

Jason Chevrier  
Superintendent  
518-732-2297



Shelley Palmer  
President  
Board of Education

**Thursday, January 26, 2023**

**Board of Education Agenda - Regular Meeting**  
**Minutes are final and were approved at the February 16, 2023, board meeting.**

**Meeting Time: 6:00 pm**

**Meeting Location: Schodack CSD District Office Building, Room 310.**

**For virtual viewing access, click on the video button or paste the following link into your web browser:**  
**<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/j.php?MTID=m7dd9bf0b4404125d7d9ebee5a4447b5>**

**To join by phone: 1-646-992-2010**

**Access Code: 2338 107 7166**

**Public Event Password: scsd**

**Present: Shelley Palmer, Mary Yurista, Tylea Gebbie, Sherri Gibson, Daniel Grandinetti, Angela Beber, Ashley Palmer, and Luke Hoffman**

**Absent: Marion Spar and Kurt Maier**

**Also Present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Alyssa Sabbatino, Jacqueline Hill, Hillary Brochu, James Derby, Kara Likar and Michele Reickert**

**1. MEETING OPENING**

- A. President Shelley Palmer** called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- B. President Shelley Palmer** asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- C. Sherri Gibson moved** for approval of the present agenda, **Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.**
- D. Mary Yurista moved** to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 meeting, **Tylea Gebbie seconded, all present in favor.**

**2. REPORTS**

**A. Building/Department Presentation**

Jason Chevrier expressed how good it is to be back to “normal” and shared some of the work, the challenges and successes the district has had in the current school year.

Alyssa Sabbatino talked about curriculum work that has been done districtwide, shared about the work being done to get students ready for the new State Science Tests and Live Labs they will be required to complete, and the need for additional participants on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.

There was a question about diversity and the district population. The answer was that the committee is looking at socio economic status, gender, sexuality, race, really talking about inclusivity and labels, are

There was a question about the teaching of sexuality. The answer was it would not be explicitly taught as a result of the committee. The idea is to use cultural responsiveness, creating a culture and climate that honors each kid, not explicit instruction.

Jacqueline Hill spoke to Special Education in the district and the two new classrooms that have been introduced in the Elementary School over the last two years, these rooms allowed two district students who were previously outplaced to return to the district and be a part of the school community. It is a great opportunity to have these students in with their peers. She spoke about community partnerships developed to support student.

James Derby spoke to the successes and challenges at CES as well as the new support, assessment and monitoring systems that have been introduced this year. The systems and professional development has impacted emotional support, behavioral support as well instructional support of students. Monthly morning assemblies have been restructured and the responses from teachers and the atmosphere at the assemblies have been positive.

Hillary Brochu spoke about the BIMAS assessment system which assesses mental health and what supports are needed by students, the Learning Resource Center, Writers' Lab and Passport for Good. Electives will be evaluated at the high school looking to add additional opportunities, starting a PTO at the Jr/Sr High School, participants are needed, creating additional student leadership opportunities.

Jason Chevrier spoke about a program called Seal of Civic Readiness. Students that earn it will have a seal on their diploma, students would work with Guidance.

#### **B. Rollover Budget for 2023-24**

Brian Carey shared the rollover budget and preliminary tax cap this is a very early projection, things will change. Questar will be leasing an additional classroom in the District Office Building. He shared about known retirements for this year, projections for retirement systems, unsettled contracts, and estimates for increases in expenses. The rollover budget is a very modest. The state budget not be out by February 1<sup>st</sup>. The next steps are monitor retirements, identify potential efficiencies, determine use of fund balance and reserves, building and department addition and subtraction sheets, adjust for contract negotiations, finalize expenses ERS, TRS, Insurance, etc., look at transportation requests due by April 1 as well as special education needs. A timeline for the budget was shared.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **4. DISTRICT / BUILDING / STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE UPDATES**

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

- Kara Likar – Mr. Chevrier welcomed Kara to the board table and expressed that she has done a tremendous job in her few weeks here. She is a good fit.

- Capital Project – we had the full team walk the district inside and outside checking off what needs to be finalized for the projects for bid specs. Today there were people onsite drilling into the parking lots to get samples required to do the work. \$100,000 transfer to capital Gym floor, audio and motors for the basketball hoops, bids came back over budget, so we need to prioritize the work, the floor will be done and certain hoops. The remainder will be moved into the new \$100,000 transfer to capital to be included in the current budget process. The floor will be done in April over break to disrupt the least amount of school days.
- Volunteer Fire/Ambulance Property Tax Exemption – The state passed an exemption and signed it into law in December, municipalities will pick the requirements of the exemption. Need to have a public hearing, have it available for public comment for 30 days and the board has to agree to do this. A meeting took place with the town to look at the details and how recertification will be handled.
- Fiscal Stress Monitoring Report – The district had zero out of 100 fiscal stress indicators for the first time in quite some time.
- Retirement Positions – The district will be evaluating these retirements and coming back to the board with some restructuring. There is an MOA on the Board agenda regarding the retirement of Tracy D'Amico.
- UPK – work this year will start in February this year. We anticipate we will have more applicants than seats and will hold a lottery. We will monitor how many applicants we have this year which will require us to request more funding from the State for next year. If we request more funding for additional seats, we would need to do the RFP process again.
- Enrollment Report attached for review.

## B. Building Updates

- Castleton Elementary School – Welcome Mrs. Likar, snow day and early dismissals have brought some excitement at CES. Kids come back with stories about the fun they had. Science Fair is coming up Friday, February 3, 2023 at 6:30. Mrs. Likar thanked everyone and said how welcoming everyone has been. She spoke about the 4/5 Fun night last Friday kids had a great night. It was a very well run event.
- Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School – There are field trips being planned, 7<sup>th</sup> grade going to Boston, Sherlock Holmes performance at Sage, and wellness day planning is underway.

## C. Student Representative Update

Luke Hoffman talked about the tournaments that have been taking place, kids are happy to have these things back, students are running the concession stand, Nathan Bivins is a student that is doing the luge and will be going to Utah, his hopes are to be in the Olympics someday. Writers lab is underway, upperclassmen helping underclassmen. Tech Valley students are developing a summer camp for entrepreneurship, students haven't complained about having early dismissals and snow day, laughter ensued. Key club is hosting a rent a teacher day and a fundraiser to tape Mr. Breh and Ms. Brochu to the wall. Jacob Fish met with Rotary club to get an exchange program running again. He spoke about an internship class for seniors, it is a great opportunity to look at other careers.

There was discussion about Nate Bivins and the fundraising he is doing to help pay for his expenses.

## D. Committee Updates

- CES Building Planning Committee - Marion Spar, Tylea Gebbie, and Ashley Palmer - **NO REPORT**
- MS/HS Building Planning Committee - Marion Spar, Angela Beber, Kurt Maier, and Sherri Gibson - **NO REPORT**
- Professional Development Planning Committee - Shelley Palmer and Marion Spar - **NO REPORT**
- Technology Committee - Mary Yurista and Sherri Gibson - **NO REPORT**
- NYSSBA Legislative Liaison - Angela Beber - **NO REPORT**
- Health and Safety / SAVE Committee - Marion Spar, Ashley Palmer, and Tylea Gebbie

Mr. Carey apologized that there was a scheduling error and the board member did not get invited. A form was circulated to district employees to see if there are any safety concerns or health concerns in the district. Most of the committee time was spent doing a table top exercise practicing what to do in an emergency involving the railway.

- Audit Committee - Mary Yurista, Kurt Maier, and Daniel Grandinetti - **NO REPORT**
- Building Visitation Committee - All members as a whole - **NO REPORT**

## **5. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP**

### **A. Board Discussion**

- Mary Yurista spoke about the agenda item to nominate her to run for the Questar Board for another three-year term and asked if anyone else was interested in being nominated. She expressed that she found it helpful to be on the Questar board with some of the things the district does.

### **B. Action Item Follow-up**

- Community Engagement Group – Portrait of a Graduate information was shared with the board. The district would like to move forward with that program. Dr. Cruz is the president of the AASA organization that offers the program. There is a group that works closely with AASA to facilitate the meetings. The Saturday workshop with Bill Dagget was very informative, there is a group of us that are going to the summit in June to learn more about the program.
- SRO follow up – Meeting with supervisor Peter, the town is willing to commit to work with the district but the district must commit to the funding during the 10-month school year. There are a lot of logistics to work out, the preliminary quote was about \$125,000. When we looked at the county, they quoted about \$90,000. This item will be removed from action items and into the budget process.
- Option for future growth if more space is needed. There are a couple rooms that are utilized by AIS providers and a conference room that could be used, this will displace people but a classroom full of students is first. Second option would be to take over space in the former Middle School. It does generate income we would lose. It would require work to open it back up, we would need to fill out an application, give notice to tenants, hire a principal and nurse. A third option is modular classrooms it would be costly and it is not as secure, and finally go out to the public and ask for a capital project.
- Clay Trap Shooting Club – discussion is continuing
- Cursive Writing – discussion is continuing
- Student Leadership Opportunities – discussion continuing

## **6. POLICY(IES)**

**Mary Yurista moved to approve item 6. A., Sherri Gibson seconded, there was discussion about FERPA and Executive Session as well as a policy on videoconferencing for the future. All present board members voted in favor, moved by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Adoption.**

A. Motion to approve the 1st reading of the following policy(ies):

- 2160 School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics
- 2245 Ex Officio Student Member of the Board of Education
- 2310 Regular Meetings
- 2330 Executive Sessions
- 2340 Notice of Meetings
- 2342 Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
- 2360 Minutes

## **7. FINANCE**

**Tylea Gebbie moved to approve items 7. A. through 7. G., Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

A. Acceptance Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2022.

B. Acceptance of the Claims Auditor's Report for the month of November 2022.

C. Approval of Donation(s)

<b>Schodack Central School District</b>				
<b>Gifts &amp; Donations for Acceptance (Increasing General Fund) at Board Meeting Date:</b>				
<b>DONOR NAME</b>	<b>DONATION AMOUNT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>CODE</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
None.				
<b>Schodack Central School District</b>				
<b>Gifts &amp; Donations to be Acknowledged (TA &amp; TE) at Board Meeting Date: January 26, 2023</b>				
<b>DONOR NAME</b>	<b>DONATION AMOUNT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>CODE</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
Castleton Fish & Game Protective Assoc.	\$250	Backpack Prg.	CM691.Backpack	
Ann Boeckler	\$50	Scholarship donation	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Bruce & Sharon Howard	\$30	Scholarship donation	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Svcs.	\$400	Scholarship donation	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Michael & Kathleen DeGoey	\$25	Scholarship donation	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation

Kara Mears & Kevin Bennison	\$2,000	Scholarship donation	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Thomas & Ruth McGrath	\$25	Scholarship donation	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation

D. Approval of Contract/Lease(s)

<b>Schodack Central School District</b>				
<b>Contract / Lease Approvals for Board Meeting: Date: January 26, 2026</b>				
<b>CONTRACTOR / VENDOR NAME</b>	<b>TERM OF CONTRACT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>RATE/RETAINER</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
None.				
<b>TENANT NAME</b>				
Questar III	Original Lease Term 7/1/2019 through 6/30/2024	To add an additional room #314	New: Annual Rent: \$101,500 and Annual Ancillary Services \$62,250 for 2022-23	Second Amendment to Lease

E. Approval of rate changes to align with minimum wage increase as indicated on the rate schedule attached in BoardDocs.

F. Approval of change order #GC-01 with Gallo Construction Corp., decreasing the contract for bus garage alterations by \$5,000.00 for a revised contract total of \$55,700.00.

G. Approval of Cell Phone Reimbursement/District Owned Phone Use: Amy Gerhartz

## 8. OTHER ACTION

**Daniel Grandinetti moved for approval of items 8. A. through 8. C., Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Preschool Special Education and the District Committee on Special Education regarding Special Education Services for student(s) as indicated on the attached report(s) in BoardDocs.

B. Motion to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between Schodack Central School District, Schodack Faculty Association, and Tracy D'Amico regarding the retirement of Tracy D'Amico.

C. Approval of a resolution nominating Mary Yurista to the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene BOCES Board for a (3) three-year term commencing on July 1, 2023.

## 9. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

**Mary Yurista moved to approve items 9. A., Tylea Gebbie seconded, retirements are being accepted with regrets and appreciation of long service, all present voted in favor.**

A. Approval of Staffing Actions:

<b>Schodack Central School District</b>				
<b>Staffing Actions for Board Meeting Date: January 19, 2023</b>				
<b>RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
Tracy D'Amico	Physical Education Teacher	November 15, 2023	Retirement	Has been with the district 31 years.
Janis Clarke	Stenographer	June 30, 2023	Retirement	Has been with the district 35 years.
Lisa Bryda	Account Clerk/Typist	June 30, 2023	Retirement	Has been with the district 19 years.
Richard Ostrander	Building Maintenance Mechanic	February 1, 2023	Retirement	Has been with the district 14 years.
Meghan Tuczynski	Teaching Assistant	December 21, 2022	Resignation	
Caitlin Mann	Teaching Assistant	December 23, 2022	Termination	
<b>SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS</b>	<b>SUBSTITUTE AREA</b>			<b>RATE</b>
Sophia Chevrier	Teaching Assistant			Rate set at July 14, 2022 meeting.
Connor Mead	Teaching Assistant			Rate set at July 14, 2022 meeting.
<b>APPOINTMENTS</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>TYPE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>RATE</b>
Ryan McTarnaghan	Teaching Assistant	Part-time, 4 hours per day		
Ann Valley	Teaching Assistant	Part-time, 4 hours per day	January 9, 2023	CSEA uncertified Teaching Assistant Rate

CHANGE IN HOURS	AREA / POSITION	CURRENT HOURS	NEW HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE
Deborah Pfeffer	School Bus Driver	5.25	6.25	January 9, 2023
Seth Hendrick	School Bus Driver	5.00	4.00	January 9, 2023
Denise Bates	School Bus Driver	4.50 pls .75 late bus when needed	5.75 plus .75 late bus when needed	January 20, 2023
ADVISOR / COACH	ACTIVITY	DURATION	RATE	
Leonard Bacon - Coach	Boys Varsity Bowling	2022-23 Season	Stipend per Appendix C of the SFA Contract.	
Alexandra Stuto - Coach	Girls Modified Softball	2022-23 Season	Stipend per Appendix C of the SFA Contract.	
Steven Marino - Volunteer Assistant Coach	Baseball	2022-23 Season	N/A - Volunteer	

Jason Chevrier thanked Tracy D'Amico for her years with the district, talked about his time working with Tracy at CES when he was Principal and wished her well.

Richard Ostrander has some things he is dealing with and felt it was best to retire, he wished Richard good luck.

Janis Clarke has been here 35 years and she is an institution here and Lisa Bryda has 19 years. He wished them well and expressed that they will be tough to replace, there is a lot of institutional knowledge there between the two.

#### 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**11. ACTION ITEMS:** enrollment in Tech Valley, P-Tech, CTE programs, etc. and a CES walkthrough for the BOE.

#### 12. ADJOURNMENT

A. **Mary Yurista moved** to adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment history of particular people and Superintendent contract negotiations, **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

B. **Mary Yurista moved** to reconvene to open session, **Ashley Palmer seconded, all present in favor.**

C. **Mary Yurista moved** to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 pm., **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele A. Reickert*

District Clerk