

Jason Chevrier
Superintendent
518-732-2297



Shelley Palmer
President
Board of Education

Thursday, March 16, 2023
March 16, 2023 - Board of Education Minutes - Regular Meeting

Minutes are finals and were approved at the April 25, 2023, Board Meeting.

Meeting Time: 6:00 pm

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

Live Stream Link for viewing or listening:

<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/j.php?MTID=mf908690e9f18a07b06d9278cfaeda73f>

Join by phone

1-646-992-2010

Access number: 2348 506 8409

Present: Shelley Palmer, Mary Yurista, Tylea Gebbie, Sherri Gibson, Daniel Grandinetti, Ashley Palmer, Angela Beber, and Kurt Maier

Absent: Marion Spar

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

1. MEETING OPENING

- A. Executive Session at 5:30 Board of Education met with legal counsel.
- B. **President Shelley Palmer** called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.
- C. **President Shelley Palmer** asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- D. **Sherri Gibson moved** for approval of the present agenda, **Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.**
- E. **Tylea Gebbie moved** to approve the minutes of February 16, 2023, regular meeting, **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

2. REPORTS

- A. Writers' Lab - Chris Fowler, Renee Egan and Brittany Gonzalez-Barone explained the timeline of the development of the Writers' Lab, that student tutors received training from Maureen Gokey from Sage, the process that tutors follow working with other students, the method of tracking the success of the program, after each tutoring session a form is completed to report which student was tutored, what was done and what part of the day the tutoring took place. Sadie Bryant, a tutor in the program shared how she helps students and that it has been a great experience; Emma O'Donnell,

Quinn Coffey and Kyleigh Seaburg shared their experiences in the program and the benefits they received by participating in the program.

- B. Reading and Writing Workshop - Jennifer Kosinski shared information about the Reading and Writing Workshop using Teacher's College curriculum stemming around reading, phonics and writing. Teachers received professional development for the curriculum and receive continued support from Jennifer Kosinski. The district rolled it out slowly adding grade levels over time. Reading workshops encourage independent reading and discussion through book clubs, read-aloud and sharing. Writing workshop encourages interactive writing and word study also known as phonics.
- C. 2023-2024 Budget Draft 2 – Brian Carey shared what is known in the budget and any change that have taken place since Draft 1, budget unknowns, addition/subtractions from the buildings and departments, Board and Administrative rankings in which discussion ensued, tax cap history, the reserves and projected use for the 2023-24 budget and the gap with the given information. There was discussion about electric buses, NYSEDA and National Grid will be conducting an assessment to see if we are in a position to have electric buses, another factor is the size of the buses and our bus garage, electric buses are bigger and may not all fit in the garage.

3. POLICY(IES) / OTHER ACTION

A. **Sherri Gibson moved** to approve a resolution allowing Video Conferencing of Board Meetings, **Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.**

B. **Sherri Gibson moved** to table policy 1420 to add language and present for 2nd reading at the next meeting, **Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.**

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

- 2325 Videoconferencing of Board Meetings
- 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

C. **Mary Yurista moved** to approve the 1st reading of the following policy(ies):

- 4770 Graduation Requirements
- 5100 Student Attendance
- 5152 Admission of Non-Resident Students
- 5225 Student Personal Expression
- 5420-R Student Health Services Regulation
- 5460 Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect in a Domestic Setting
- 5500 Student Records

with edits to policy 5420-R and 5100 before presenting for 2nd reading at the next meeting, **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

D. Sherri Gibson moved to un-table policy 4810 Teaching About Controversial Issues which was tabled at February 16, 2023, Board of Education Meeting, **Tylea Gebbie seconded, all present in favor.**

E. Ashley Palmer moved for approval of the 1st reading of policy 4810 Teaching about Controversial Issues, edits will be made before presenting for 2nd reading at the next meeting, **Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Egan expressed that it was good to hear the conversation about policy 4810 Teaching about Controversial Issues. It is a great feeling knowing we are being supported but also need to be aware that our own bias is not known in discussions. Teachers in this district really do try to keep bias out of discussions with students.

5. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP

A. Board Discussion

- Questar III Saturday Workshop Saturday May 6, 2023. Let Shelli Reickert know and she will RSVP as a group.
- April 5th annual meeting RSVP is due tomorrow, Pat Wood will be recognized for an award and the culinary students will be preparing food.
- Summer Board Retreat – need to start thinking about plans and dates.
- Daniel Grandinetti spoke about his comment at the last meeting and the word Indoctrination used in his comment. He expressed that Schodack is a good school district with a strong board, administration, and teacher's union and that it is ok to butt heads and disagree. We should look at it different than us versus them, don't be afraid of voicing opinion. He has a great deal of respect for the teachers here.
- Library proposition - how will we make it clear to the community school taxes are not affected and it is not the district putting additional taxes on them?
The district communication specialist will be directing questions to the library, we will explain the law that libraries can put resolutions on the ballot and it does not affect the school taxes.

B. Action Item Follow-up

- Clay Trap Shooting Club – Kurt Maier talked with the Castleton Fish and Game Club, there are some things that need to be finalized, we will miss the spring season but could make the fall season. Talked to various schools about their program, it is a large time commitment as well as a cost \$200-\$300 per shooter due to supplies. Letter from superintendent stating the name of the school can be used for the club since it is not a team. Coaches are required to take a safety class as well as students. Copies of handbooks have been obtained in editable format and work could be started on a handbook. There is an insurance policy through National Trap Organization, there are scholarships available for competing students.
- Learning Resource Center follow-up data – There have been 40 different students in 1st semester and 40 in the 2nd semester, some of the student are the same but new students come and some leave.

6. DISTRICT/BUILDING/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE

A. District Updates

- Hoops Against Hunger – Great event, thanked Pat Austin for his efforts as well as the volunteers that help Pat with the event. Raised approximately \$3,800 for The Anchor along with boxes and boxes of food for The Anchor.
- Capital Project Update – still on schedule, meeting next Friday with Architects and contractor for the gym floor, two weeks to complete, the week before April Break will not be used and work will begin and continue through break. Two bigger projects are anticipated to be on time, bids will be collected and work will begin this summer, will be clunky with all the groups and camps running.
- Library Funding Proposition – we are moving forward with adding it to the ballot, it is on the proposition resolution for approval tonight.
- Fire/Ambulance Tax Exemption update – County and Town have approved their exemption starting in 2024, both at 10%, County at 2 years of service, Town at 5 years to be eligible for the exemption. Work will continue on this and information will be shared as we receive it.
- Food Drive - March 25 – 9am - 1pm Rensselaer County District Attorney's office will be partnering with the School District to collect food for The Anchor, Student groups will help collect food.
- NYS Special Operations – NYS Trooper lives in district and is part of the Special Operations Unit, annually he tours the buildings and is familiar with our buildings. He has trained in Castleton with his team and will be doing training again in the area, he has asked permission to train at the HS both inside and outside over April Break. Communication will be shared with the community informing them to expect a police training exercise with police in full gear and a large police presence.
- Enrollment Report attached for review.

B. Building Updates

- Castleton Elementary School – Grades 2-3 Read In was last week, local author from Averill Park visited with students. PTO, thank you for the support of the program and Mrs. Rattner's support of the activity. Ronald McDonald House reading fund raiser, currently raised \$4,000 this year and we are half way through.
- Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School – Wellness day took place today, a fantastic day, all centered around Rachael's Challenge and around building positive relationships. Hoops Against Hunger was a fun event. Junior High Volleyball Tournament last week, middle school students had a good time. 8th grade transition night and 6th grade transition night coming up.

C. Student Representative to the Board of Education

Hillary relayed some topics for Luke Hoffman who could not be here.

The Art Show was postponed until March 21st with music from the Guitar Club. Luke will look into having Guitar Club perform at Music in our Schools. The High School Band will be performing at Grandparent's day, the first time since 2019, blood drive coming up, spring sports have started. Jasper Thomas went to Cincinnati with Mrs. Gibney and performed with other students, a great experience.

Mr. Derby thanked the music department for their time with Music in our Schools, it was a great event.

Alyssa Sabbatino talked about the progress on the cursive writing curriculum. Every 7th grade student this year will have the experience in the 4th quarter. Next month Luke will be updating more.

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 - **REPORT worked on the Questar Regional Professional Development day schedule. All teachers, TA, clerks, drivers, every staff member in the district is included. In person presentations and virtual presentations offered. Kicking off at HS opening comments by Jason Chevrier and a keynote speaker.**
- 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 – **REPORT 3rd meeting this past week. Discussion about a certified crowd manager to assist in orderly evacuation of event of 500 or more people. We will inventory the number of events we have that qualify. Spring playground safety training for monitors will be done, the HS library line of sight training using moveable furniture to block the view in an emergency, door locks at the HS that require using a key to lock it. Public announcement systems were discussed, more work to be done on this, radio systems are being looked at.**
- Audit Committee - Mary Yurista, Kurt Maier, and Daniel Grandinetti - No Report
- Building Visitation Committee - All members as a whole - No Report

7. FINANCE

Mary Yurista moved to approve items 7. A. through 7. F., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.

A. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the month(s) of January 2023.

B. Acceptance of the Claims Auditor's Report for the month(s) of January 2023.

C. Approval to declare the items on the IT Surplus Round 41 and CES Library Weeding Log as surplus and dispose of in accordance with district policy.

Schodack Central School District				
Surplus Approvals for Board Meeting: Date: March 16, 2023				
SURPLUS ITEMS	VALUE OF SURPLUS	TAG #/SERIAL-VIN #	CONDITION	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
54 Laptops, etc. - For SHRED ONLY	n/a	various	For Shred Only	IT Dept - Round 41
CES Library Books-Weeding	n/a	n/a	used	CES log of discarded/lost books to be removed from their inventory

D. Acceptance and/or Acknowledgement of Donations:

Schodack Central School District				
Gifts & Donations to be Acknowledged (TA & TE) at Board Meeting Date: 3/16/23				
DONOR NAME	DONATION AMOUNT	PURPOSE	CODE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Jennifer D. Leonard	\$25	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Rensselaer Teachers Association	\$25	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Jean L. Richardson	\$50	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Robert Colvin	\$150	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Joan E. Minnock	\$100	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Edward & Penelope Baccei	\$150	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	In Memory of JoAnn Bennison (for Scholarship)
Edward & Penelope Baccei	\$150	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	In Memory of JoAnn's Mother Beverly A. Relyea (for Scholarship)
Raymond & Suzanne Lemka	\$250	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Mary J. Mahar	\$125	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Bruce & Sharon Howard	\$30	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation
Robert & Constance H. Spohn	\$50	Scholarship	CM691.Bennison	JoAnn Bennison Scholarship donation

E. Approval of a Contracts:

Schodack Central School District				
Contract / Lease Approvals for Board Meeting: Date: March 16, 2023				
CONTRACTOR / VENDOR NAME	TERM OF CONTRACT	PURPOSE	RATE/RETAINER	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Mary Alice McCraith, TVI	2/17/23 - 6/19/23	Provide vision instruction svcs. for (1) student	\$65 for (2) 30 min. sessions for a total of \$130	
BOCES	2022-2023	Equipment Lease	See Schedule B	
North Greenbush Common SD	2022-2023 SY	Health Svcs. for SCSD Students attending LaSalle Institute	\$354.48 per student	for 14 students
Hudson Valley Community College	2022-2023	Cooperative Agreement	no cost to district	Provides opportunity for high school students to earn college credit by taking

				college courses in the classroom.
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F. Approval of Contract for Cooperative Education Services - IT Installment Purchase

8. OTHER ACTION

Daniel Grandinetti moved to approve items 8. A., Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.

A. Approval of a resolution authorizing the District Clerk to include propositions in the notice of the annual School District meeting.

9. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Sherri Gibson moved for approval of items 9. A. through 9. B., Ashley Palmer seconded, all present in favor.

Jason Chevrier thanked Jason Breh for his work and time here and wished him well.

A. Approval of Staffing Actions

Schodack Central School District				
Staffing Actions for Board Meeting Date: March 16, 2023				
RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON	COMMENT
Jason Breh	High School Principal	May 15, 2023	Resignation	
SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS	SUBSTITUTE AREA			RATE
Nicholas Halvax	Custodial Worker			Rate approved at the July 14, 2022 meeting.
APPOINTMENT	AREA / TYPE	Probationary Period	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE
Regina Maier	Secretary II - Probationary Appointment	3/17/2023 - 9/17/2023	March 17, 2023	Current employee payrate.
Lisa Cecala	Secretary I - Probationary Appointment	3/17/2023 - 11/17/2023	March 17, 2023	Current employee payrate.
Denise Prinzo	Secretary I - Provisional Appointment	3/17/2023- 11/17/2023	March 17, 2023	CSEA Job Rate

CORRECTION TO APPOINTMENT	AREA / POSITION	INCORRECT HOURS	CORRECTED HOURS	
ADVISOR / COACH	ACTIVITY	DURATION	RATE	
William Roe - Volunteer Assistant Coach	Boys Tennis	2022-23 Spring Season	N/A - Volunteer	

B. Approval of a Resolution to increase a .4 FTE English Language Learners (ELL) Teacher to a .4 ELL Teacher/.6 AIS Reading Teacher position and to approve a (4) four-year probationary appointment of Deb Oligny, (certification: English to Speakers of Other Languages), commencing on September 1, 2022, as ELL/AIS Reading Teacher, in the tenure area of English Language Learners and AIS Reading Education, at a salary of MA 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.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Tacke stated that the library will be explaining the proposition and that it will not impact the school taxes, they will explain that it is part of NYS Education Law which allows the proposition to be on the school ballot. She also explained how libraries are funded.

11. ACTION ITEMS: Policy edits for 2nd reading, tax exemption follow up and kindergarten enrollment.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A. **Mary Yurista moved** to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular people, **Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.**

B. **Mary Yurista moved** to reconvene to open session and adjourn the meeting at 9:47 pm, **Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Reickert
District Clerk