

Business Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2008

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Tina Mackay, President PRESENT
Guy Cohen, Vice President
Trustees Mary Maus, Frank Reale and
Valerie Fitzgerald

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Marc Space, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Personnel
Paul Lee, Assistant Superintendent for
Finance and Technology
Jamie Edelman, Elementary School Principal
Edward Hallisey, Middle School Principal
Jonathan Bryant, High School Principal
Nick Bellantoni, Director of Operations

OTHERS: Student Representatives to the Board of Education Beth Regan
and Kevin VanDevelde, Reporter from the Putnam County News
and Recorder, staff from the Putnam Valley School District,
and community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Business Meeting at 7:03 p.m. CONVENE
MEETING

Given the recent queries about school tax bills relative to the proposed budget/budget information presented to the community, Ms. Mackay provided clarity on how the school tax assessments are determined. The Board placed before the voters last May a spending plan which included estimates of the revenues, state and federal aid, revenues from tuition and fees, and the remainder to be generated from the community based on their property values. The value of the properties is determined independently by each of the three towns, Putnam Valley, Carmel and Cortlandt, by their assessments. The state sets the STAR allocations with this year's allocation being reduced. In August the District receives the assessments and the equalization rates. The District does not control the assessments, STAR rebates or equalization rates. It was noted this is one of the weaknesses in the budget development process. Since this information is received in August, the community is only voting on proposed spending and estimates of possible revenue in May. It was noted that Paul Lee was within \$5,000.00 of the estimated funds to be raised by property taxes. At the time of the vote the District can only estimate the increase that must be raised by property taxes. The assessed values and STAR rebates will impact the estimate. Finally, the individual's property assessment relative to not only last year but to the total for the town is the final determining factor. It was noted the proposed Tax Cap would only limit the year-to-year increase in school spending and the District was under that amount. The present proposal does not limit your own property tax increase.

APPROVE
MINUTES
09/80

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting of August 21, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

The three principals presented the opening day reports, including enrollments and status of current initiatives. The presentation is attached.

Mr. Bellantoni praised the custodial staff, the transportation team and the buildings and grounds team for the excellent opening day. He especially noted the hard work of the Elementary School team given the construction project. The Elementary School project continues to progress—3rd floor bathrooms will be completed next week, the elevator inspected by September 27, the new addition walls and foundation should be completed by the end of September, all framing done by winter, septic tank to be installed in two weeks and the transportation plans finalized by September 29. The Town was asked if there was a location where the bus maintenance building could be built and shared by both town and District. Dr. Space and Ms. Tina Mackay discussed the CPI-U Resolution to be presented at the NYSSBA Convention in October. The resolution will be sent to all districts in September with Mr. Cohen in charge of rewording the motion. Mr. Reale will place the resolution before the delegates.

Ms. Mackay asked Paul Lee to send Board Members his presentation on Assessments and how tax rates are determined.

Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Personnel, presented a summary of the State Assessment Tests/Regents for 2008 compared to prior years. The District continues to show improvement. Integrated curriculum strategies are the backbone of our students' educational achievements. The language program at the Middle School/High School was discussed—small class size in French. The student representative noted he would have liked additional language choices besides French and Spanish. Dr. Fuchs noted that the 2008 graduation rate was actually 96%, not the rate quoted by the State and reported in the Journal News. The State did not account for students who left the District. Ms. Mackay asked Mr. Bryant to obtain the number of students in AP/College courses in order to have a baseline level to evaluate the goal that 100% of the students should be challenged with advanced courses.

The Board then discussed a method for approving Impartial Hearing Officers when one is needed in an emergency situation between Board meetings. It was decided that Mr. Reale would approve the proposed Impartial Hearing Officer and notify the other Board Members of his action. All Board Members agreed with this proposal.

Student Representatives noted the Dustin Strumke Women’s Soccer Tournament would be held on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, September 26 and 27, with all funds going to the Dustin Strumke Scholarship Fund; Bye Bye Birdie will be the Middle School Spring play and Noises Off will be the fall High School play; a new drama program has begun at the Middle School; elections for Middle School and High School student government taking place next week; High School Principal Jonathan Bryant is working on a revised Club Rush Program to increase knowledge and participation of new 9th graders with presentations by the clubs in the gymnasium on Friday, September 19 and a Senior Class car wash/fundraiser on Saturday, September 27 from 11-4 p.m. at the Shell Station.

PTSA representatives praised and welcomed Jonathan Bryant as the new High School Principal.

Ms. Mackay asked for public contribution on agenda items. There were no comments and the Board moved into new business.

The Board discussed Resolution #1 to vote on the District 10 representative. The Board agreed to vote for Thomas Knight as District 10 representative to the New York State School Boards Association.

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, by the Board of Education, to cast one vote for Thomas Knight, Putnam/Westchester BOCES for a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the New York State School Boards Association from Area 10. Motion carried unanimously. CAST
VOTE FOR
T. KNIGHT
AREA 10 NYSSBA
BD. OF DIRECTORS
09/81

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the Special Education Plan for 2008-10, as per Document #27/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously. ADOPT
2008-10
SP. ED. PLAN
09/82

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve CSE/CPSE placements, as per Document #28/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously. APPROVE
CSE/CPSE
PLACEMENTS
09/83

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve an additional Co-Director for the summer 2008 Intramural Camp, as per Document #29/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously. APPROVE
ADDL. CO-DIRECTOR
2008 INTRAMURAL CAMP
09/84

APPROVE On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on
ADDITIONAL recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve an
2008 FALL COACH/ additional 2008 fall coach/stipend, as per Document #30/09, attached to the
STIPEND official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
09/85

APPOINT On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on
A. BLONDIN recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Ashley Blondin
3-YR. PROB. APPT. to a three-year probationary appointment in the tenure area of Music, at the
PVES Putnam Valley Elementary School, on Step 1 MA of the P.V.F.T. salary
EFF. 9/15/08-6/30/11 schedule, effective September 15, 2008 through June 30, 2011. Motion
09/86 carried unanimously.

The Board and community welcomed Ashley Blondin to the community and Elementary School.

APPOINT On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on
M. DENGLER recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Mary Dengler
1-YR. APPT. to a one-year appointment in the area of Twilight-Science at the Putnam Valley
TWILIGHT-SCIENCE High School, at the curriculum rate of pay as per the P.V.F.T. contract,
EFF. 9/22/08-6/30/09 effective September 22, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Ms. Dengler holds
09/87 Biology and General Science 7-12 Certification. Motion carried
unanimously.

APPOINT On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on
P. K. HARTNETT recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint
6-MON. PROB. APPT. P. Kristene Hartnett to a six-month probationary appointment as a
SCHOOL MONITOR-ES School Monitor at the Putnam Valley Elementary School, on Step 1
EFF. 9/19/08-3/19/08 of the C.S.E.A. salary schedule, effective September 19, 2008 through
09/88 March 19, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on
M. KINSLEY recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint
TEMP. APPT. Meaghan Kinsley to a temporary appointment as a part time teacher at
P/T TEACHER the Putnam Valley Elementary School, on the substitute pay scale,
EFF. 9/3/08-12/23/08 effective September 3, 2008 through December 23, 2008. Ms. Kinsley
09/89 holds Childhood (Grades 1-6) Initial Certification. Motion carried
unanimously.

Dr. Fuchs clarified that Ms. Kinsley works part-time filling in for the Special Education staff when they are on this professional period. Need for this assistance would be reviewed in December.

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to take personnel actions, as per Document #31/09, attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL
ACTIONS
09/90

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the purchase of a Middle School Grade 8 Social Studies Course textbook and electronic online version entitled, “America-History of Our Nation,” Authors: James West Davidson and Michael B. Stoff, published by Pearson.

APPROVE
GRADE 8
SOC. STUDIES
TEXTBOOK

It was recommended that the motion be amended to specify the book for Grades 7 and 8 and remove the reference to the publisher.

On motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the amended motion to approve the purchase of a Middle School Grade 7 and 8 Social Studies Course textbook and electronic online version entitled, “America-History of Our Nation,” Authors: James West Davidson and Michael B. Stoff. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE
GRADE 7 & 8
SOC. STUDIES
TEXTBOOK
09/91

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PERIOD

Ms. Mackay asked the Board and community for any other items for discussion.

It was noted that the October 2 Board meeting would be moved to Wednesday, October 1, starting in the High School cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. Three members of the Board who were on the Audit Committee will meet with the external auditors in Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

It was noted one of the Board Members scored her first goal in today’s women’s soccer match.

A faculty member from the Elementary School, referencing the construction work, noted she was proud to be part of an educational community where students were first and foremost.

ADJOURN
MEETING
09/92

At 8:46 p.m., on motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Mr. Reale, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by
Guy Cohen
Vice President
Board of Education

Submitted by
Linda Pregiato
District Clerk