

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



Shelley Palmer
President
Schodack Board of Education

Thursday, August 10, 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=m8c7f68bcb47caeeb1b52728025c14382>

To join by phone: 646-992-2010

Event Id: 2341 891 1763

Present: Shelley Palmer, Kurt Maier, Daniel Grandinetti, Blake Kush, Angela Beber, Mary Yurista, and Tylea Gebbie

Absent: Marion Spar and Sherri Gibson

Also Present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Alyssa Sabbatino, Robert Santarcangelo, James Derby, Kara Likar and Jill Filkins, Pro-tem District Clerk

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. **Kurt Maier moved** for approval of the Present Agenda, **Tylea Gebbie seconded, all present in favor.**
- D. **Mary Yurista moved** for the approval of the minutes for the July 13, 2023, meeting, **Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.**

2. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Code of Conduct

Jason Chevrier presented the Code of Conduct for the 2023-2024 school year.

3. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING / OPEN REGULAR MEETING

A. **Kurt Maier moved** to Close Public Hearing and Open Regular Meeting, **Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.**

4. REPORTS

A. Tax Rate Analysis

Brian Carey gave a presentation on the Tax Cap Analysis.

B. Professional Development Plan

Alyssa Sabbatino presented the Professional Development Plan for the 2023-24 school year.

C. English 9 - Text Selection & Complexity

Alyssa Sabbatino and Robert Santarcangelo presented on classroom text selection and teaching students to the text, particularly a book on the 9th grade syllabus for ELA. *The Absolute True Diary of a Part-time Indian*.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Angela Beber moved to extend public comment, Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.

- Chuck Bennison – thanked Schodack CSD, the Administrative Team Chevrier carey BOE and Shelley Palmer for allowing the family to create a memorial in memory of his wife and Shelley Palmer's mother a graduate of Maple Hill.
- Ken Lane – twins in 6th grade and son in 9th grade son, expressed displeasure with ELA program and that kids need to know how to read and write adequately encouraged district to improve.
- Kara Smith – two children graduated from Schodack 2020 and 2023 spoke about the book *The Absolute True Diary of a Part-time Indian*. Encouraged the district to not abandon the book, important for students to learn about kids who are other types of diversities.
- Mark Wochinger – child graduated 2005, spoke about the book *The Absolute True Diary of a part-time Indian* and encouraged the district to not ban books.
- Debra Lane – parent of 3, expressed she is sad and talked about the mom level of choosing books, her involvement in the community and disappointment in the book *The Absolute True Diary of a part-time Indian* being used.
- Sara Westcott – children in 6th and 8th grade, has read the book *The Absolute True Diary of a part-time Indian*, kids talk they way the kids in the book talk. Does not want to see District ban books. She laughed and cried reading the book and looks forward to her son reading it in 9th grade.
- Kenneth Lane – expressed that no one is asking for books to be banned, does not feel it is suitable to kids in 9th grade.
- Joe Keegan – Mayor of the Village, encouraged the district to choose books to represent different kinds of people.

Angela Beber moved to extend public comment, Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.

- Scott Charlebois – Teacher and parent of graduates from District – Has not heard anyone say anything about banning a book but hopes that is not where this is going. Kids can read book or an alternative. Parents have the option to make a choice.
- Carissa Zuniga – Teacher, has 3 students in Schodack. Has read book, book is taught at her district also. There is a difference between banning and curating and creating curriculum. Book is written in Native American in his voice and it is good to have those voices.
- Stacey Rattner – Librarian at CES, works hard to create a diverse collection of books that is inclusive and reflects our Schodack kids and kids that are not at Schodack. Reads books before ordering to be sure they have stories and places and people all over the world. Books have controversial topics, that is what people are writing, controversial may be uncomfortable.
- Deb Charlebois – Parent of graduates, big reader, believes in adherence process and not sure how this came to be a topic on the agenda for a presentation. There is a process in place that

school community is required to uphold to. There is a chain of command, I have not heard anything about a decision to be made here but it feels like it slid in through the back door, I don't know why this tension and topic got on the agenda.

6. DISTRICT UPDATE

A. District Updates

- Oaths of Office were filed with the District Clerk on the dates indicated:
 - Jill Filkins, as District Treasurer on July 14, 2023
 - Sandra Hall, as Claims Auditor on July 27, 2023
- Jason Chevrier spoke briefly about the following events:
 - New Employee Orientation - August 24
 - Gr. 7 & 8 Ice Cream Social - August 29
 - Popsicles with the Principal at CES - August 30
 - Conference/Professional Development Days - September 5 & 6
 - First Day of School - September 7 - Staggered Start for Kindergarten
- Capital Project Update – Jason Chevrier shared a presentation and talked about the status of the project.

7. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP

President Shelley Palmer stated that this is the last time this will appear on the agenda, it has morphed into a new section that will be previewed later.

A. Action Item Follow-up

- Mental Health Days – more work will be done on this topic.
- Policy 5300.60 – firearms and Clay Traps language is being looked at by the school attorney.
- Cell Phone Policies – NYSSBA draft is out dated, we will look for additional policies from other districts and take a look at them through the policy committee.
- SRO – Jason Chevrier spoke with Supervisor Peter today. He has done tremendous work to get this done. It is taking time but moving in a positive direction.

B. Board Discussion

- Daniel Grandinetti – Didn't hear anything unreasonable on the book, sometimes content may be so powerful that it may lose the opportunity to get a learning point across. Spoke about a time in his youth, not interested in banning per se but need to give some thought to those kids of ideas going forward.

8. POLICY(IES)

Kurt Maier moved to approve item 8. A., Mary Yurista seconded, all present in favor.

A. Motion to approve the 2nd reading and adoption of the following policy(ies):

4810.1 Guest Speaker

5300.00 Annotated Code of Conduct

5300.05 Introduction

5300.10 Definitions

5300.15 Student Rights and Responsibilities

5300.20 Essential Partners

5300.25 Student Dress Code
 5300.30 Prohibited Student Conduct
 5300.35 Reporting Violations
 5300.40 Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals
 5300.45 Alternative Instruction
 5300.50 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
 5300.55 Corporal Punishment
 5300.60 Student Searches and Interrogations
 5300.65 Visitors to the Schools
 5300.70 Public Conduct on School Property
 5300.75 Dissemination and Review

9. FINANCE

Kurt Maier moved to approve items 9. A. through 9. G., Tylea Gebbie seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report for the months of May and June 2023.
- B. Acceptance of the Claim's Auditor report for the months of May and June 2023.
- C. Approval of the 2023 tax warrant for the Town of Schodack in the amount of \$14,894,048.19 and for the Town of Stuyvesant in the amount of \$174,061.81 (Total Tax Levy of \$15,068,110.00).
- D. Approval of the 2023 tax warrant for the Town of Schodack in the amount of \$157,161.99 and for the Town of Stuyvesant in the amount of \$1,838.01 (Total Tax Levy \$159,000.00).
- E. Approval of a resolution directing the District Treasurer to close the aforementioned Capital Projects and transfer \$33,768.29 to the General Fund and \$31,837.82 to the 2015 Capital Reserve Fund.
- F. Approval of Contract(s)/Leases(s)

Schodack Central School District				
Contract / Lease Approvals for Board Meeting: Date:				
CONTRACTOR / VENDOR NAME	TERM OF CONTRACT	PURPOSE	RATE/RETAINER	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Wildwood	Summer 2023 ESY & 2023-2024 Regular School Year	Special Education School	\$10,391 ESY per student and \$64,770 Regular	
Northern Rivers	Summer 2023 ESY & 2023-2024 Regular School Year	Special Education School	Summer \$7,761 & Regular \$46,569	
Albany City School	Contract for Health Services 2022-2023 School Year	Health Services	\$959.71 per student for 7 students	
TENANT NAME				

- G. Approval of reimbursable meal prices for the 2023-24 school year as follows:
 Full price Breakfast \$1.55, Full price Elementary Lunch \$3.05, Full price Secondary Lunch from \$3.15,
 Reduced price Breakfast and Lunch \$0.00, Milk \$0.50, and Adult prices Breakfast \$2.71 plus tax and
 Lunch \$5.02 plus tax.

10. OTHER ACTION

Daniel Grandinetti moved to approve items 10. A. through 10. F., Angela Beber seconded, all present in favor.

A. Approval of the School District Safety Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

B. Approval of the Professional Development Plan for the 2023-2024 School Year.

C. Motion to approve Jill Filkins as pro-tem district clerk for the period of August 7 through August 11, 2023.

D. Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between Schodack Central School District and The Schodack Faculty Association ("SFA") adding a club to Appendix C of the SFA contract:

Sporting Clay Trap Club – Fall 3%

Sporting Clay Trap Club – Spring 4%

E. Approval of a revised list of the job titles that may be assigned district-owned cellular phones.

F. Motion to approve a resolution declaring The Schodack Central School District as Lead Agency for the Maple Hill Jr/Sr High School Gym, sound and hoists, and declaring the project is a Type II Action.

11. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Angela Beber moved to approve items 11. A. through 11. C. , Kurt Maier seconded, all present in favor.

A. Approval of Staffing Actions:

Schodack Central School District				
Staffing Actions for Board Meeting Date: August 10, 2023				
RESIGNATIONS	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON	COMMENT
April Smith	Girl's JV Volleyball Coach	2023-24 school year	Resignation	
Meghan Krug	Junior Class Advisor	2023-24 school year	Resignation	
Amanda Fish	Teaching Assistant - 4 hours per day	August 3, 2023	Resignation	To be appointed as Health Office Assistant.
Marie Donato	Teaching Assistant - 4 hours per day	July 19, 2023	Resignation	
Ann Valley	Teaching Assistant - 4 hours per day	July 25, 2023	Resignation	
Fredrick Schreieck	Senior School Monitor	August 7, 2023	Resignation	
SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENTS	SUBSTITUTE AREA			RATE
Amanda Fish	Teaching Assistant			Rate set at the July 13, 2023 Organizational Meeting.

Christine Zimmerman	Summer ESY - Teaching Assistant			Rate set at the July 13, 2023 Organizational Meeting.
Tanya Lahr	Teaching Assistant & Teacher			Rate set at the July 13, 2023 Organizational Meeting.
APPOINTMENT	AREA	TYPE	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE
Martin Finney	Teaching Assistant	Part-time 4 hours per day	September 7, 2023	CSEA Uncertified Teaching Assistant Rate
CHANGE IN HOURS	AREA / POSITION	CURRENT HOURS	NEW HOURS	RATE
Amanda Fish	Health Office Assistant	6 hours per day	4 hours per day	Current employee rate
ADVISOR / COACH	ACTIVITY	DURATION	RATE	
Scott Charlebois - Volunteer Assistant Coach	Girls Varsity Soccer Coach			

B. Approval of a (2) two-year probationary appointment of April Smith (certification: Physical Education and Health Education) as .5 FTE Health Teacher in the tenure area of Health, at a salary of MA Step 9, 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,

and further approve the (4) four-year probationary appointment of April Smith, (certification: Physical Education and Health Education), as .5FTE Athletic Director, in the tenure area of Athletic Director, at a salary of MA Step 9 effective September 1, 2023.

C. Approval of a (4) four-year probationary appointment of Micaela Madigan, (certification: Physical Education), commencing on September 1, 2023, as Physical Education Teacher, in the tenure area of Physical Education, at a salary of MA Step 2, 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.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

April Smith talked about Clay Trap club. Thanked the board for moving forward with it.

13. END BUSINESS MEETING

A. Agenda Planning board members talked about potential items for future meetings.

- Kurt Maier asked about electric busses. Will be talked about more in the near future.
- Tylea Gebbie asked about Board Goals. May need another working retreat to discuss it more. Discussion ensued about the goals, priorities and fresh start items
- Angela Beber mentioned the NYSSBA Annual Convention in October.
- Tylea Gebbie asked about a discipline report
- Kurt Maier suggested a presentation from SUNY Albany on the EPIC Program.

B. Board Member Comment

- Mary Yurista, Tylea Gebbie and Angela Beber talked about a training event they attended for Board Members.
- Kurt Maier thanked April Smith, expressed longevity is key and felt she will be here for a while.
- Blake Kush asked for a process clarification question on how the new agenda section will work. Discussion ensued.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A. Mary Yurista moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Filkins

Pro-Tem District Clerk