

Jason Chevrier  
Superintendent  
518-732-2297



Shelley Palmer  
President  
Board of Education

**Thursday, September 15, 2022**

**Board of Education - Regular Meeting**

**Minutes are final and were approved at the October 20, 2022, meeting.**

Meeting Location: Members of the public wishing to participate can attend in person in Room 310 of the District Office Building (former Middle School) 1477 South Schodack Road, Castleton, NY 12033.

The public can listen and view by using the following information:

<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/j.php?MTID=m39bf197dfa72ec4d095e80ebd217ede3>

To join by telephone:

1-646-992-2010

Access Code: 2342 117 7275

Password: SCSD (7273)

A Board Member attended virtually from the following location: 303 Lexington Ave, New York City

Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

**Present: Shelley Palmer (virtually), Mary Yurista, Tylea Gebbie, Sherri Givson, Marion Spar, Angela Beber, Kurt Maier, and Ashley Palmer (arrived at 6:21 pm)**

**Absent: Daniel Grandinetti**

**Also Present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Jacqueline Hill, James Derby, Nicole Martin, Hillary Brochu, Jason Breh and Michele Reickert**

**1. MEETING OPENING**

A. Vice President, Mary Yurista called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

B. Vice President, Mary Yurista asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. **Marion Spar moved** for approval of the Present Agenda, **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

D. **Sherri Gibson moved** to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2022, and August 4, 2022, meetings, **Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.**

**2. REPORTS**

A. Reserve Fund Plan

Brian Carey explained the plan for the reserve funds, transfers from general fund into specific funds and transfers within the reserves.

## B. Superintendent Report: Opening Days of School

Jason Chevrier talked about the professional development that took place over the summer, outside school districts joined in the workshops, new employee orientation took place August 24th, Superintendent Conference Days, September 1<sup>st</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup> and kids came back on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Transportation Department does a great job, it takes time to adjust to new routes, loading up at the elementary school takes time so things get delayed, it can affect sports teams and delay their departure to away games, drop off and pick up is always challenging. Mr. Derby spoke about the start of school at the elementary school, transportation has smoothed out at the school, events are coming back to the building, new furniture has started to get delivered some is still on the way kids are excited. Mr. Breh talked about the high school and thanked the building and grounds for their hard work, talked about grade level assemblies and committees that have been formed, he spoke about connections student and kids are forming, the plan for senior privileges and grade level plans, planning is underway for events including fall sports weekend, and upcoming dances. Mr. Chevrier talked about COVID protocols, if you have COVID isolate for 5 days and then mask for 5 more, no contact tracing required this year, if you are symptomatic and not feeling well, we ask that you stay home from school.

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Marion Spar moved to extend public comment to 30 minutes, Angie Beber seconded, all present in favor.**

**Melissa Seeberger** – talked about student dress code it is very vague, a student was dress coded for inappropriate attire, daughter wears the same clothes yet hasn't been, what is the dress code, it needs to be in writing, there is no guideline and it needs to be portrayed to the parent as well, feels daughter is appropriate when she leaves the house, are boys getting dress coded like the girls? A girl was asked to remove a clip from her hair because it could be used as a weapon, we are a small country, rural school and she was taken back by that.

**Isabella Seeberger** – Senior at Maple Hill, do any of you know how hard it is to be a girl in today's society? If parents think something inappropriate she changes it. Been going to school with most of these boys for 13 years, never have they objectified or made her uncomfortable about what she is wearing, no problem with the boys, it seems the problem is coming from people with power, she and friends are being sexualized, shouldn't be talked to about body or clothing without a parent present.

**Sarah Haller** – 6 kids in district, last two are seniors, it was presented it was a great first day of school but the senior class did not they were disappointed, first time ever hearing the term blue ribbon prison, sad to hear, supposed to be a great day. Breakfast allowed through advisory for years, look at last year, how many kids receive breakfast through advisory, it is cut off at 7:40, some families don't have food, some kids may only get two meals a day at school, requesting that the board look at last year what was served through advisory. Sports study hall rules changed, advisory rules have changed keeping hallways making sure they aren't socializing. These are things we should be allowing, this is a small school and they are going into big colleges, a big jump, should be happy for hallways being full of kids talking and communicating and socializing and taking 10 minutes to have a hot breakfast. Teachers are overworked, but 10 or 20 minutes for our kids to learn social skills. A lot of change, kids were told before parents, parents are usually in the loop. Sat on committee when school was redesigned, safety

was discussed, couches were discussed, and it is safe. Atrium is one of kids favorite places, taken away, kids told they are “in the line of fire”, if that is a concern, she is a big supporter of an SRO.

**Ethan Maier** – Senior at Maple Hill, was last 7<sup>th</sup> grade class to leave the middle school, were told 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade would be separated at the junior senior high school but they have become one, is there a policy change or is this going to be resolved, are we going to be treated more as giving senior high students more rights and have a more middle school environment for the junior high students?

**Michelle Delavecchia** – has a junior in the school, kids came back for a normal school year and they were excited, second day son says drop me off at prison, is this based of what others have done in other years, are they being blamed for things they didn't do. There has been talk about active shooters, why? If there's a safety concern within the building address it, don't scare kids. A Capital project, tax payers, students, everybody agreed upon, none of what Mr. Horan envisioned is happening. A news article from June 22, 2016, about the 20.1 million project was read, she referenced Mr. Horan's words from article...bring more spaces for student to collaborate in groups, want to get away from a correctional facility feel, ironically vast majority of students feel this. Spaces were designed for kids to come together, make memories and make experiences and have fun. We talk about mental health, and beat kids down the first day of school and make them feel like criminals, they have no fun. Kids fear if they're late for sports study hall they won't play. We allow them to drive and do things as semi young adults but don't allow them to stop to see a teacher. We don't want cellphones distracting classrooms, but communication with parents, shouldn't be a problem during advisory, lunch or a study hall. Don't understand where strong holds come from, it's not Schodack, this is family and a community. Talk to the kids, stop listening to what the adults think should happen.

**April Ziegler** – she attends sporting events, talks with kids, parents and the community, it is quite clear that these kids are not trusted, they don't feel trusted, we are supposed to be getting these children ready as young adults, to go out in the world, don't need to control every little thing they do, they should be getting more freedom even if it is freedom to mess up once in a while. They are being punished, privileges taken away for no reason. We know there are problem kids, we know who they are, take care of the problem kids, kids are depressed and angry. Loves this school, raised a family here, can this all go away, and if there is a problem then reevaluate. If windows are a risk where kids hang out put a coating on the window kids can see out and somebody can't see in.

**Dan Zobre** – Coming off bad experience in education students have lost learning, encourages the board to push benchmark early and get help for kids, school is doing a good job keeping taxes low, there has been talk about security tonight, if there are questions about security, go public about it help everyone understand.

**Jon Reickert** – three boys in the school, not prepared to speak, police officer in this town for shy of a quarter of a century, has been a part of numerous conversations about school safety and the fine line between creating a fun save environment vs. all things necessary to keep things safe. Do we want a school or a prison, junior came home and described school as a prison, rules put in place to punish them for something they are unaware of or were not part of. This district is usually good at communication, but there was a lack of communication on this, kids were blindsided. Spent a lot of time in the schools in the mornings, it had a good feel with kids hanging out in the lobby talking and laughing instead of being on their phones. Difficult to see those things reeled back in, if there are issues, address the ones creating those issues instead of everyone as a whole. Kids feel singled out. We teach our children give respect, if someone gives you a reason to lose that so be it, but if you give respect you get it. I hope

things will be reconsidered and student be consulted on these as well. There needs to be a balance. Offered his time for any safety discu

**Christine Fowler** – teaches 7<sup>th</sup> grade English, welcomed Mr. Breh, found him to be very approachable, encouraged those that spoke at the meeting to meet personally with Mr. Breh, teachers understand that there is not always time to socialize during school, but keeping that in mind, some of the breakout spaces have not been used appropriately, mainly as tiktok studios and a place to take a nap. It would be great for the breakout areas to be use for researching and collaborating but that doesn't happen, monitor found 9 girls in the bathroom, difficult to have conversations with what is going on in the bathroom. on the other side of the wall, those kind of things need to be addressed so everyone that needs to use the bathroom can feel safe. Schools play a role in socialization but also in what comes after. Spending 80 or 160 minutes on YouTube, or making tiktok videos you will not be ready. Study Halls can be filled with one of the many electives the school offers.

**Sherri Gibson moved to extend public session, Tylea Gebbie seconded, all present in favor.**

**Amy Hirschhoff** – two in district and teaches at the elementary school. What parents and kids feel is real and encouraged kids to express themselves and the people there do care about them. Son was a Junior when COVID hit, did we allow too many concessions to make up for COVID restrictions, kids are going to take advantage of freedoms, it is easier to make it tight and then lessen restrictions. The dress code, kids all wear the same thing, if there is going to be discipline then be consistent. All hope is not lost, we are a caring district, maybe something can change. Privileges are not an entitlement, they are earned.

Jason Chevrier thanked everyone for coming and expressing themselves. It is the job of the board and administration to listen and work on a plan moving forward.

#### **4. DISTRICT / BUILDING**

##### **A. District Updates**

- Capital Project Update  
Moving forward with planning and cost estimates and on track, not a lot to update.
- Student Rep to BOE  
There are a few interested seniors, the student body will be voting on that. Hope to have
- UPK  
Visits have been made to the classrooms, things are going well, great to see the kids.
- MTSS Coordinator  
Unsuccessful at finding a successful candidate, looking at the background to make it quasi administrative role with different certification, teacher or administrator, two year grant funded position.
- Seesaw  
Made national news our text to parents was on the new, but we did not have any problems wit, Seesaw messages got hacked in the parent app and inappropriate content was sent to users.
- eSports/Clay Traps  
eSports will be starting up with the game Rocket league playing other schools competing with other schools for a championship later in the season.  
Clay Traps is moving a little slow, we have met with fish and game club things are just moving along slow.

- Enrollment report attached for review.

## B. Building Updates

- Castleton Elementary School  
Great to have all kindergarten at once, Community Fair on October 1, 2022, PTO is looking for volunteers.
- Maple Hill Jr/Sr High School  
Back to school next Wednesday at 6:00, College financial aid night has been changed  
Homecoming during fall sports weekend, more plans on the bonfire, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance will be outside again, kids enjoyed it.

## 5. ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP / BOARD DISCUSSION

### A. Action Item Follow-up

- Enrollment Study  
Received a request for additional information, expect a week or so to get a preliminary report for a report to the Board in October.
- Committee report outs add to agenda next month
- Metrics for Summer Academy will be reported on in October
- Metrics for Professional Development will be reported on in October
- Community Engagement Group will start planning for that, creating a timeline and figuring out what we want to do.
- SRO follow up Jason has reached out to Captain Pyle with the Rensselaer County Sheriff, we are not committing, we are looking at options, Schodack may still be an option. Discussion ensued about SRO options and if there was another avenue to obtain an SRO? Mr. Chevrier expressed that a partnership with the local police department makes sense and that we were close to having an agreement, but then COVID hit and it didn't happen.
- ILL Room presentation will be working a getting that scheduled.

### B. Board Discussion

- BOE Priorities 2022-2023 (Draft) a draft was shared, are there any changes they will be on the next agenda for approval and an action plan will be worked on and shared at a later meeting.
- NYSSBA Advocacy Liaison – Angela Beber expressed interest in attending the Annual Business meeting and be a voting delegate for the BOE.

**Marion Spar moved to appoint Angela Beber as the voting delegate/NYSSBA Advocacy Liaison, Kurt Maier seconded, Angela Beber abstained, all other present were in favor.**

- Board would like to see a written copy of the policy changes at the high school. How was it communicated to the students?
- Kurt talked more about Clay trap club and that it has support from the community and that there are schools that have the program that will share information to speed up the process.
- Can a visit be scheduled to Universal PreK for board?
- Building tours will begin again, logistics will need to be worked out with livestream.

## 6. POLICIES

**Tylea Gebbie moved for approval of items 6. A. and 6. B., Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor, Policy 4851 moved by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.**

A. Motion to rescind the following policies:

2-102 - The Role of the BOE in the Development and Attainment of Educational Outcomes

3-150 - Whistleblower Protection

3-210 - Liability Insurance for Users of District's Facilities

3-220 - Automated External Defibrillators

3-301 - Disposal of Consumer Report Information and Records

3-303 - Employee Personal Identifying Information

4-102 - Local Tax Levy

4-214 - Non-Sufficient Funds Checks

4-402/4-440 - HIPPA Compliance Policies and Procedures for Self-Insured Group Health Plans

6-106 - Possession of Firearms in School

7-110 - Employees with AIDS and HIV-Related Illness

7-201 - Fingerprinting Policy

7-206 - Credit for Previous Experience

7-208 - Reports and Recommendations for Teacher Tenure

7-210 - District Employee Pay Schedules for Management Confidential Employees

7-212 - Release for Volunteer Emergency Personnel

7-214 - Professional Staff Termination of Employment

7-216 - Policy on Substitute Teachers

B. Motion to approve the 1st reading of the following policies:

4851 Therapy and Emotional Support Animals in Schools

## 7. FINANCE

**Sherri Gibson moved to approve items 7. A. through 7. E., Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.**

A. Approval of Donation(s)

Schodack Central School District				
Gifts & Donations for Acceptance (Increasing General Fund) at Board Meeting				
Date:				
DONOR NAME	DONATION AMOUNT	PURPOSE	CODE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Schodack Central School District				

<b>Gifts &amp; Donations to be Acknowledged (TA &amp; TE) at Board Meeting Date: 9/15/22</b>				
<b>DONOR NAME</b>	<b>DONATION AMOUNT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>CODE</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
School Systems Federal Credit Union	\$250 value	school supplies	n/a	10 backpacks filled with school supplies
Trinity Lutheran Church	\$200 value	school supplies	n/a	Various school supplies for CES students

**B. Approval of Contract(s)**

<b>Schodack Central School District</b>				
<b>Contract / Lease Approvals for Board Meeting: Date: 9/15/22</b>				
<b>CONTRACTOR / VENDOR NAME</b>	<b>TERM OF CONTRACT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>RATE/RETAINER</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
Hillcrest Academy	2022-2023 SY	Placement Agreement for (1) Student	\$126,220.65/annually	Daily Rate = \$584.26
<b>TENANT NAME</b>				

C. Approval of a resolution authorizing the District Treasurer to transfer funds and/or move funds within the reserves as follows; transfer in the amount of \$ 157,625 from the General Fund to the TRS Reserve (A828), to transfer in the amount of \$857,708 from the General Fund to the Capital 2022 Reserve (A878-22) and move \$150,000 from unemployment insurance reserve (A815) to employee benefit accrued liability reserve (A889)

D. Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Reserve Fund Plan.

E. Approval of a resolution declaring that the work to be done in the Maple Hill Jr/Sr High School Gymnasium is a Type II action and requires no further review and authorizes the district to enter into contracts associated with the project.

**8. OTHER ACTION**

A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Preschool Special Education and/or Committee on Special Education regarding Special Education Services for student(s) as indicated on attached reports.

**9. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS**

**Sherri Gibson moved for approval of items 9. A. through 9. C., Marion Spar seconded, all present in favor.**

**A. Approval of Staffing Actions:**

<b>Schodack Central School District</b>				
<b>Staffing Actions for Board Meeting Date: September 15, 2022</b>				
<b>RESIGNATIONS</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	
Eric Biehler	Advisor - Intramurals	Resignation	2021-22 school year	Was appointed originally, but was not advisor, resigning to allow Jamie Colloton to be appointed
<b>SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS</b>	<b>SUBSTITUTE AREA</b>			<b>RATE</b>
Eileen McNabb-Deming	Teacher and Teaching Assistant			Rate set at July 14, 2022, Organizational meeting
Rachel Horgan	Teacher			Rate set at July 14, 2022, Organizational meeting
<b>CHANGE IN HOURS</b>	<b>AREA / POSITION</b>	<b>OLD HOURS</b>	<b>NEW HOURS</b>	
Kandee Goodall	Senior School Monitor	2.50 hours per day	2.75 hours per day	Effective September 6, 2022
Denise Prinzo	Senior School Monitor	4.00 hours per day	6.00 hours per day	Effective September 6, 2022
<b>APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT TYPE</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>RATE</b>
Michael Iwanos	Probationary Term - 6 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Employee's current rate
Shauna Benoit	Probationary Term - 6 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Employee's current rate
Nerissa Carbonaro	Probationary Term - 6 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Employee's current rate
Nicole Brisson	Probationary Term - 6 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Employee's current rate
Eilish Murray	Probationary Term - 6 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Employee's current rate



Nicole Thomas	Probationary Term - 6 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Employee's current rate
Kacey Feldman	Part-time - 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Uncertified Teaching Assistant Rate per CSEA Contract
Kathleen Treffiletti	Part-time - 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Uncertified Teaching Assistant Rate per CSEA Contract
Megan Tuczynski	Part-time - 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Uncertified Teaching Assistant Rate per CSEA Contract.
Krista Halvax	Part-time - 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Uncertified Teaching Assistant Rate per CSEA Contract
Caitlin Mann	Part-time - 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Uncertified Teaching Assistant Rate per CSEA Contract. <b>Emergency Conditional Appointment.</b>
Sara More	Part-time - 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	Uncertified Teaching Assistant Rate per CSEA Contract
Mary Ann Ciampoli	Part-time - 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 6, 2022	CSEA Job Rate for Title
Patrick Ryan	Part-time - 4 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	September 19, 2022	CSEA Start Rate for Title
Caitlyn Setera	Probationary Term - 6 hours per day	Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant	September 6, 2022	CSEA Start Rate for Title
<b>ADVISOR/COACH</b>	<b>ADVISOR/CO-COACH/VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT</b>	<b>ACTIVITY/SPORT</b>	<b>DURATION</b>	<b>RATE</b>
Jamie Colloton	Advisor	Intramurals	2021-22 school year	Stipend per Appendix C
Jillian Austin	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Girls Volleyball	2022-23 Fall Season	Stipend per Appendix C
Michelle Stilson	Co-Advisor	Junior Class	2022-23 school year	Stipend per Appendix C
Rachael Kerner	Co-Advisor	Junior Class	2022-23 school year	Stipend per Appendix C
Jennifer Sober	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Girls Modified Soccer	2022-23 school year	N/A Volunteer
Matthew Hirschhoff	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Girls Varsity Soccer	2022-23 school year	N/A Volunteer
Jaime Sheehy	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Cross Country	2022-23 school year	N/A Volunteer

William Valley	Volunteer Assistant Coach	Girls Volleyball	2022-23 school year	N/A Volunteer
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B. Approval of a (4) four-year probationary appointment of Jennifer Gieser, (certification: Spanish 7-12), commencing on September 1, 2021, as Spanish Education Teacher, in the tenure area of Language Other Than English, at a salary of BA Step 1 provided that, except to the extent required by law, in order to be granted tenure, she 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 she receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.

C. Approval of Transportation Hours

Schodack Central School District			
TRANSPORTATION PERSONNEL for 2022-2023 school year; Board meeting date September 15, 2022.			
ROUTE #	HOURS	BUS #	EMPLOYEE NAME
<b>ROUTE 1</b>	4.25	<b>136</b>	Leigh Stevens
Late Bus as needed	0.5		
<b>ROUTE 2</b>	4.25	<b>128</b>	James Hines
Late Bus as needed	0.5		
<b>ROUTE 3</b>	4.25	<b>124</b>	Joanna Wolfe
Late Bus as needed	0.5		
<b>ROUTE 4</b>	5.25	<b>119</b>	Deborah Pfeffer
<b>ROUTE 5</b>	4	<b>132</b>	David Scott Vannederynen
Late Bus as needed	1		
<b>ROUTE 6</b>	5	<b>134</b>	Seth Hendrick
<b>ROUTE 7</b>	4	<b>130</b>	Gail Akins
Late Bus as needed	0.5		
<b>ROUTE 8</b>	4	<b>122</b>	Kevin Tedford
<b>ROUTE 9</b>	4	<b>121</b>	Ricky Swartz
Late Bus as needed	0.5		

<b>ROUTE 10</b>	4.25	<b>127</b>	Steven Soltys
<b>ROUTE 11</b>	4.5	<b>134</b>	Denise Bates
Late Bus as needed	0.75		
<b>ROUTE 12</b>	7.5		Jennifer Campbell
<b>ROUTE 13</b>	5.5		Kelly Travers-Main
<b>ROUTE 14</b>	5.75		Bruce Smith
<b>ROUTE 15</b>	4.25		Robert Morris
<b>ROUTE 16</b>	5		Kandee Goodall
<b>ROUTE 17</b>	7.5		Kara Householder
<b>ROUTE 18</b>	4		Edward Kraus
<b>ROUTE 19</b>	5		Noelle Zoller
<b>SCHOOL BUS ATTENDANT:</b>			
<b>ROUTE #</b>			
ROUTE 12	7.25		Deborah Hammond
ROUTE 16	5		Jeff Gibney
ROUTE 18	3.75		Emmie Hagadone
BUS 5 SCHODACK TOWN CAMP			
BUS 6 SCHODACK TOWN CAMP			
ROUTE 19	4.75		Deborah Clifford

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Dan Zobre** - love the idea that the school is considering clary trap team, fits in with farm community, he is a NRA Instructor works with scouts and teaches kids that have never handled a gun. It brings a sense of awareness, a sense of surroundings and teaches discipline. Offered to help with the program.

## 11. ACTION ITEMS

Exit survey for families that leave the district, update on the YMCA after care program, statistics on breakfast for advisory, follow up on concerns addressed about rule changes, follow up with Kurt Maier for clay traps, UPK visit by BOE members and BOE building visits.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

A. **Sherri Gibson moved** to adjourn from public session to discuss a matter which is exempt from open meetings law due to FERPA and to enter into executive session to discuss Superintendent contract negotiations, **Angela Beber seconded, all present in favor.**

B. Reconvene to Open Session and adjourn the meeting at

Respectfully submitted,

**Michele A. Reickert**

District Clerk