

Jason Chevrier  
Superintendent  
518-732-2297



Shelley Palmer  
President  
Board of Education

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
Board of Education Workshop**

**Minutes are final and were approved at the April 25, 2023 board meeting.**

**Meeting Time: 6:00 pm**

**Public Workshop Location: 1477 South Schodack Road, Room 310, Castleton, New York**

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

**<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/j.php?MTID=m22efa25e4cab9e893ba4d39a6ec1a28f>**

**Join by phone**

**1-646-992-2010**

**Access code: 2333 789 4599**

**Present: Shelley Palmer, Mary Yurista, Tylea Gebbie, Sherri Gibson, Angela Beber, Ashley Palmer, Kurt Maier, Marion Spar (arrived at 6:02)**

**Absent: Daniel Grandinetti**

**Also present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Alyssa Sabbatino, Hillary Brochu, Jacqueline Hill and Michele Reickert**

**1. MEETING OPENING**

**A. Shelley Palmer called** the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**B. Shelley palmer asked** everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**C. Sherri Gibson moved** for approval of the present agenda, **Ashley Palmer seconded, all present in favor.**

**2. REPORT(S)**

**A. School Safety**

Jason Chevrier explained the district wide safety plan and what the plan designates in emergencies, the difference between a lockdown and lockout, safety measures that have been put in place over the years, the timeline of the events from Thursday, March 30, 2023's lockdown threat at the Maple Hill High School. Craig Hansen, head of Questar III Health and Safety, came onsite and helped with the events of the day. Mr. Chevrier thanked Mr. Hansen for his help and support that day. Meetings took place with faculty and staff at each building at the end of the day to check on everyone, give support and thank them for their diligence during the lockdown/lockout. The administrative team met after dismissal to talk and take notes on what went well and what should be looked at. Questar III send counselors to the building the next day to support faculty, staff and students. Next steps were discussed: this workshop

to talk through the Lockdown, a feedback survey was sent to faculty and staff, meeting with Needham Risk Management on the 6<sup>th</sup>, to talk through the events and see what might be done different, Health and Safety Team meeting after Spring break, and a Questar III Superintendents' Council meeting to debrief. The heroes of the day were Law Enforcement/First Responders: Schodack PD, East Greenbush PD, Rensselaer City PD, Rensselaer County Sheriff, New York State Police, Off-Duty Parents, Castleton Ambulance, Students, Faculty, Staff and Administration. Mr. Chevrier commended Hillary Brochu's handling of the lockdown situation. Mr. Chevrier spoke of Aaron Bogert's communication that day keeping parents informed of what was going on. He thanked Aaron for the constant communication through the day keeping the public informed. He worked at the Jr/Sr High School that day staying on top of communication. Mr. Chevrier expressed that if you run into Aaron, thank him for the work, he is good at what he does.

The next day, counseling services were available for students and employees, counselors from other districts came to support our district.

Mr. Chevrier talked about a training event that was planned for April 12, 2023, for the New York State Police, communication will go out to the public on April 6<sup>th</sup>, a reminder on April 11 and signs around the building that from 12:00 – 2:00 that on that day the district will be closed to the public, no sporting events or practices will take place. It is important to have them trained to handle these emergencies.

Shelley Palmer thanked Jason Chevrier for everything he did that day, she thanked everyone, the leadership team, the teachers that were in the buildings, the teachers listening online tonight, law enforcement and students, you practice for these things but never want them to happen, she expressed how traumatic that day was for everyone.

Mr. Chevrier shared that a family gave \$300 in gift cards to buy refreshments for the employees at the high school, Windy Hill Orchards dropped off cider and apples, people were bringing food and drink and trying to take care of folks. Emails and phone calls from grandparents and parents have been coming in thanking us, asking questions or expressing concern.

Ashley Palmer thanked Jason for what he did that day and acknowledged how hard it must have been to separate being a leader and parent. She thanked Zach Frese and Rachael Kerner for their response, and said her child felt safe with them. As a mom, she wants to be sure they know they did an amazing job. It was a hard decision to make.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jon Reickert, a lifelong resident of Schodack, Schodack Police Officer for 25 years, Assistant Chief at East Greenbush. I have a unique perspective, I was one of the responders, I am the father of three boys that were in the Jr/Sr High school and I am the husband of Shelli, who is an employee in this district. My entire life was here and involved in this incident. He expressed that if he didn't feel his children and family was safe, they wouldn't be coming to school here. He truly appreciates what everyone did to keep his family safe, that includes staff, teachers, administration, and fellow law enforcement officers. Very shortly after Mr. Chevrier saw him, he had to leave and leave his family behind. He did so knowing his family was in very, very good hands, and he can't thank everyone enough for that. He encouraged the district to continue doing what they do. Law enforcement is doing the same things, as well as other school districts. Things are going to be tweaked and we will be learning from this in hopes that they never have to use it. He offered his assistance if the district needed it.

Alyssa Sabbatino expressed that the day was one of the most impactful days in her life, career and she wanted to echo everything that has been said. She thanked James, Kara, Regina and Denise for being her support system, she was not able to go to the HS. She also thanked the parents from law enforcement that came to the elementary school and stayed there, it made that building feel safe. She is new to this position but the love she has gotten from the kids about this day is incredible. Ashley and Marion, who she saw in the moment that day and thanked them for their support during that time.

Chris Fowler, 7<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher, co-president of the Faculty Association, she spoke on behalf of all the faculty, thankful for leadership in place that day and the trainings so everyone knew what to do, students that followed directions, they were calm and helpful, and law enforcement that were here almost immediately.

Tylea Gebbie expressed how grateful she is to be a part of the district, her kids wanted to come to school the next day, she is sad for them they shouldn't be in world like this, things coming out of that day are hard to hear, thankful they have everyone in this room to help them through. Teachers, thankful for you, her kids felt safe, her 3<sup>rd</sup> grader had no idea what was going on, wanted to take her home but she was safe.

Jacqueline Hill spoke about the counselors in the district in both buildings and gave them a special shout out for the weight they carry through a crisis. They are even keeled and a support system for everyone even the administration.

Jason Chevrier acknowledged James Derby and Kara Likar for the handling of the situation at the elementary school, Mr. Derby had a calm that resonated throughout the building, grateful for the entire team.

Sherri Gibson thanked everyone for what they did that day and expressed that her daughter took advantage of the counseling services and that is really helped her and encouraged parents to talk to their kids.

Alyssa Sabbatino shared that yesterday was the first time that teachers had the students that were with them through the lockdown back in their classrooms, teachers are managing themselves, she is proud to be a part of this district.

Tylea Gebbie talked about the little things that often get forgotten, the music playing Friday morning, law enforcement was there but not in your face, they were amongst the cars, gathering kids in the gym after so they could lock eyes with friends, those things are important.

Mary Yurista expressed that she was out of town and being here tonight and listening the gravity of the situation is mind boggling, gets the sense that everyone did a wonderful job for the kids and faculty.

**4. ACTION ITEMS – None.**

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**A. Mary Yurista moved** to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm., **Sherri Gibson seconded all present in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele Reickert*

District Clerk