

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUTNAM VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
146 PEEKSKILL HOLLOW ROAD
PUTNAM VALLEY, NEW YORK 10579

TIME:6:00pm
No. of Pages:11

Type of Meeting:
Business Mtg.

Date:April 14, 2011

BOARD OF EDUCATION: President Valerie Fitzgerald **PRESENT**
Vice President Guy Cohen
Trustee Joseph Ferraro
Trustee Jeanine Rufo
Trustee David Spittal

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Interim Supt.
Paul Lee, Asst. Supt. for Business & Finance
Natalie Doherty, Director of Spec. Education
Jamie Edelman, Elementary School Principal
Edward Hallisey, Middle School Principal
Vincent Burruano, High School Principal
Peter Kuczma, Director of Athletics
Nick Bellantoni, Director of Buildings & Grounds

OTHERS: Maureen Bellino, District Clerk
Christine Alexander, Student Rep. to the Board
Dan Mahoney, Videographer
Approximately 10 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Ms. Fitzgerald at 6:05pm.

CONVENE MEETING

CONVENE
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#257/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of one person at 6:06pm. Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Session was held in the High School's main office conference room.

ADJOURN
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#258/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 7:01pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fitzgerald reconvened the Business Meeting in the High School cafeteria at 7:04pm with the Pledge to the flag.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the Treasurer's reports for January and February 2011 were available in the Business Office of the District.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting of March 17, 2011.

APPROVE
MINUTES
#259/11

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Business Meeting of March 17, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Fuchs presented Pride in Putnam Valley to the members of the High School's Mock Trial team and their advisor, High School social studies teacher, Mr. Sean Gilroy, for their accomplishments during the school year. The members of the team who received the recognition were: Stephen Velichko, Melissa Steen, Katie Rubistello, Colby Meagle, Chris Brunke, Meaghan Malone and Blendi Muriqi.

Ms. Lisa Spittal spoke on behalf of the Putnam Valley Education Foundation regarding their organization and how they have supported the District financially over the years. Ms. Spittal reported that the PVEF has one major fundraiser (an auction) each year which has raised a total of approximately \$85,000. These funds are provided to teachers and students who apply for and receive grant approval from the Foundation. These grants have included an art gallery in the High School, support for Earth Day events at the Elementary School, ceramic kilns at each of the schools, support of the arts at the High School, support of environmental events at the Middle School and various types of equipment for use by the classroom teachers in the various buildings.

At the conclusion of Ms. Spittal's presentation, Dr. Fuchs presented Pride in Putnam Valley to the Putnam Valley Education Foundation for their on-going generosity and support of the education of the District's students.

Dr. Fuchs presented a recap on the proposed budget. She noted that we were living in unprecedented times for school districts and that she met with the District's administrative team to discuss how the District can operate differently. She noted that full-day kindergarten is sustainable in the upcoming years due to lower enrollments. The tax levy increase is anticipated to be 1.3% with full-day kindergarten and 2.39% without full-day kindergarten due to the state conversion aid. Dr. Fuchs reviewed the proposed staffing changes. Mr. Lee reviewed the bottom line numbers and gave a summary of all areas of the budget. He noted the budget vote dates and the choices the Board will have in the event of a negative result with the proposed budget. (Presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting.)

In her Superintendent's report, Dr. Fuchs reported that as a result of the Budget Advisory Committee, work has begun on generating sources of revenue for the District. Ms. Laura Hirsch, Ms. Rita Sharples and Ms. Doreen Cohen have begun to work on an Athletic Booster Club. Ms. Marie Zarcone, Mr. Patrick Bellino and Ms. Barbara O'Hare are working on having a college utilize the High School building in the evenings and offer courses to our community and surrounding community members.

Dr. Fuchs also noted that a "Community That Cares Coalition" has been formed in Putnam Valley. This coalition receives funding from Putnam County for prevention services. Thirty-five people were invited to the kick-off meeting to begin discussion on preventative programs. This group represents stakeholders from all parts of the Putnam Valley community. The next meeting is scheduled for May 9 at the Putnam Valley firehouse at 3:30pm.

Dr. Fuchs reported that the District was working with the Putnam Valley Town Supervisor, Bob Tandy, to create a joint letter from the Town and the School District regarding taxes. She also noted that there would be a budget presentation at the Putnam Valley Senior Citizens' Center on May 4 at 11:30am and at a Town Hall meeting on May 11. She reported that she had spoken about the proposed budget to all staff members to ensure they received factual information. Dr. Fuchs asked Mr. Burruano to report to the Board on the advanced placement classes that had been discussed at the April 7 Board meeting.

Mr. Burruano explained that at the last Board meeting a student spoke about the High School's decision not to offer two additional advanced placement science courses (AP physics and AP chemistry). He reported that after the meeting he had researched the events that lead up to the decision not to offer the classes. Mr. Burruano noted that he felt the High School had done a thorough job in reaching this decision. He reported that there was a parent informational meeting, information was placed on-line and guidance counselors met with all students. After the students made their decisions on their course enrollments for the 2011-12 school year, a decision was made to close certain classes due to insufficient enrollment. After the last Board meeting, a list of names of students who had not previously enrolled in the advanced placement science classes was given to the guidance counselors to see if the students met the criteria to enter either of the Advanced Placement classes. Students who did meet the criteria were then interviewed by their counselor to determine if the student actually wanted to enroll in one of the classes. The guidance counselors were also asked to re-interview those students who had enrolled in the classes to see if they wanted to remain in Advanced Placement physics or chemistry classes. The counselors found that there was enough interest in AP physics to warrant a class but not in AP chemistry. He also noted that the addition of the AP physics class would not create any staffing implications. Mr. Burruano did note that he felt that the High School's process was a thoughtful one and that in the future all deadlines for enrollment in classes must be adhered to by students.

Dr. Fuchs noted that she had set-up a first meeting with a representative from the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (LHRIC) regarding the possibility of offering virtual classes for students whose interest in a subject cannot be met by a traditional classroom setting due to low enrollments. She also noted that next year all deadlines will be adhered to and thanked Mr. Burruano for investigating this situation and for his flexibility with the class offerings for next year. Mr. Burruano noted that the guidance counselors worked very hard to make sure all students were well-served. Dr. Fuchs noted that the District is adhering to the new requirements that we will have more students taking AP classes in 2011-12 than are currently enrolled during this school year. Mr. Burruano reported that he has met with members of the High School's Science National Honor Society to explain the process. Dr. Fuchs also thanked the guidance staff. Ms. Fitzgerald thanked everyone who participated in this process which culminated at the meeting held on this day.

The BOE student representative reported that the National Honor Society induction was scheduled to be held on April 27 at 7pm in the Performing Arts' Center, PEERS would be having their annual event on Friday, April 29, and the National Junior Honor Society induction will be on May 3 at 7pm.

Dr. Fuchs noted that the High School Theatreworks' performance of *Sweeney Todd* was incredible, and she wanted to thank the cast, crew, Mr. Gerry Micera and everyone who participates in making these performances possible.

Ms. Gail Orefice reported for the PTA that on April 26, at 7pm, Dr. Anthony Wolf would be presenting on the topic of parenting. She noted that Dr. Wolf was a nationally known speaker and author. She also reported that on May 12 the PTSA would be hosting a meeting on substance abuse with speakers from the Coalition That Cares and Deputy Richard Mansfield.

Mr. Frank Reale noted that he was in Carmel the evening of the High School's Mock Trial team's competition. He noted that he was immensely impressed with the preparation, care of their work and professional attitude of both teams (Mahopac and Putnam Valley). He noted that the Mahopac team has the assistance of the Putnam County District Attorney on a regular basis while the Putnam Valley team had the assistance of an attorney for approximately three hours. He reported that while the Putnam Valley team did remarkably well without such regular assistance, he was making a plea to attorneys in the area to help the Putnam Valley Mock Trial Team with their skills and demeanor. He noted that the community needs to support this program and that anyone interested in helping should contact Dr. Fuchs or Mr. Burruano.

Ms. Roberta Velichko asked if all sports' team would be assisted by the anticipated formation of an athletic booster club. Dr. Fuchs noted that the committee had just begun to investigate this opportunity and more information would be forthcoming in the future.

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

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, by the Putnam Valley Board of Education, to adopt a tentative budget for the 2011-12 school year in the amount of \$44,896,512. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT
2011-12 BUDGET
#260/11

Mr. Ferraro noted that the Board went through a budget process that was deliberative, thoughtful, collaborative, inclusive, forward-thinking and reflective. He reported that the Board secured input from various stakeholders. He also noted that the Board's main mission was to deliver an exemplary educational product to the Putnam Valley community. He noted that the Board always planned on having an open process with a balanced approach to all stakeholders in the community that would garner the support of the majority of the voting community. Mr. Ferraro noted that he feels the Board has been successful in this endeavor, and in the process, the Board has been able to bolster the District's educational foundation in such a manner that will benefit the community.

Ms. Rufo noted that the Board is aware that the staff reductions that are proposed are people and not numbers. She also noted that she wanted to remind the staff that remains that they are appreciated, and she knows that they will continue the academic excellence of the District.

APPROVE
CSE/CPSE PLACEMENTS
#261/11

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to make CSE/CPSE placements as per Document #76/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE
PERSONNEL ACTIONS
#262/11

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve personnel actions as per Document #77/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the personnel actions included the workers for the upcoming Budget and Board of Education Trustee Vote.

SET ACTION DATES FOR
2011-12 DISTRICT
BUDGET VOTE AND BOE
ELECTION
#263/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to set the following dates for action regarding the 2011-12 District Budget Vote and Board Election:

- May 4, Voter Registration, High School, 4pm to 8pm
- May 10, Voter Registration, High School, 4pm to 8pm
- May 11, Voter Registration, Elementary School, 3pm to 7pm
- May 17, Budget Vote and Board Election, Elementary School 6am to 9pm

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that if any voter needs an absentee ballot, they should contact the District Clerk in the District Office. Community members could also register to vote for the upcoming election at the District Office.

Mr. Cohen noted that the Board had not decided who would act as chairperson for the May 17 budget and Board of Education trustee vote. This information was to have been included in the personnel actions resolution that was approved (#262/11). A motion was made to withdraw this approved resolution.

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved to withdraw the motion (#262/11) that approved the personnel actions as per Doc. #77/11. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION TO
WITHDRAW APPROVAL
OF PERSONNEL
ACTIONS RESOLUTION
(#262/11)
#264/11**

It was decided that Mr. Cohen and Mr. Ferraro would co-chair the Budget Vote on May 17. Mr. Cohen noted that he would open the vote and Mr. Ferraro would close the vote. The personnel actions page (Doc. #77/11) was revised to include their names as co-chairpersons.

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve personnel actions as per the revised Document #77/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE
PERSONNEL ACTIONS
#265/11**

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to enter into a five-year contract with Southern Westchester BOCES in order for the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center to furnish certain computer services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950 (4) (JJ), as per Document #78/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**ENTER INTO
5-YR. CONTRACT
W/SWBOCES
LHRIC COMPUTER
SERVICES
#266/11**

**ABOLISHMENT OF
PEDAGOGICAL
POSITIONS**

#267/11

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved,

WHEREAS, the Board for reasons of economy and efficiency, has determined that it is appropriate to abolish certain pedagogical positions in the District;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby abolishes the following positions, effective close of business on June 30, 2011:

One (1) FTE secondary education science teacher position;
One (1) FTE library/media specialist position

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Clerk is hereby directed to provide written notice to the least senior employee(s) in each tenure area, who are being laid off due to the abolition of the above-referenced positions, effective close of business on June 30, 2011, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3013 of the Education Law, as set forth in a Memorandum to the Board from the Superintendent of Schools, dated April 13, 2011 (Document #79/11), as presented to the Board at this meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said employees who are entitled to Part 30 bumping rights shall be notified, in writing, of their right to a position in a previous tenure area of service and of their placement on a preferred eligibility list in the tenure area(s) of their employment regarding their statutory recall rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said employees who are not entitled to Part 30 bumping rights shall be notified, in writing, of their placement on a preferred eligibility list in the tenure area(s) of their employment regarding their statutory recall rights.

Motion carried unanimously.

In answer to a question, Dr. Fuchs noted that the Health Office Assistant was not part of the teachers' union.

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, WHEREAS, the Board for reasons of economy and efficiency, has determined that it is appropriate to abolish certain non-pedagogical positions in the District;

**ABOLISHMENT OF
NON-PEDAGOGICAL
POSITIONS**

#268/11

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby abolishes the following positions, effective close of business on June 30, 2011:

One (1) FTE health office assistant position;
Seven (7) FTE teacher aide positions

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Clerk is hereby directed to provide written notice to those employees whose positions are hereby abolished, as set forth in a Memorandum to the Board from the Superintendent of Schools, dated April 13, 2011 (Document#79/11), as presented at this meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to the extent that there are more employees in the job title than there are remaining positions after consideration of bumping rights in accordance with the CSEA Collectively Negotiated Agreement, the Board Clerk is hereby directed to provide written notice to those employees who shall be laid off effective close of business of June 30, 2011. With further notice regarding recall rights, if any; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said employees who are in the competitive class of the civil service shall be notified, in writing, of their placement on a preferred list regarding their entitlement to recall for a period of four years from the date of the abolition of their position in accordance with Sections 80 and 81 the Civil Service Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said employees who are in the non-competitive and labor class of the civil service shall be notified, in writing, of their placement on a preferred list regarding their entitlement to recall for a period of four years from the date of the abolition of their position in accordance with Article X(E) of the CSEA Collectively Negotiated Agreement as well as any contractual displacement rights that may exist for said employees.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Fuchs noted that two of the seven teacher aides referenced in the resolution were hired as teacher aides for students who come from other districts that pay tuition to the Putnam Valley Central School District.

**GRANT PERMISSION
FOR A NON-RESIDENT
FACULTY MEMBER'S
CHILDREN TO ATTEND
PVES/PVMS**
#269/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved to grant permission for a non-resident faculty member's children, who attended District schools in the 2010-11 school year, to attend Putnam Valley Elementary School (one child) and Putnam Valley Middle School (2 children) for the 2011-12 school year as per Document #80/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**GRANT PERMISSION
FOR A NON-RESIDENT
FACULTY MEMBER'S
CHILD TO ATTEND PVES**
#270/11

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved to grant permission for a non-resident faculty member's child, who attended District schools in the 2010-11 school year, to attend Putnam Valley Elementary School (one child) for the 2011-12 school year as per Document #81/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**GRANT PERMISSION
FOR A NON-RESIDENT
FACULTY MEMBER'S
CHILD TO ATTEND PVES**
#271/11

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, to grant permission for a non-resident faculty member's child, who attended District schools in the 2010-11 school year, to attend Putnam Valley Elementary school (one child) for the 2011-12 school year as per Document #82/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**GRANT PERMISSION
FOR A NON-RESIDENT
FACULTY MEMBER'S
CHILD TO ATTEND PVHS**
#272/11

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved to grant permission for a non-resident faculty member's child, who attended District schools in the 2010-11 school year, to attend Putnam Valley High School (one child) as per Document #83/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for comments from the Board and/or the community.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the next meeting of the Board would be on April 26. The Board would be honoring those staff members who are retiring as well as those receiving tenure.

Mr. Ferraro noted that the planning for the 75th anniversary of the District as well as the 10th anniversary of the High School was on-going and that information was available on the District's website. It was noted that the anniversary portion of the website also has many photos of the District's past and that the committee has also created a memory book as part of the celebration events.

There were no further comments.

On motion by Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Rufo, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN
MEETING
#273/11

Submitted by:

Maureen Bellino
District Clerk