

*IT IS THE MISSION OF THE SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOLS  
to develop our students to become "...active, reflective, creative learners. In our schools, they will engage in rewarding work and  
practice behaviors that are intelligent in both an academic and a practical sense. Students will develop the attitudes, skills  
and understandings that will allow them to fulfill their potential and to function successfully in their individual and social  
roles."*

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SCHODACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, New York 12033-1699

**February 17, 2011**

**Maple Hill High School Library**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – REGULAR**

Present: Andrew Fleck, President; Susan Megna, Vice President; Christine DiGiulio, Michael Hiser, Kenneth Flood, Bruce Romanchak, George Warner, Lisa Lafferty.

Absent: Paul Puccio,

Also Present: Robert Horan, Superintendent; Sherri Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services; Donna Watson, Director of Staff Development and Pupil Personnel Services; Michael Bennett, MHMS; Jason Chevrier, CES; Ron Agostinoni, MHHS; Liz Chipman, District Clerk.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Proposed Executive Session 6:05 p.m. (High School Library) Ken Flood moved to enter executive session. Chris DiGiulio seconded. All present in favor.
3. Approval of present agenda. Chris DiGiulio moved, Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
4. Approval of minutes of regular meeting January 20, 2011. Chris DiGiulio moved, Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor. George abstain (not present at 1/20/11)
5. Meeting open for public discussion. Exchange weekend at end of January. Thank you to Patty Racz. Student attending Tech Valley HS thanked board for allowing him to attend Tech Valley HS. Student outlined learning process at Tech Valley HS.
6. Reports / Presentations:
  - a. Presentation of Girl Scout Gold Award Project - Sierra Pizzola spoke to board regarding her project for Girl Scout Gold Award. Program for girls in softball and improvements to current softball field. Fundraising efforts, etc. Questions, comments from board members.
  - b. Draft 1 Budget Proposal - Sherri Fisher reported. Budget presentation PowerPoint will be on district website. External factors influencing budget: NYS budget gap (9+ billion), Federal economic stimulus fund program ends in 2011, unsettled challenges to property assessments, higher mandated payments to pension systems, increased health insurance costs, slow economic recovery, reform initiatives.  
Key assumptions for Draft 1 Budget: current staffing levels, 4 retirements, 1.5% growth for non-payroll items, no increase in textbooks/software, contractual and debt service, 5% increase in BOCES rates, health insurance 3-6% increase, legal services 5% increase,

pension contributions, special education services 5-10% increase, utilities and fuel, projected assessment loss and PILOT payment. Draft budget has 2.86% increase over 2010-11 estimated revenues.

Highlighted to board what 4% or 2% property tax cap would look like for Schodack.

Outlined cost reduction options.

Questions, comments from board members.

7. Board Discussion. Andrew Fleck: thank you to all of building staff for all the tremendous work they've gone this winter keeping the sidewalks, parking lots cleared. Thanks to Bob and Sherri during recent tragedies that district has suffered. Sherri extended thanks to school social workers and guidance counselors. Chris DiGiulio moved to add second board discussion following public discussion. Lisa Lafferty seconded. All present in favor.
8. Meeting open for public discussion. Question regarding whether BOCES programs are mandated. Laura Crotty: Community budget advisory boards. Schodack is unique community, faculty cares a great deal about the students and the programs in Schodack. Alternative methods of funding education. John Nicholas: is board open to larger increase in tax rate? What is difference between reserve, fund balance and debt service fund? Online credit recovery, online coaches, etc. Contingent budget cap. Impact of eliminating modified and jv sports. Increase in study halls because of reduction in art and music. Elimination of Spanish 5. Alternative options could be distance learning or HVCC, or cooperative classes with a nearby district. Sports, music very important. JV lacrosse. Kayla Fleck: elementary class sizes, inclusion classes. Late bus run reduction.
9. Board Discussion. Bruce Romanchak: class size at elementary level. Discussion. Michael Hiser: what are three most expensive items in proposed reductions. Kenneth Flood: requested some justification for items kept in budget v. those that are slated as possible reductions. There is very little remaining in the budget that is not mandated. If programs are cut out of the program this year, it will be nearly impossible to put them back in the budget. We don't know what the community will support. Budget advisory teams will be helpful as indicator of what taxpayers are willing to support. Jason Chevrier: need to think outside of traditional model of program delivery. Discussion.
10. Policies. None.
11. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Susan Megna moved acceptance of Treasurer's Reports for the month of December, 2010. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
  - b. Susan Megna moved acceptance of Revenue and Budget Status Reports for the month of December, 2010. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
  - c. Susan Megna moved acceptance of Extra-Classroom Activity Report for the month of December, 2010. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
  - d. Susan Megna moved acceptance of Claims Auditor Report for the month of November, 2010. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
  - e. Susan Megna moved approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Special

Education regarding 2010-2011 students: #000113833, #000113469, #000011372, #000012441, and #000113203. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

- f. Susan Megna moved approval of recommendations of the district Committee on Preschool Special Education regarding 2010-2011 special education services for students: # 000113758, #000113824, #000113534, #000113827, #000113828, and #000113826. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- g. Susan Megna moved approval of health services contract with North Colonie Central School District for the 2010-11 school year in the amount of \$2,459.50 (\$491.90 each) for five (5) resident students attending nonpublic schools. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Susan Megna moved approval of health services contract with South Colonie Central School District for the 2010-11 school year in the amount of \$603.20 for one (1) resident student attending nonpublic schools. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Susan Megna moved approval of health services contract with North Greenbush Common School District for the 2010-11 school year in the amount of \$693.45 for three (3) resident student attending nonpublic schools. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- j. Susan Megna moved approval of a corrective action plan from the 2009-10 school year audit related to the Extra-Classroom Activity Fund as recommended by the District's External Auditor. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- k. Susan Megna moved approval of three (3) contracts with Stanley Security Systems for security intercom systems at the entrance of each building to be paid from the Capital Project numbers: Castleton Elementary School # 49-15-01-04-0-001-014 in the amount of \$7,657.00, Maple Hill Middle School # 49-15-01-04-0-004-010 in the amount of \$4,777.00 and Maple Hill High School #49-15-01-04-0-002-017 in the amount of \$4,777.00. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- l. Susan Megna moved approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and Schodack Central School Faculty Association to add club advisorship (Olympics of the Visual Arts (CES)) to Appendix C Extracurricular Compensation Schedule, effective January 26, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- m. Susan Megna moved approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and Schodack Central School Faculty Association to add club advisorship (Olympics of the Visual Arts (MHMS)) to Appendix C Extracurricular Compensation Schedule, effective January 26, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- n. Susan Megna moved approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and Schodack Central School Faculty Association to add club advisorship (Olympics of the Visual Arts (MHHS)) to Appendix C Extracurricular Compensation Schedule, effective January 26, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

- o. Susan Megna moved approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and Schodack Central School Faculty Association to add club advisorship (K-Kids (CES)) to Appendix C Extracurricular Compensation Schedule, effective January 26, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- p. Susan Megna moved approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and Schodack Central School Faculty Association to add club advisorship (National Junior Honor Society (MHMS)) to Appendix C Extracurricular Compensation Schedule, effective January 26, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- q. Susan Megna moved approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Schodack Central School District and Schodack Central School Faculty Association to add club advisorship (Environmental Club (MHHS)) to Appendix C Extracurricular Compensation Schedule. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- r. Susan Megna moved approval of the creation of one (1) stipend for National Junior Honor Society 2.5% of the BA Base Salary for the 2010-11 school year. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- s. Susan Megna moved approval of Senior Class trip to Cape May, New Jersey, on June 10-12, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- t. Susan Megna moved approval of International Club trip to Quebec City, Canada, on May 13-14, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- u. Susan Megna moved authorization of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to sign School Lunch Claims and Reports – present incumbents are Heather Briggs and Sherri Fisher, effective January 3, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- v. Susan Megna moved authorization of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to sign Form SA300, Federal Commodities – present incumbents are Heather Briggs and Sherri Fisher, effective January 3, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- w. Susan Megna moved authorization of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to sign district checks with facsimile signatures – present incumbents are Heather Briggs and Sherri Fisher, effective January 3, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- x. Susan Megna moved authorization of Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to execute transfers of funds by telephone among authorized district bank accounts – present incumbents are Heather Briggs and Sherri Fisher, effective January 3, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- y. Susan Megna moved designation of signatures on checks: Heather Briggs, Treasurer, or Sherri Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Support Services or Robert Horan, Superintendent, effective January 3, 2011. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

- z. Susan Megna moved acceptance of a donation from MHYL Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$3,000.00 in support of the MHHS JV Lacrosse program. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- aa. Susan Megna moved approval of a resolution authorizing an increase in the 2010-11 General Fund budget of \$3,000. to support expenses associated with the MHHS JV Lacrosse program, to be offset by a \$3,000. donation from MHYL Foundation, Inc. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- bb. Susan Megna moved appointment of new Internal Auditor, effective immediately through June 30, 2011 – Michael Wolff. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.
- cc. Susan Megna moved acceptance of a revised Capital Fund Checking Treasurers report for the month of November 2010. Michael Hiser seconded. All present in favor.

## 12. Appointments / Resignations:

- a. Kenneth Flood moved approval of a revision to the appointment of Deborah Clifford, School Bus Attendant, for 3.0 hours/day, effective January 21, 2011, from Probationary to Temporary. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- b. Kenneth Flood moved approval of the probationary appointment of Frank Bareis, Jr., School Bus Driver, for 3.75 hours/day, effective February 28, 2011. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- c. Kenneth Flood moved acceptance of the resignation of Tim Ryan, JV Lacrosse Coach. Bruce Romanchak seconded. Discussion. All present in favor.
- d. Kenneth Flood moved acceptance of the resignation of Theresa Hovish, Middle School Olympics of Visual Arts Advisor. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- e. Kenneth Flood moved acceptance of the resignation of Irene Skalij for the purpose of retirement into the NYS Teachers' Retirement System, effective June 30, 2011. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- f. Kenneth Flood moved approval of extracurricular advisors/coaches for 2010-11:
  - i. Tracy Arno – Girls 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Track & Field Coach
  - ii. Kyle Randall – Boys JV Lacrosse Coach
  - iii. Sarah Loszynski – On-line Learning Coach
  - iv. Evan Whitfield – On-line Learning Coach
  - v. Sandy Strock – On-line Learning Coach
  - vi. Helen Wallbank – On-line Learning Coach
  - vii. Lisa O'Leary – On-line Learning Coordinator
  - viii. Allison Green – Co-National Junior Honor Society
  - ix. Judy DiPrima – Co-National Junior Honor Society. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.

- g. Kenneth Flood moved approval of Assistant Coaches:
  - i. Pat Austin - Softball .
  - ii. Richard T. Randall – Boys JV Lacrosse. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- h. Kenneth Flood moved approval of substitute teacher(s): Kelly L. Wolfner, Sean G. Sardi, Samantha A. Steward, Amy E. Hirschoff, Geoffrey W. Switts, John J. Emminger. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- i. Kenneth Flood moved approval of Substitute Non-Instructional Staff : Frank Asenbauer, (Custodial Worker) Richard J. Wadsworth (Custodial Worker) ,Richard J. Grennon. Bruce Romanchak seconded. All present in favor.
- j. Approval of substitute Teacher Assistant(s): Geoffrey W. Switts, Jaclyn N. Hamlin, Elisa L. Wright, Michelle L. Slovak
- k. Approval of tutor(s): Amy E. Hirschoff

NOTE: All personnel appointments are subject to fingerprint clearance by the NYS Education Department and verification of Permanent or Pending Certification by NYS.

- 13. Meeting open for public discussion. More parent involvement is necessary. High school students mentoring/tutoring in elementary school? Discussion of economic climate, difficult times ahead for the school district. The students will be impacted this year in a way that hasn't been evidenced before. Lobby state legislators to make better decisions related to funding education.
- 14. Action items. Draft 2 budgets. Ken's questions: mandated/not mandated. Girl Scout Gold award program agreement for Softball field project discussion.
- 15. Executive Session: Work history of specific employees and litigation. Kenneth Flood moved to enter executive session at 10:05pm. Christine DiGuilio seconded. All present in favor.
- 16. George Warner moved to leave Executive Session and return to public session at 11:52 pm, Kenneth Flood seconded. All present in favor.
- 17. Consent Agenda item added:
  - dd. Motion to approve an unpaid leave of absence for Andrea Faoro, 7-12 Math Teacher, for the 2011-12 school year. Bruce Romanchak moved, Kenneth Flood seconded. Motion denied.
- 18. Adjournment. Having no other business before the board, meeting adjourned at 11:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Elizabeth B. Chipman*  
Elizabeth Chipman  
District Clerk