

**MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUTNAM VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
146 PEEKSKILL HOLLOW ROAD  
PUTNAM VALLEY, NEW YORK 10579**

**TIME:7:00pm**  
**No. of Pages: 8**

**Type of Meeting: Business Meeting**

**Date: Oct. 27, 2011**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION:** President Valerie Fitzgerald  
Vice President Guy Cohen  
Trustee Joseph Ferraro  
Trustee Jeanine Rufo - arrived 7:03pm  
Trustee David Spittal

**PRESENT**

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Superintendent of Schools  
Paul Lee, Asst. Supt. for Business & Finance  
Vincent Burruano, High School Principal  
Edward Hallisey, Middle School Principal  
Jamie Edelman, Elementary School Principal  
Natalie Doherty, Director of Special Education  
Nick Bellantoni, Director of Buildings & Grounds  
Doug Judson, Supervisor of Transportation, Operations & Maint.

**OTHERS:** Maureen Bellino, District Clerk  
Ryan O'Connor, Student Rep. to the Board  
Dan Mahoney, Videographer  
Approximately 75 members of the public or staff.

The meeting was opened by Ms. Fitzgerald at 7:02pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONVENE MEETING**

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to approve minutes.

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, the minutes of the Business Meeting of September 22, 2011 and the Work Session/Business Meeting of October 13, 2011 were adopted. Motion carried 4-0.

**APPROVE MINUTES**  
**#106/12**

Ms. Rufo arrived after the vote on this motion.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

Dr. Fuchs began her Superintendent's report noting that October 24th through the 28th was the recognition week for boards of education. She recognized the Board for the time that they volunteer to the students and the entire community of Putnam Valley. Dr. Fuchs noted that on Tuesday, October 25, students at the High School were inducted into the French and Spanish Honor Societies at the Foreign Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony. Dr. Fuchs noted that the student reps would read the names of those that were recognized with this honor.

She also reported that the action plans for the goals of curriculum & instruction (C&I) and the environment would be presented by the facilitators for these two areas. Dr. Fuchs noted that the goals and action plans were developed over the summer and reviewed again in September by a committee representing different constituent groups (including parents, teachers, staff and administration). Dr. Fuchs reported that there was a joint effort in terms of developing the goals and action plans. Dr. Fuchs noted that the community needed to keep in mind the educational impact and financial savings for the District in each of the goal areas. She noted that she hoped that everyone would keep an open mind to the action plans for the goals. (Dr. Fuchs' presentation is attached to the official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office.)

Dr. Fuchs introduced Mr. Burruano to begin his portion of the presentation which included the action plans for the following curriculum and instruction goals: the addition of a financial education course as a requirement of graduation by the Class of 2015, determining which foreign languages will be offered to Middle School and High School students, ensuring that students get the support they need to meet the current standards, aligning the ELA and math curriculum with the Common Core standards with an emphasis on increasing rigor, and writing K-12. Dr. Fuchs reported on the K-12 technology goal. She noted that the District was providing technology help to all teachers to meet the Board/District goal of each faculty member having a website (at the Elementary School) or utilizing StudyWiz (Middle and High Schools).

Mr. Burruano continued his report on the C& I goals with regard to the potential of an 8-period day. Mr. Burruano reported on the advantages and challenges to implementing an 8-period instructional day including transportation constraints, physical constraints (classrooms), the possibility of fewer electives, the schedule of the students attending BOCES and certain special education students. Mr. Hallisey presented information with regard to the potential challenges at the Middle School with an 8-period day. The potential challenges he noted included dealing with the loss of the skills period (he noted that all pull-outs would come from the core academic programs) and the elimination of before-school clubs and activities.

Mr. Burruano asked Mr. Bellantoni and the transportation consultant, Mr. James Larsson, to present their findings on the various possibilities with regard to the District's transportation needs with the aforementioned possibilities. Four possibilities were examined and this included moving the 5th grade back to the Elementary School. It was noted that, transportation-wise, moving the 5th grade back to the Elementary School would work. Mr. Larsson reported on other scenarios that would not work which included having an 8-period day at the Middle School and High School. He did note that the switching of the current Middle School schedule with the High School schedule would most likely work with some changes needed in the afterschool Middle School bus runs. Mr. Larsson and Mr. Bellantoni reported on the costs for additional buses, number of seats per bus and the current New York State mandates with regard to number of seats mandated for the school population. Mr. Ferraro asked about potential emergency situations and our ability to evacuate students. He also asked for additional information as to any potential cost savings with regard to changes in our current transportation methods. (Presentation included in the official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office.)

Ms. Edelman reported on the exploration of returning the fifth grade to the Elementary School building. She noted the history of the grade level make-up of each of the District's buildings as well as the number of different grade configurations in New York State. She also reported on the common reasons for changing grade configurations. (Ms. Edelman's presentation is included in the official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office.)

Dr. Fuchs asked if the research provided any information, and Ms. Edelman noted that the research was inconclusive. Ms. Edelman also reported on the requirements that a population, K-5, would need. She noted that the building can handle the increased population without utilizing the existing pre-fab classrooms that are outside of the main building. These pre-fab classroom could possibly be used for occupational therapy and physical therapy. Ms. Edelman noted the potential financial considerations including the possible addition of lunch monitors, the reduction of a classroom teacher and the possible financial consideration of updating the pre-fab buildings to meet the needs of students. It is anticipated that the cost savings would amount to approximately \$150,000-\$175,000. Ms. Fitzgerald asked about the Elementary School keeping a similar model that is currently being done in the Middle School if the fifth grade is brought back to that building. Ms. Edelman noted that discussions have taken place with regard to this and that the current 5th grade model was a definite possibility. In response to a question asked by Mr. Spittal with regard to where the cost savings comes from, Mr. Lee noted that this move could result in a reduction of 2 FTE teachers.

Mr. Hallisey commented on a question from Ms. Rufo with regard to changing the configuration of the current fifth grade team while retaining the fifth grade at the Middle School. Ms. Rufo asked if the savings could still result with the fifth grade remaining at the Middle School. Mr. Hallisey noted that it could. Ms. Rufo asked if the fifth grade model of team teaching in a departmental model would be possible at the Elementary School. Ms. Edelman noted that she felt that this would definitely be a possibility but would need further exploration. Dr. Fuchs noted that one of the reasons for this move is that currently the entire NYS testing burden is on all the Middle School grade levels. Ms. Rufo asked what the process would be for further discussion. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that this discussion would need to be continued at future meetings.

Mr. Bellantoni presented the action plans for the environmental goals. (Presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office.)

Dr. Fuchs noted that Mr. Bellantoni would be retiring from the District and that his last day of work in the District would be the following day. Dr. Fuchs and the Board thanked Mr. Bellantoni for his service to the District over the last ten years.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for public comments on any agenda items.

Ms. Cheryl Soto, a parent of a High School student and a Middle School student, noted that the 8-period day may be a moot point but did want to point out that the group of students most adversely effected by this possibility are the students with special needs. She noted that the loss of the skills period would be critical for these students. She asked the Board to consider this for any future discussions as well as the older/younger children riding on the bus together.

Mary Gifford-Smith and Amanita Duga-Carroll, parents of students at both the High School and the Middle School, noted their thanks to the Board for the appreciation week. They noted that they were both members of the Middle School Steering Committee; however, they were speaking as parents at tonight's meeting. They noted that they understood the implications that the Board will be facing both educationally and financially. They noted that years ago there were many presentations given to parents regarding moving the 5th grade to the Middle School and it was said that the move was in the best interest of the students. They noted that any fears parents had were unfounded and they advocate strongly for keeping the fifth grade at the Middle School. They also noted that the Board and community need to be mindful that when cuts are made they potentially effect the District that the community wishes to have.

Mr. Bellantoni noted that the Board needs to keep in mind if the District keeps the 5th grade students at the Middle School that they are considered middle school students when it comes to transportation. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that we need to look at the NYS guidelines when it comes to transportation for the differing grade levels.

Ms. Tina Mackay noted that she understands the constraints that are being placed on the District's schools. She noted that the Board should be looking elsewhere for potential cuts and that the 8-period day includes program concerns that need to be examined. In the transportation area, she noted that the District may be able to realize some savings and that other areas to look at include back office operations and kindergarten, which she noted is not a required program. Ms. Mackay noted that she was not suggesting to cut it but to consider offering kindergarten another way such as out-sourcing the program.

Ms. Soto also noted that the possibility of moving the location of the occupational and physical therapy programs at the Elementary School greatly affects students since many of those students have issues with their gait, etc. She asked the Board to consider cutting the fifth grade program at the Middle School to five classrooms before considering moving the fifth grade back to the Elementary School.

Ms. Julie Torregrosa, parent of Middle School and High School students, noted she was worried that her children's educational experiences may be limited if the District decided on an 8-period day since the students may not have the ability to take all the classes that they wish to enroll in.

Ms. Jeannie Denike noted that it was nice to see so many people involved in the budget conversations early in the process. She asked that they stay involved in the conversation no matter what your opinion and that everyone needs to be knowledgeable about the issues.

Dr. Fuchs noted that the two percent tax cap is untenable and that a member of the previous Budget Advisory Committee noted that the District is in a horrible dilemma of cutting and noted what there will be nothing left to cut in ten years. Dr. Fuchs also noted that she knows taxpayers are hurting and a lot of people are without jobs and that the District, at this point, needs to cut \$1,600,000 from the budget to attain the 2% tax cap. We need to work together to solve this issue. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that we need to listen to everyone's input to help make the decisions together.

There were no further comments from the public.

Mr. O'Connor gave the Student Representatives' report. He congratulated and announced the names of the students that were inducted into the Foreign Language Honor Society. (Program from the induction ceremony attached to the official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office.) He also reported on the upcoming events at the buildings, including the foreign language club's international dinner, the staff variety show fundraiser, which were both being held on Friday, November 4. Mr. Cohen noted the teams that would be participating in sectional play in the upcoming week including boys' soccer, field hockey, volleyball, cross-county and that the football team was having a home game on Saturday, October 29. The PTA/PTSA representative noted that the annual auction would be held on November 18 and the Barnes & Noble fundraiser would be held on December 18.

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

**APPROVE**  
**CSE/CPSE PLACEMENTS**  
**#107/12**

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve CSE/CPSE placements as per Document #39/12 attached to the official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office. Motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT**  
**RESIGNATION**  
**B. O'HARE**  
**EFF. 8/27/12**  
**#108/12**

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, from the Putnam Valley Central School District of Barbara O'Hare effective August 27, 2012 as per Doc. #40/12 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Fuchs thanked Ms. O'Hare for all her dedicated service in her years with the District.

**ENTER INTO**  
**ADDENDUM**  
**AGREEMENT**  
**W/DR. FUCHS, SUPT.**  
**#109/12**

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, to authorize the President of the Board of Education to enter into an addendum agreement with Dr. Fuchs, Superintendent of Schools, to revise language within her Superintendent's contract with regard to the timeframe for a required comprehensive medical examination. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cohen noted that this resolution was for revising the wording of the Superintendent's contract with regard to a medical examination.

**APPROVE**  
**PERSONNEL ACTIONS**  
**#110/12**

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve personnel actions as per Document #41/12 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cohen noted that the personnel actions included the resignation of a coach, and self-defense safety for female students and their mothers.

**APPOINT**  
**A. TURCO**  
**PROB. APPT. 11/7/11-**  
**11/7/14**  
**ES READING**  
**#111/12**

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Alison Turco to a 3-year probationary appointment in the tenure area of Reading at Putnam Valley Elementary School effective November 7, 2011 through November 7, 2014, on step 1-MA of the PVFT salary schedule. Ms. Turco holds Literacy Birth-6 and Childhood 1-6 certifications. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Fuchs and the Board welcomed Ms. Turco to the District.

Ms. Fitzgerald called for public contribution on non-agenda items.

Ms. Rufo thanked Nick for his years of service to the District. Mr. Bellantoni thanked the past and present Board members and the past and present Superintendents, his custodial staff, and a special thank you to his assistant, Mary Bondi, for all her hard work.

Mr. Ferraro discussed some of the paperless initiative items. He noted that a level of frustration has developed with some members of the community and that the District must continue to guide people to the available resources. He also noted that people need to know, on a regular basis, what is on the website and where they can find it. He suggested possibly having regular email communication to remind parents of new information and where to go to obtain it. Dr. Fuchs asked Mr. Ferraro to put his thoughts into an email so she can address them. Mr. Spittal noted that some verification should be done to make sure parents receive the first "paperless" report card. Ms. Edelman noted that the Elementary School report card would not be paperless this year. Ms. Rufo noted that the District's utilization of ConnectEd phone calls may be excessive. There may need to be guidelines created. Dr. Fuchs noted that this has already been addressed and the ConnectEd email system, rather than the phone system, will be utilized more frequently in the future.

Dr. Fuchs noted that the District is not bloated staff-wise, and the Putnam Valley /District does not have some of the positions that other districts may have. She also noted that the District needs to look at some positions and possibly re-align them to meet certain needs that the Board may deem necessary.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted the upcoming meeting topics which include the action plans for the District/Board of Education goals for communications, finance and human resources. The proposed BOCES capital funding project would also be presented at the November 10, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Cohen noted that he will not be attending the NYSSBA Convention in Buffalo. He also noted a letter to the editor from Mr. Michael Koenig, the District's transportation supervisor to remind the community to never pass a stopped school bus.

There were no further comments and Mrs. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for one matter related to collective negotiations. Ms. Fitzgerald noted there would be no further business after the Executive Session.

**CONVENE**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**#112/12**

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:37pm to discuss one matter of collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law). Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Fuchs and Mr. Lee joined the Board in the Executive session

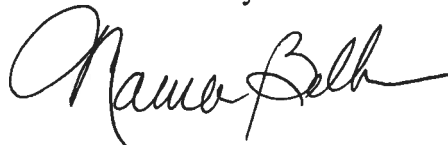
**ADJOURN**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**#113/12**

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 9:55pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**  
**MEETING**  
**#114/12**

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Spittal, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:



Maureen Bellino  
District Clerk