

Jason Chevrier  
Superintendent  
518-732-2297



Shelley Palmer  
President  
Board of Education

**Thursday, November 16, 2023**  
**Board of Education Minutes - Regular Meeting**

**Minutes are final and were approved at the December 21, 2023, meeting.**

**Meeting Location: Schodack Central School District Office, 1477 South Schodack Road, Room 310**

**LIVE STREAM LINK:**

**<https://schodackk12.webex.com/schodackk12/j.php?MTID=m279423f2774498441068eb1c4bc4f790>**

**Join by Telephone: 1-646-992-2010**

**Event Number: 2332 115 1408**

**Meeting Time: 6:00 pm**

**Present: Shelley Palmer, Mary Yurista, Tylea Gebbie (Joining via Videoconference), Blake Kush, Kurt Maier, Sherri Gibson and Marion Spar (arrived at 6:36 pm)**

**Absent: Angela Beber**

**Also Present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Alyssa Sabbatino, Robert Santarcangelo, Hillary Brochu, Kara Likar (arrived at 7:01pm),**

**1. MEETING OPENING**

A. **President, Shelley Palmer** called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

B. **President, Shelley Palmer** asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. **Kurt Maier moved** to approve the Present Agenda, **Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.**

D. **Kurt Maier moved** to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2023, Workshop and Regular Meeting, the October 19, 2023, Regular Meeting, and the November 8, 2023, Workshop Meeting, **Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.**

**2. RECOGNITION**

A. Board Recognition - SFA Book Donation

Christine Fowler, Co-President of the Schodack Faculty Association, favorite board meeting, SFA recognizes school related professionals and Board Members in November by donating books on behalf of the board to each library.

Jason Chevrier thanked the SFA for their donation and Christine for the description of the books.

**3. REPORTS**

A. Budget Calendar / Departmental Budget Presentations - Transportation, Facilities and IT

Brian Carey presented the budget calendar that is on the agenda as item 8. A. for approval later in the meeting.

Rhonda Greenway presented information about the transportation department, miles drove in 2022-23 school year, stated she has the best staff, shared training the department have participated in, a contract that was developed to be signed by parents and students, bus bucks incentive that are handed out when behavior is good to turn in for prizes, kids seem excited. There was discussion about electric buses and how they may be funded. March 2024, drive a bus day.

Kristopher Gardner presented on the facilities department, Fire inspection was good this year, thanked the board and the administration for increasing the FTE of the Building Maintenance Mechanic, Phillip Meppen has been a huge asset, helps out any way he can. Status of the capital outlay projects and capital projects were shared as well as potential future projects.

Jim Yox presented on the IT Department, Ed Law 2d requirements, thanked Ed Finney for his help with obtaining the requirements from vendors, the replacement plan for devices, security upgrades for internet security, break fixes (up 30% from last year), charges to families if the break is deliberate or recurring.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**None.**

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

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

- Student Representative to the BOE – Welcome – Jason Chevrier explained that the representative was unable to get time off from work. Robert Santarcangelo will be reading something from Aiden Ahmed later in the meeting.
- 100 Year Celebration – thanked dignitaries, faculty, staff and everyone involved in the celebration.
- Capital Work Update – work in the HS Gym is complete. There are decisions to be made on what to do in the upcoming budget with the capital outlay project.
- Fall Survey Data – Questions Needs additional time for the report on trends, Kurt Maier's question on how many students indicated bullying out of 100 there were 7 that indicated some type of bullying, making racist comments, homophobia, people not being nice to me. There were 5 at COEs mentioned bullying
- SRO Update – will need to amend the contract page to remove the placeholder for the contract, questions are still being answered and work is still being done.
- NYS Police - Special Operations Response Team Training – this past Tuesday, SORT team for NYS Policy held a training event with a helicopter landing on the soccer fields. Value and appreciate the work of law enforcement and like to give back.
- Questar III - Paul Puccio School Lease – end of this year the lease expires, Questar has asked to stay, there are space issues in the district, if we ever need to reoccupy this building there are things that you have to have, principal, nurse, librarian, etc., we do need to discuss options.
- Vacant BOE Seat – There was discussion about the options shared asking the board members their opinions.  
Kurt Maier would like to do a board appointment.  
Marion Spar asked if a previous board member could be a candidate, she put work in but lost in last election.

Mary Yurista mirrored Marion Spar's suggestion, and shared the last time the board appointed a person to a vacant seat.

Sherri Gibson felt that the special election would take time and effort as well as taking applications and appointing, she is not opposed to waiting until May.

Tylea Gebbie does not lean either way, she does have concern with waiting, would like to appoint, but would like to gauge interest and canvas for candidates.

Blake Kush prefers to wait until May, but would consider appointing.

Shelley Palmer prefers waiting until May for the public, or canvassing wide for interested candidates.

After discussion the board members each board member was canvased on their stand on filling the vacancy (wait or appoint):

Kurt Maier – appoint

Blake Kush – wait

Marion Spar – appoint

Sherri Gibson – wait

Tylea Gebbie – wait

Mary Yurista – wait

Shelley Palmer - wait

Angela Beber – prior to the meeting emailed Board President that she would prefer waiting

- Community Eligibility Provision – threshold for ability to offer free breakfast and lunch to students has been reduced to 25% and through the work of the business office staff and Brian Carey, all buildings are over the threshold, all student in the district will qualify for free breakfast and lunch for the next 4 years. This will be announced next week and will go into effect December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Enrollment Report attached for review.

## B. Building Updates

- Castleton Elementary School – Kara Likar talked about the CES 100 year celebration, great event, singing and activities with the kids. Halloween parade was cold but the turnout was great. Veterans Day celebration with Grade 5 students, students asked amazing questions and talked with the Veterans.
- Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School – Audio in the gym is awesome, sounds great, winter sports are up and running with tryouts this week, it is challenging to find schools to compete with especially at the JV level. Fall Sports Girls Cross Country went to states, Kaiden Leonidas went to states but was injured and could not compete, Amy Hirschhoff received coach of the year. HS has been looking at academics and resource center to help support students. Digital citizen presentation for students in two groups grades 7-9 and another with grades 10-12 to address problems with social media. Working with teachers to standardize approach on Mental Health. Dinner to celebrate Honor Society and Junior Honor Society induction ceremony, winter concerts coming up, high school concert December 4, Jr High is December 11.

## C. Student Representative to the Board Update

Mr. Santarcangelo talked about a Town Hall meeting in the high school to talk about what students felt were challenges, three top items: building community in the building, to gain support for the arts and music programs and students would like a voice in the DEI policy creation.

## 6. POLICIES

**Kurt Maier moved** to table policy #2700 Communications between Board Members and Employees from item 6. B., **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

**Kurt Maier moved to approve** Items 6. A. through B. minus policy 2700 which was tabled above, **Sherri Gibson seconded, all present in favor.**

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

- 0115 Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- 5151 Homeless Children
- 5710 School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) Reporting

B. Motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption of the following policies:

- 2352 Rules of Order
- ~~2700 Communications between Board Members and Employees~~
- 2710 Communication among individual Board Members

**Sherri Gibson moved to approve sections 7. Through 9., Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.**

## 7. FINANCE

A. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Reports for the month of September 2023.

B. Acceptance of the Claims Auditor's Reports for the month of September 2023.

C. Acceptance of the Tax Collector's reports for the 2023 tax year and discharge of the Tax Collector for the 2023-24 school year.

D. Approval of Contract(s) and/or Lease(s)

Schodack Central School District				
Contract / Lease Approvals for Board Meeting: Date: November 16, 2023				
CONTRACTOR / VENDOR NAME	TERM OF CONTRACT	PURPOSE	RATE/RETAINER	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Environmental & Fueling Systems, LLC		Contract #7 Phase 2 Fuel Island Construction	\$745,539.00	
Hudson Valley Community College	2023-24 school year	Cooperative Agreement	No cost to district	Provides opportunity for high school students to earn college credit by taking college courses in the classroom.
TENANT NAME				

E. Approval to Declare Surplus:

<b>Schodack Central School District</b>				
<b>Surplus Approvals for Board Meeting: Date:</b>				
<b>SURPLUS ITEMS</b>	<b>VALUE OF SURPLUS</b>	<b>TAG #/SERIAL-VIN #</b>	<b>CONDITION</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
IT Round 42 (z-shred only)		various		

F. Acknowledgement of Gifts/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>
Castleton Schodack Kiwanis Club	\$300	Fall Sports Weekend Awards	2855 450 80 0000	

  

<b>Schodack Central School District</b>				
<b>Gifts &amp; Donations to be Acknowledged (TA &amp; TE) at Board Meeting Date:</b>				
<b>DONOR NAME</b>	<b>DONATION AMOUNT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>CODE</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
South Schodack Fire Company	\$2,000.00	Back Pack Program		Donation made directly to Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY

G. Approval of a resolution approving the following documents allowing Schodack Central School District to remain a member of NYSMEC and participate in the cooperative bidding process:

- Electricity Cooperative Energy Purchasing Service Billing Schedule And Agreement (Joinder)
- Resolution Authorizing Participation In Cooperative Energy Purchasing Service (NYSMEC) For Electricity
- Natural Gas Cooperative Energy Purchasing Service Billing Schedule and Agreement (Joinder).
- Resolution Authorizing Participation In Cooperative Energy Purchasing Service (NYSMEC) For Natural Gas.

H. Acceptance of Insurance Funds and Increase the General Fund:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 1718 of the Education Law, the Board of Education of the Schodack Central School District hereby authorizes and directs that the 2023-2024 budget be increased by \$6,466.50 to be used towards the tree removal and soccer net replacement, to be offset by insurance proceeds in the amount of \$6,466.50 from Utica National Insurance Group.

## 8. OTHER ACTION

A. Motion to approve the Budget Calendar for the 2023-2024 budget.

## 9. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

A. Approval of Staffing Action(s)

Schodack Central School District				
Staffing Actions for Board Meeting Date:				
RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON	COMMENT
Adam Streeter	All County Music - Fall	2023-24 school year	Resignation	Did not go to the Fall event.
SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS	SUBSTITUTE AREA			RATE
Tammy Inco	Teacher or Teaching Assistant			Rate Set at July 2023 Organizational Meeting
Judith Hadley	Teacher or Teaching Assistant			Rate Set at July 2023 Organizational Meeting
Michael Allard	Teacher or Teaching Assistant			Rate Set at July 2023 Organizational Meeting
Laurel Hay	Teacher or Teaching Assistant			Rate Set at July 2023 Organizational Meeting
APPOINTMENT	AREA / TYPE	EFFECTIVE DATE		RATE
Erica Casey	.4 FTE (Part-time) AIS Reading Teacher	11/14/23		MA Step 3
CHANGE IN HOURS	AREA / POSITION	CURRENT HOURS	NEW HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE
Gail Akins	School Bus Driver	5.00	5.25	11/13/2023
Bruce Smith	School Bus Driver	6.00	6.50	11/17/2023

ADVISOR / COACH	ACTIVITY	DURATION	RATE	
Kate Tubbs - Advisor	Builders Club	2023-24 school year	Stipend in accordance with Appendix C	
Steven Marino - Coach	Boys Modified Basketball	2023-24 school year	Stipend in accordance with Appendix C	
Mark Connelly - Volunteer Assistant Coach	Boys Modified Basketball	2023-24 school year	N/A - Volunteer	
Hannah Fitzsimmons - Coach	Girls Modified Basketball	2023-24 school year	stipend in accordance with Appendix C	

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## 11. END BUSINESS MEETING

A. Agenda Planning

B. Board Member Comment

- Technology meeting update, technology summit review from summer summit, IReady diagnostic and more uses of IReady, CBT simulation and testing in April and May, Canvas feedback and Ed Law 2d changes in what programs can be used.
- Jason Chevrier spoke about the NYSSBA Annual Conference in Buffalo, attended by Kurt Maier, Angela Beber, Brian Carey and himself, it was well done, great presentations.
- Kurt Maier appreciated the presentations at the Conference, most impactful was a DEI presentation, it was educational and eye opening, presented by students. Encourages everyone to participate, teachers, staff and students as well as stakeholders. There are misconceptions.
- Shelley Palmer talked about the start and end times of school days that was talked about prior to COVID discussions on changing the start of school to later. Jason Chevrier expressed it could create more difficulty with the consortium for distance learning and planning for additional courses being offered.
- Tylea Gebbie thanked everyone for letting her remote in. She commented on how happy she was to hear our students will get the free lunch qualification. She loves the Town Hall idea and the things that came out of it. We have been looking to get more student voices involved and the work is awesome.
- Mary Yurista praised the 100 year celebration program. Mrs. Golden is Golden, the student participation was wonderful.
- National Anthem question will be followed up on.
- Brian Carey stated that the work that went into the school lunch qualification was Lisa Bryda and Michelle Dellavechia

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

A. **Marion Spar** moved to enter executive session at 8:44 p.m. to discuss Contract Negotiations with CSEA, SFA, and SAA and to discuss a potential litigation matter, **Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.**

B. **Marion Spar moved** to reconvene to open session and adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m., **Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Reickert  
District Clerk