

SCHALMONT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

**Regular Meeting of the Schalmont Board of Education
Monday, October 23, 2023; 7:00 PM; MS LGI**

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM

Members Present

Mr. Angelo Santabarbara, President
Mr. David Lawrence, Vice President
Ms. Patricia Dowse
Ms. Miranda Eldridge
Mr. Kevin Thompson

Members Absent

Mrs. Jean Hanson

Others Present

Dr. Thomas Reardon, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Brenda Leitt, School Business Administrator
Mr. Nicholas Castiglione, Student Representative
Mr. Kyle Larabee, Student Representative

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by the Boy Scouts

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion made by Ms. Dowse, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, that the agenda for the October 23, 2023 meeting of the Schalmont Board of Education be approved.

Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Hanson absent.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Castiglione and Mr. Larabee reported the High School Key Club held a successful blood drive with the Red Cross and had 12 student donors. Therapy dogs visited the HS last Thursday. On Thursday, October 12th, HS Senior David Cafarelli organized the “Out of Darkness Walk” on the HS track, which symbolizes the journey that those affected by depression take and their path from darkness to light. This walk will become an annual event, with David as its founder. Last week was Senior Night for the girls swimming and volleyball teams. Last Friday night was Senior Night for the varsity football, cheer and marching band. The HS Drama Club and English Honor Society are bringing back “Java Jive”. A 1950s coffee house style show filled with skits, singing, dancing and poetry. The Senior Class is hosting their annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the Middle School the entire 8th grade class took a field trip to HVCC for the annual Jam Trip. This trip introduced students to career leaders and potential employers as well as a tour of the HVCC College campus. The MS continues to recognize its Hallway Heroes (students making exceptional choices and showing leadership throughout the building). The MS PIT Crew is thriving (Partnership, Involvement and Teamwork). At Jefferson Elementary, the “candy monsters” have collected 200 bags of candy for their Trunk or Treat event. Jefferson PTO and Maple Ski Ridge have partnership as many young skiers and snowboarders will begin to use the local slopes on Friday nights this winter.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Board of Education Appreciation – Dr. Reardon and Ms. Hanson

The Value of Engagement in the Success of our School - Mrs. Umar and Mr. Ziomek

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion made by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Eldridge, that the consent agenda consisting of the following items be approved:

- Board of Education Meeting Minutes: October 10, 2023
- Financial Reports September 2023: Finance Report; HS/MS Extracurricular
- CSE/CPSE Recommendations: Sept. 19, 20, 2023; Oct. 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 2023
- Personnel Matters

- **Instructional Personnel Matters**
 - Part-Time Appointment
 - Name: Linda Kovel
 - Position: Reading, Jefferson
 - FTE: 1.0
 - Effective: October 2, 2023 through November 24, 2023
 - Step: 13 (as per STA Agreement)

Resignation

Erika Boehlke, Nurse, Jefferson/MS, effective October 27, 2023

Anthony Wasiyo, Jr., Varsity Wrestling Coach, effective October 11, 2023

Unpaid Leave of Absence

Raegan Gleason, Special Education, Jefferson; October 12, 2023 through February 7, 2024

2023-24 Winter Coaching Appointments (Stipend in accordance with STA Agreement)

Josh Cuomo, Varsity Wrestling, Step 8

• **Noninstructional Personnel Matters** (All hourly pay rates as per SSRPA Agreement)

<u>Substitute Appointment</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Carmen Echevarria	Cleaner	District Wide	10/16/23	as needed

Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Hanson absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Extracurricular Activity Name Change: Motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Dowse, that the Board of Education approve the High School Extracurricular activity name change from BMX Club to Young Entrepreneurs.

Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Hanson absent.

First Read/Board Policies: Motion made by Ms. Dowse, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, that the Board of Education approve the first read of the following School Board policies.

4321.12	Timeout and Physical Restraint (All Students)
5300.55	Corporal Punishment
9520.6	Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Hanson absent.

Service Agreement: Motion made by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Thompson, that the Board of Education approve the service agreement between Oak Hill School and the Schalmont CSD dated Sept. 6, 2023 through June 21, 2024 for one student at the cost of tuition of \$40,753.

Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Hanson absent.

Service Agreement: Motion made by Ms. Dowse, seconded by Ms. Eldridge, that the Board of Education approve the service agreement between Advanced Therapy P.L.L.C. and the Schalmont CSD dated Sept. 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for one student at the cost of \$58.00 per thirty (30) minutes of therapy services and \$600 per occupational and/or physical and/or speech language pathology evaluations.

Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Hanson absent.

Social Media Litigation: Motion made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, WHEREAS, in recent years, it has become apparent that children and teenagers are spending an inordinate amount of time scrolling through various social media platforms, including Meta, Instagram, TikTok; and WHEREAS, while spending time on social media platforms, children and teenagers are often subjected to harmful and exploitative content which is causing them to experience increased anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues at an alarming rate; and WHEREAS, studies have shown that as a result of increased mental health issues secondary to social media use, students are performing worse in school, are less likely to attend school, are more likely to engage in substance use and to act out somewhat violently, all of which affects a school district’s ability to fulfill its educational mission; and WHEREAS, the Schalmont Central School District Board of Education (“BOE”) has been invited to join a nation-wide lawsuit by public entities, including many school districts, against Meta, TikTok, Snap, and YouTube as well as other social media companies; and WHEREAS, the lawsuit alleges that these social media companies have caused a mental health crisis among children and teenagers that severely affects their ability

to succeed in school; and WHEREAS, the BOE wishes to join this lawsuit to hold social media companies accountable for their exploitive conduct, send the message to these companies that profits should not be prioritized at the expense of children’s health and safety, and provide the District with financial resources to mitigate this ongoing mental health crisis. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Schalmont Central School District Board of Education hereby resolves: 1. To appoint the law firms of Bond Schoeneck & King, PLLC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC to provide legal services in connection with pursuing claims for damages associated with the litigation against Meta, TikTok, Snap, and YouTube as well as other social media companies consistent with the recitals above; 2. To approve the contract for such legal services; and 3. To authorize the Superintendent to take all steps necessary to become an active co-plaintiff to litigation filed on behalf of school districts by Bond Schoeneck & King and the Frantz Law Group.

Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Hanson absent.

BOARD ITEMS

Mr. Santabarbara – Nice to see better communication in Middle School with parents, students and grandparents. Thank you Mr. Ziomek and Mrs. Umar, good presentation. Good luck to all students in sectionals.

Ms. Dowse – Thank you, Mr. Ziomek and Mrs. Umar, for the Middle School presentation. Thanks for two-way communication.

Ms. Eldridge – Thank you to the Boy Scouts for being here today. Thank you Ms. Hanson’s students for gingerbread house.

Mr. Lawrence – Thank you Boy Scouts for being here. Thank you Mr. Ziomek and Mrs. Umar, great Middle School presentation. You walk the walk and talk the talk, very cool.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made by, seconded by, that the October 23, 2023 meeting of the Board of Education be adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Hanson absent.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda Leitt,
Clerk of the Board