Donohue – working under assumption that masks do no harm, no studies out there that can provide that information. Need to come to an agreement, at desks, no masks, let them see their peers and teachers.

Kendra Severance – disagrees with the district following any NYS recommendations; asked district and BOE to question data, shared hindrances caused by masks, no studies concluding masks benefit students, look at the numbers.

Jessica Colvin – parent, 6 children with different personalities and needs, no one has the right answer or numbers, we have to do what is best for us, while caring for all students and families, allow kids to do as much as they can with as little restrictions as possible. Washing hands with soap and water is important, hand sanitizer is a convenience, need to wash hands too. Most effective way to learn in in front of a teacher in a classroom, but emotional and social wellbeing needs to be looked at weigh risk and benefit, more risk masking kids in regards to emotional and social development, need to allow immune systems to build in kids.

Charles Crane – asked for clarification on the different quarantines based on mask wearing and non-mask wearing. Vaccinated and non-vaccinated, is that coming from the County? Is there anywhere in the plan for mask break extensions?

Jason Chevrier explained that the Rensselaer County is working with districts on the quarantining, and on mask breaks, deferring to see what happens, guidance was given over the summer on mask breaks in classrooms when seated and social distanced, no cases over the summer, will take that into consideration.

Melissa Seeberger – if masks are required, are there going to be given breaks, some teacher don't give breaks, how is that fair to a student sitting in a class for 90 minutes with no break.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION

Marion Gurdineer-Spar – more fluid, feels there should be ongoing conversation, keep an open mind and compromise.

Mary Yurista – looking at mitigation, stimulus is going to be used towards mental health, and professionals to help with students, aware there are problems.

Charles Peter – appreciates the job Administration and Jason have done, district did best job it could in extraordinary circumstances and is still working things out. Fluid is the term to use.

10. ACTION ITEMS: Threshold ideas and numbers for enrollment last year, remote, homeschool and private school.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A. **Mary Yurista moved** to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm., **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Reichert
District Clerk