

Jason Chevrier
Superintendent
Schodack Central School District
518-732-2297



Shelley Palmer
President
Schodack Board of Education

**Thursday, September 14, 2023
Board of Education Minutes - Regular Meeting**

Minutes are final and were approved at the October 19, 2023, board meeting.

Meeting start: 6:00 pm

LIVESTREAM LINK:

<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/j.php?MTID=mcacd54cdb07b684973a44052b7d29df8>

To join by phone: 646-992-2010

Event Id: 2343 684 6345

Present: Shelley Palmer, Kurt Maier, Mary Yurista, Daniel Grandinetti, Tylea Gebbie, Blake Kush, Angela Beber, Sherri Gibson, and Marion Spar (arrived at 6:19 pm.)

Also present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Hillary Brochu, Robert Santarcangelo, Kara Likar, James Derby, 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 the approval of the Present Agenda, **Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.**

2. REPORTS

A. Capital Project Update – Natram Lackraj and James Graham updated the progress of the capital project, the phases that are completed and what is yet to be completed.

B. Reserve Fund Plan – Brian Carey presented a proposed reserve plan for the board to approve later in the meeting.

Marion Spar arrived at the beginning of the Reserve Fund Plan report.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Sweet – Math teacher at Jr/Sr High School, Co-President of the Faculty Association. Appreciate presence of the board members at the opening day, SFA looks forward to a new year.

4. DISTRICT UPDATE

A. District Updates – Jason Chevrier

- **Opening of School** – opening was very good, also thanked board members that were at the

opening day. Thanked Robert Santarcangelo for the hard work.

- November 2 BOE Workshop Meeting to November 8 – will publish and send new calendar invite for the meeting.
- CES - 100 Years – Cornerstone at the elementary school, opened as Castleton Union Free School in the fall of 1923, united multiple school houses into one. October monthly morning assembly will be dedicated to the celebration. A communication campaign will be started.
- Shauna Maynard – Observations – Asst. Superintendent of Exceptional and Early Learning for Questar III is engaged in a doctorate program at Sage and will be observing meetings at Schodack as part of her requirements.
- October 5 BOE Workshop Reminder for the tour of the district. Two orders of business may need to take place that night which typically doesn't happen on workshop nights.
- Open House Reminders – the 19th will be K-2, the 21st will be grades 3-6 and the 20th will be the Jr/Sr High School open houses.
- Fall Athletics – great to have kids back and games being played, check out Schedule Galaxy and come show wildcat pride if you can.

5. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP

A. Action Item Follow-up

- Mental Health Days – we continue to look at different options
- Policy 5300.60 - Clay Traps – changes were made to Code of Conduct and are in item 6. to be adopted tonight.
- Cell Phone Policies – NYSSBA did not have a current one, research is continuing.
- SRO contract is being worked on, hopeful to have something for the October 5th meeting.
- District Goals – will be put on the website when they are complete.

B. Board Discussion

- Questions/comments by Daniel Grandinetti
 - Keep the board up to date on Suspensions / Discipline at CES
 - Can the board be Informed when a DASA complaint is received.
 - Commented on Learning Lab changes
 - CANVAS is very helpful to a parent
 - Can the HS add times to schedules
 - Quarterly ineligible list numbers, can they be shared?
 - Asked if there was a policy or procedure around asking pronouns in class. Expressed concern it could be harmful to students. Discussion ensued.
 - Expressed that the teacher pulled the book from the last meeting from their classroom work.

Daniel Grandinetti moved to recognize the teacher that pulled the book, **no second was made.**

6. POLICY(IES): Discussion ensued about policies.

Kurt Maier moved to approve items 6. A., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.

A. Approval of the 1st Reading and Adoption of Policy(ies)

Motion to approve a resolution allowing the board to take action and adopt a policy at the first reading; and further approve the first reading and adoption of the following policy(ies)

5300.00 Annotated Code of Conduct

5300.05 Introduction

7. FINANCE

A. Approval of Contract(s)/Leases(s)

B. Approval/Acknowledgement of Gift(s)/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
NONE.				
Schodack Central School District				
Gifts & Donations to be Acknowledged (TA & TE) at Board Meeting Date:				
DONOR NAME	DONATION AMOUNT	PURPOSE	CODE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NextStep Federal	\$250	School	n/a	10 backpacks filled with school supplies

Credit Union		Supplies		(\$25 per backpack)

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 \$172,799 from the General Fund to the TRS Reserve (A828), to transfer in the amount of \$436,029 from the General Fund to the Capital 2022 Reserve (A878-22).

D. Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Reserve Fund Plan.

E. Approval of a contract for the Phase 2 Capital Project (General Construction) with Bast Hatfield Construction, LLC with a contract amount of \$1,407,000.00.

F. Approval of a contract for the Phase 2 Capital Project (Electrical) with Empire Electric NY, LLC with a contract amount of \$544,827.00.

G. Approval of a contract for the Phase 2 Capital Project (Mechanical Construction) with ERMB Mechanical, Inc. with a contract amount of \$2,231,870.00.

8. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Tylea Gebbie moved to approve items 8. A. through 8. D., Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.

A. Approval of Staffing Actions

Schodack Central School District				
Staffing Actions for Board Meeting Date: September 14, 2023				
RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON	COMMENT
Jessica Piusiensi	Teaching Assistant	August 28, 2023	Resignation	
Julia Hickok	Teaching Assistant	August 28, 2023	Resignation	
Patricia Mead	Teaching Assistant	September 8, 2023	Resignation	
Zachary Frese	Business Education Teacher	August 31, 2023	Resignation	
Kate Tubbs	Teaching Assistant	August 31, 2023	Resignation	To accept FACS Teacher position.
SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS	SUBSTITUTE AREA	EFFECTIVE DATE		RATE
Kathleen Gorman	Teacher and Teaching Assistant			Rate set at the July 13, 2023, Organizational Meeting

Jason Clark	Long-Term Leave Substitute for Danielle Griner	September 1, 2023		MA Step 4
Benjamin Pelton	Long-Term Leave Substitute for Kaitlyn Mahota	September 1, 2023		Rate set at the July 13, 2023, Organizational Meeting
APPOINTMENT	AREA / TYPE	HOURS PER DAY	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE
Christopher Slingerland	School Bus Driver	4.25	September 8, 2023	CSEA Job Rate
Nicholas Halvax	Custodial Worker - Probationary 9/11/23 - 3/11/24	8.00	September 11, 2023	CSEA Start Rate
John Penman	Acting Director of Student Services	8.00	On or about 9/18/23 through on or about 2/5/24	\$62.50 per hour
Samantha Pulver	Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant	6.00	September 5, 2023	CSEA Start Rate
Samantha Brudnock	Teaching Assistant - Part-time	4.00	September 5, 2023	CSEA Uncertified Teaching Assistant Rate
Andrea Cavagnaro	Senior School Monitor / Probationary	6.00	September 5, 2023	CSEA Job Rate
CHANGE TO APPOINTMENT	AREA / POSITION	CURRENT RATE	NEW RATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Taylor Bowman	Teaching Assistant - part-time	CSEA Uncertified Rate	CSEA Job Rate	September 5, 2023
Yu Chen Powhida	Teaching Assistant - part-time	CSEA Uncertified Rate	CSEA Start Rate	September 5, 2023
ADVISOR / COACH	ACTIVITY	DURATION		RATE
Daniel Bentley - Co-Advisor	Sporting Clay Trap Club	2023-24 Fall and Spring Seasons		Stipend per Appendix C.
Jonathan Brochu - Co-Advisor	Sporting Clay Trap Club	2023-24 Fall and Spring Seasons		Stipend per Appendix C.
Jennifer Sober	Girls Varsity Tennis	2023-24 Season		Stipend per Appendix C.

Penny Blendell - Volunteer Assistant Coach	Girls Varsity Tennis	2023-24 Season		n/a Volunteer
Micaela Madigan - Coach	Girls JV Volleyball	2023-24 Season		Stipend per Appendix C.

B. Approval of Transportation Personnel hours for the 2023-2024 school year.

Schodack Central School District		
TRANSPORTATION PERSONNEL for 2023-2024 school year; Board meeting date 9/14/23.		
ROUTE #	HOURS	EMPLOYEE NAME
ROUTE 1	4	Frederick Hiller III
Late Bus Tue./Wed./Thur.	1	
ROUTE 2	4	James Hines
Late Bus Tue./Wed./Thur.	1	
ROUTE 3	4	Robert Morris
Late Bus Tue./Wed./Thur.	1	
ROUTE 4	5	Joanna Wolfe
ROUTE 5	4	Scott Vannederynen
Late Bus Tue./Wed./Thur.	1	
ROUTE 6	5	Gail Akins
ROUTE 7	4	Denise Bates
Late Bus Tue./Wed./Thur.	1	
ROUTE 8	4.5	Kevin Tedford
Extra if needed for sports or homeless		
ROUTE 9	4	Ricky Swartz
Late Bus Tue./Wed./Thur.	1	
ROUTE 10	4.25	Steven Soltys

ROUTE 11	4.5	Leigh Stevens
Late Bus Tue./Wed./Thur.	1	
ROUTE 12	7.5	Kara Householder
ROUTE 13	7	Jennifer Campbell
ROUTE 14	6	Bruce Smith
ROUTE 15	5	Kandee Goodall
ROUTE 16	5.5	Edward Kraus
ROUTE 17	4.75	Deborah Pfeffer
ROUTE 18	4.25	Open Run
ROUTE		
SCHOOL BUS ATTENDANT:		
ROUTE #		
ROUTE 13	6.75	Deborah Clifford
ROUTE 15	4.75	Jeffrey Gibney
ROUTE 18	4	Emmie Hagadone

C. Approval of Probationary Appointment - Teacher

Approval of a (4) four-year probationary appointment of Kate Tubbs (certification: Family and Consumer Science (FACS)) as 1.0 FTE Family and Consumer Science (FACS)Teacher in the tenure area of Family and Consumer Science (FACS), 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.

D. Approval of Probationary Appointment - Teacher

Approval of a (3) three-year probationary appointment of Jennifer Pruden (certification: Students with Disabilities - Grades 7-12 and English Language Arts 7-12) as 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher in the tenure area of Special Education, at a salary of MA Step 7, 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.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ashley Palmer – unhappy about 8th grade English teacher’s first assignment, asked for students preferred pronouns, should not effect the whole class, teachers need to leave personal life out of classroom, teach curriculum.

Karen Sweet – Co-President of SFA wanted to make statement that SFA does have one person of color

on their membership.

10. END BUSINESS MEETING

A. Agenda Planning

- Jason read a list of the items requested earlier in the meeting.
- Lawyer present at a meeting to present on taxpayer money spent on investigation; did board follow policy and procedure to do this? Discussion ensued.

B. Board Member Comment

- Shelley Palmer - Start of school was good, sports have started, teachers and kids are excited to be here. This is the new year, the school year drives the family cycle.
- Kurt Maier - The centennial of CES is important, Boy scouts are also celebrating 100 years with a camporee with a celebratory dinner. Saying in public for anyone that has been in the troop to attend.
- Blake Kush – start of school was good, thanked teachers for their work and wished them all a good year.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mary Yurista moved to enter executive session to discuss ongoing legal matter, no second.

A. Mary Yurista moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm., Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.