

Jason Chevrier  
Superintendent  
518-732-2297



Shelley Palmer  
President  
Board of Education

Thursday, February 16, 2023

**February 16, 2023 - Board of Education Agenda - Regular Meeting**

Minutes are final and were approved at the March 16, 2023, board meeting.

**Meeting Time: 6:00 pm**

**Meeting Location open to the public: 1477 South Schodack Road, Room 310**

**Live Stream Link for viewing or listening:**

**<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/j.php?MTID=m9c6ccc7668520fb8628ce0146c46ac04>**

**To join by phone:**

**1-646-992-2010**

**Access number: 2344 451 0318**

**Present: Shelley Palmer, Mary Yurista, Tylea Gebbie, Sherri Gibson, Marion Spar, Daniel Grandinetti (arrived at 6:06), Angela Beber, Kurt Maier and Luke Hoffman**

**Absent: Ashley Palmer**

**Also present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Alyssa Sabbatino, Jacqueline Hill, Jason Breh, 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. **Mary Yurista moved** to approve the present agenda, **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**
- D. **Tylea Gebbie moved** to approve the minutes of January 26, 2023, regular meeting, **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

**2. REPORTS**

**A. Learning Resource Center**

Jason Breh shared about the program and stated that it was created to help at risk students. Kaitlyn Mahota and Sarah Loszynski explained the purpose of the program, how students are selected for the program, and the data used to help assess what help is needed by students. A video of students sharing what they do in the resource center and how the resource center helps them was played.

Questions were asked about the and discussion ensued.

**B. 2023-2024 Budget Draft 1**

Jason Chevrier and Brian Carey shared information relating to Draft 1 of the Budget, the additions and subtractions for buildings and departments, state aid projections, tax cap projection. A survey will be shared with the board and administration to rank the considerations. At the next board meeting there will be discussion about the results. There was discussion about some of the items on the budget considerations and how will items that are currently grant funded be handled moving forward. There was discussion about full restoration of foundation aid, electric buses, how will disposal of buses and batteries look. Positions and expenses currently paid from grants and what grants are expiring was also discussed.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**None.**

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

#### **A. Board Discussion**

- March 4<sup>th</sup> Questar Workshop RSVP is due tomorrow.
- Mary Yurista stated that the drama club performances were wonderful.
- Kurt Maier was disappointed by some of the behavior of students running up and down during the performance, eating food and not having good behavior.

Jason Chevrier expressed that there is a loss over the last couple years of students being in an audience and we need to work on that. We need parents to be parents and if kids come without parents, we need to address that and even call parents if need be.

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

- Clay Trap Shooting Club  
Kurt Maier and Jason Chevrier met about clay trap shooting and gave an update of the sponsorship from Castleton Rod and Gun Club, stated that a handbook needs to be created, and advisors need to be figured out. Each will reach out to schools that currently have the program and get feedback.
- Cursive Writing  
Alyssa Sabbatino and Luke Hoffman have been discussing the possibility of getting an elective class started at the high school potentially incorporating cursive writing and life skills in a class, with check writing, budgeting etc.
- Student Leadership Opportunities  
Alyssa Sabbatino has started committees and is recruiting students to be a part of the committees.
- Enrollment in Tech Valley High School, CTE Programs, P-Tech, etc. - Information was shared in BoardDocs.
- Walkthroughs for the BOE  
Jason Chevrier proposed that the April 4<sup>th</sup> workshop be a workshop with no business and the BOE tour each of the buildings throughout the night. The meeting would not be live streamed that night to accommodate the tours.

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

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

- Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Property Tax Exemption  
Brian Carey explained the newly passed exemption available to Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance workers. There are conditions that have to be met to be eligible, information is still being collected and will be shared with the Board so they can make a decision.
- Village Library Proposition  
Jason Chevrier explained a proposition that the Castleton Public Library has requested to be added to our ballot at the May Budget Vote and Election. Melissa Tacke has provided information from the library. This is a first time for the school district being asked to levy taxpayers to help fund the library. We have reached out to the school attorney for guidance.
- Senator Hinchey Visit  
Jason Chevrier and other Superintendents from the Questar BOCES component schools met with Senator Michelle Hinchey and talked about Foundation Aid, teacher certifications and flexibility in certification areas. Questar III's twitter feed may have a tweet from the meeting.
- Building Mechanic Position  
Our building mechanic has been out for some time. It is currently a .75 position and the district would like to make it a full time position. We have been delayed in getting work done in the district. The building mechanic does all kinds of trade work in the district. We are going to post for a 1.0 position.
- Questar BOE Workshop - March 4  
Talked about in Board Discussion
- Enrollment Report attached for review.
- March 25<sup>th</sup> food drive with the Rensselaer County District Attorney's Office. Multiple student groups have volunteered to help with the food drive.

## B. Building Updates

- Castleton Elementary School – Science fair was held, two doctors did experiments for students, Soup-r-bowl food fundraiser was held collecting food for The Anchor and the Ronald McDonald House fundraiser is being coordinated by Mr. Murphy. The push up challenge during the Super bowl, the CES community did over 11,000 pushups.
- Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School  
Jason Breh talked about the Drama Performance as well as the student behavior. Students will be talked to after break about the behavior. He said how great it was to see the students performing, he also mentioned the stage crew behind the scenes, he spoke to Regina's directing and coordinating of the performance. Hillary Brochu talked about the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students field trip to Sage to see a play, behavior was good there. Hoops against Hunger will be held March 3<sup>rd</sup> with a food drive for the Anchor. Parent teacher conferences middle school volleyball tournament and a kick ball tournament in the future. Wellness day plans are underway.

## C. Student Representative to the Board of Education Update

Key club rent a teacher fundraiser went well, Senior class will hold Tape an Administrator to the wall, they tape the principal and assistant principal to a wall. Bowling finished their season and a few players placed in sectionals, boys' and girls' basketball brackets just came out, modified boys' and girls' basketball were both undefeated with new coaches this year. National Honor society candy grams for Valentine's Day. Tay Fisher visit with an anti-bullying presentation was held during assemblies. Booster

club opened up to having a student member and honored coaches at the last meeting. Cheesecake fundraiser for Sophomore class is underway. ESports has started a new game.

Members of the board also mentioned that Wrestling finished season sending 6 athletes to sectionals, and JV Basketball was undefeated.

#### D. Committee Updates

- CES Building Planning Committee - Marion Spar, Tylea Gebbie, and Ashley Palmer – the focus was on the hiring process recently used to hire Ms. Likar and gather feedback, she participated in a flipped interview process. Report cards are being talked about more information will be shared closer to the end of the school year. There was also discussion about the hybrid model of the Morning Assembly changing how 6<sup>th</sup> grade is incorporated in with other grade levels as leaders in the building.
- 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 - The district is in the middle of the Monday afternoon PD sessions. Teachers have been given a questionnaire to gauge interest in what teacher want, information was shared with the committee and modifications were made to future afternoon PD sessions.
- Technology Committee - Mary Yurista and Sherri Gibson - Computer Based Testing simulation was performed, the process of testing went well, the system was clunky, students are not used to doing it that way. Teachers will learn more about the CBT. Mr. Finney created a weekly Tech newsletter that has valuable tools and helpful information for teachers. There was discussion about Chat AI, a program that writes papers based on criteria entered by an individual, how the district can use it is a tool and how students may use it.
- NYSSBA Legislative Liaison - Angela Beber - **NO REPORT**
- Health and Safety / SAVE Committee - Marion Spar, Ashley Palmer, and Tylea Gebbie - **NO REPORT**
- Audit Committee - Mary Yurista, Kurt Maier, and Daniel Grandinetti - **NO REPORT**
- Building Visitation Committee - All members as a whole - **NO REPORT**

#### 6. POLICIES

A. **Sherri Gibson moved** to approve the 2nd reading and adoption of the following policy(ies), **Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor:**

- 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

B. Mary Yurista moved to table policy 4810 for editing and further discussion, and to approve the remaining policies moving them by consensus to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.

- 1420 Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Resources
- 2325 Videoconferencing of Board Meetings (If the board decides to move forward, a resolution will be on the next agenda prior to the second reading and adoption of the policy)

- 4200 Curriculum Management
- 4321.12 Use of Time Out Rooms, Physical Restraints, and Aversives
- 4321.12-R Use of Time Out Rooms, Physical Restraints, and Aversives Regulation
- 4327 Homebound Instruction
- 4513 Library Resources Selection
- 4773 Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities
- *4810 Teaching about Controversial Issues - NEEDS A DECISION BY THE BOARD - **TABLED for further discussion and editing***

Lengthy discussion ensued about controversial topics, how they should be handled in the classroom, and making sure discussions are age appropriate. Further editing will be done on the policy and it will be un-tabled to be presented again to the board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading at the March 16, 2023, meeting.

## 7. FINANCE

**Kurt Maier moved to approve items 7. A. through 7. D., Tylea Gebbie seconded, all present in favor.**

A. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the month(s) of December 2022.

B. Acceptance of the Claims Auditor's Report for the month(s) of December 2022.

C. Approval/Acknowledgement of donations:

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				
Gifts & Donations to be Acknowledged (TA & TE) at Board Meeting Date: February 16, 2023				
DONOR NAME	DONATION AMOUNT	PURPOSE	CODE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Georgette E. Byers Estate	\$250,000.00	Scholarship	CM691.BYERS	To establish a Thomas Byers & Georgette Byers Memorial Scholarship
Shelley & Zachary Palmer	\$2,000	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation

D. Approval of a General Construction Agreement with Forth Sports Floors, Inc. for a base contract amount of \$46,997.00 for Maple Hill Jr/Sr High School Gym Alterations.

## 8. OTHER ACTION

**Tylea Gebbie moved to approve items 8. A. through 8. B., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.**

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

B. Approval of a contract between Schodack Central School District and Jason Chevrier, Superintendent of Schools for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026.

## 9. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

**Sherri Gibson moved to approve item 9. A., Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.**

Jason Chevrier acknowledged Kelly Travers-Main's retirement and 12+ years with the district, he expressed that she was involved with CSEA and is a great individual. He wished her the best in her retirement and well in her future.

A. Approval of Staffing Actions:

Schodack Central School District				
Staffing Actions for Board Meeting Date: February 16, 2023				
RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON	COMMENT
Ryan McTarnaghan	Teaching Assistant	January 14, 2023	Resignation	will remain on sub list
Lilly Tedford	Teaching Assistant	May 12, 2022	Resignation	
Kelly Travers-Main	School Bus Driver - Courier	February 28, 2023	Retirement	Has been with district 12+ years.
SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS	SUBSTITUTE AREA			RATE
None.				
APPOINTMENT	TYPE	AREA	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE
Joanna Wolfe	Casual Worker	Custodial Worker	February 6, 2023	CSEA Custodial Worker Start Rate
Jacqueline Megna	Probationary Term - 6 hours per day	Teaching Assistant	December 1, 2022	CSEA Start Rate
CORRECTION TO APPOINTMENT	AREA / POSITION	INCORRECT HOURS	CORRECTED HOURS	
Denise Bates	School Bus Driver	5.5 base hours per day	4.75 base hours per day	
ADVISOR / COACH	ACTIVITY	DURATION	RATE	

None.				

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Tacke talked about the Proposition that the Castleton Public library would like to put on the school budget ballot to raise money for the library, and encouraged people with questions to reach out to her.

## 11. ACTION ITEMS

Learning Resource Center follow-up data, policy revisions, and Tax Cap History.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

A. Sherri Gibson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm., Marion Spar seconded, all present in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele A. Reickert*

District Clerk