



Dr. Fuchs and the Board of Education acknowledged and recognized students, Christopher Brunke, Dan Rodriguez and Sam Faber Manning, with Pride In Putnam Valley for their selection to participate in the 2011 Area All-State Festival sponsored by the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA). Dr. Fuchs noted that the festival represents the best high school instrumental players in Putnam, Dutchess and Columbia counties and that student selection is based on official NYSSMA scores and the recommendation of their teacher.

Mr. Lee summarized BOCES' proposed capital projects proposal. He provided information on the scope of the projects and the costs including the potential borrowing and payback plans for the District. He also noted that the cost of this project to the District must be included within the 2% tax cap.

Mr. Lee explained that all of the 18 component districts must approve the vote for the capital projects for the work to commence. However, if one or more of the districts vote no, the state could decide that some of the proposed work is necessary and declare a "state of emergency" condition. In that case, it was noted that BOCES could move forward with the work and would bill each of the 18 component districts for their share.

It was noted that the Board would be asked for their approval of the BOCES projects at the next Board meeting on January 26, 2012. (Presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office.)

Mr. Lee presented a preliminary budget estimate for the 2012-13 school year. He noted that he was presenting the same information that had been presented to the Budget Advisory Committee on December 15, 2011. Mr. Lee included information on the current state aide formulas and his assumptions for next year's budget. He also included information on the anticipated increases in costs for benefits (retirement system contributions, Social Security, Medicare, health and hospital insurance), salaries and special education tuitions and services. Mr. Lee noted that these items total approximately \$1,600,000. He also reported on the anticipated tax levy for the 2012-13 school year and how it relates to the 2% tax cap. Mr. Lee included an explanation of utilizing or not utilizing money from the fund balance to offset the increased expenses. He noted that the Board needs to always consider the issue of appropriating more money from the fund balance since he reminded the Board that this can become hazardous to the financial health of the District. (Presentation attached to the official minutes on file in the District Office.)

Dr. Fuchs noted that the District must decide on how to reduce the budget to meet the maximum allowable tax levy. She also noted that the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) will have their next meeting on January 17 and the sub-committees would be reporting back on their recommendations on how to meet the necessary reduction of \$1,600,000. Dr. Fuchs reported that the BAC will make their final presentation to the Board of Education on January 26.

Mr. Lee's next presentation topic was budget projections for the upcoming five years. He noted that the numbers are based on the extensive use of "SWAG" (Scientifically Wild Assumptions and Guesses). Mr. Lee explained the revenue, CPI and expense assumptions he was working with in establishing the projections. (Presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office.)

Dr. Fuchs presented information on the potential calendar for the 2012-13 school year. She noted the proposed calendar from BOCES included four superintendent's conference days, one of which is Monday, June 24, and two days off during the month of February. Dr. Fuchs noted that she is proposing the same calendar as BOCES without the superintendent's conference day on June 24. She noted that the 2012-13 calendar proposes school opening for students on September 5 and that the February winter recess will be two days.

In her Superintendent's report Dr. Fuchs wished everyone a wonderful new year and noted that while the fiscal realities in education were gloomy, the students and staff in the District were still accomplishing wonderful things. She announced the next meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee would be January 17 at 6:30pm in the High School and that the meeting was open to the public.

In their student representatives report, Mr. O'Connor and Ms. Tatnell congratulated the High School Chorus for their concert performance and noted that the High School band concert would be held on January 18. They reported that mid-terms were approaching, school would be closed on Monday, January 16, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the PTA would be sponsoring a pajamas and pizza event for 2nd graders and their families on Friday January 20, at 6:30pm at the Elementary School cafeteria. The student representatives also noted that the upcoming budget year was "scary" and that they would have some comments on this topic at the next Board meeting.

There was no report from the PTA or PTSA.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for comments on agenda items.

Ms. Ann Chesnut identified herself as a reporter, parent and taxpayer in the community. She asked the Board about an article that appeared in the *Journal News* which noted that the Putnam Valley Central School District is the 5th largest employer in the county, and she stated that she did not think this was a true fact. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that it was not a true statement and that Mahopac and Carmel School Districts are larger but were not included on this list. Ms. Chesnut also asked if a lockdown had been done at Putnam Valley High School and whether drugs were found. Dr. Fuchs noted that a lockdown had occurred and that this lockdown drill was similar to what has been done in previous years and that no drugs were discovered.

There were no other comments, and the Board moved into the New Business.

## NEW BUSINESS

**APPROVE**  
**AMENDED BOE MTG.**  
**DATES**  
**#152/12**

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the amended 2011-12 meeting dates for the Board of Education as per Document #50/12 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office. Motion carried unanimously.

**AUTHORIZE**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
**REFUNDS-SMALL**  
**CLAIMS ASSESSMENT**  
**REV. DEC.**  
**#153/12**

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to authorize the tax collector to make refunds due to Small Claims Assessment Review decisions as per Document #51/12 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting on file in the District office. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cohen noted that these refunds are due to successful assessment challenges by residents.

**APPOINT**  
**S. SHIBOSKI**  
**5-MO. LV. REPL. 2ND GR.**  
**TEACHER-2/6/12-6/30/12**  
**#154/12**

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Sarah Shiboski to a 5-month leave replacement as a 2nd grade teacher at the Elementary School, effective February 6, 2012 through June 30, 2012 (or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education), on step 1-BA of the PVFT salary schedule. Ms. Shiboski holds Early Childhood (birth-2) and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) pending certifications. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE**  
**PERSONNEL ACTIONS**  
**#155/12**

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve personnel actions as per Document #52/12 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the personnel actions included two childcare leaves, a stipend for the Middle School chorus concert accompanist and additions to the substitute/tutor listing.

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Lauren Zagorski-Treuel as the Reviewing Official and Verification Official for the 2011-12 Income and Eligibility Guidelines for Free and Reduced Price Meals program. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINT**  
**L. ZAGORSKI-TREUEL**  
**2011-12 REV.**  
**OFFIC./VERIF. OFFIC.**  
**FREE-REDUCED MEALS**  
**PROGRAM**  
**#156/12**

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, to appoint Suzanne Policastro to a six-month probationary appointment (based on need) effective January 13, 2012 through July 13, 2012 as a bus monitor for the transportation department on step-1 of the CSEA salary schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINT**  
**S. POLICASTRO**  
**6-MO. PROB. APPT.**  
**EFF. 1/13/12-7/13/12**  
**BUS MONITOR**  
**#157/12**

Dr. Fuchs noted that this was a temporary position based on an as needed basis.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for comments from the Board or the public on any item.

Mr. Cohen confirmed that the start time for the Board Meeting on January 26 would be at 6pm. It was noted that from 6pm to 7pm the Board would hear a presentation regarding the District's upcoming community survey. The formal portion of the Business Meeting would begin at 7pm.

Mr. Ferraro stated that he wanted the public to know that Governor Cuomo is not the only lobbyist for children in New York State (as per the Governor's recent speech) and that parents and Board members have always been advocates for students. Mr. Ferraro also noted that the Governor has stated that he has problems with the teacher evaluation system and Mr. Ferraro noted that it was the Department of Education, which is under the jurisdiction of Governor Cuomo, that put the system in place.

There were no other comments.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to go into Executive Session regarding litigation and collective negotiations.

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, the Board move into Executive Session to discuss a matter of litigation and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Taylor Law (the Taylor Law). Motion carried unanimously.

**CONVENE**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**#158/12**

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that no business would be conducted after the Executive Session.

Joining the Board in the Executive Session were Dr. Fuchs, Mr. David Shaw (District Counsel) and Mr. Ted Doverstein and Mr. Dave Moran (Accume Partners). The partners from Accume left the Executive Session at 9:27pm and Mr. David Shaw left the Executive Session at 10:56pm.

**ADJOURN**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**#159/12**

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 10:57pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**  
**MEETING**  
**#160/12**

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**Submitted by:**



**Maureen Bellino,**  
**District Clerk**