

# MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

TIME:6:30pm  
No. of Pages: 9

Type of Meeting: Business Mtg.

Date: May 19, 2011

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

PRESENT

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Interim Supt.  
Paul Lee, Asst. Supt. for Business & Finance  
Jamie Edelman, Elementary School Principal  
Vincent Burruano, High School Principal

**OTHERS:** Maureen Bellino, District Clerk  
Christine Alexander, Student Rep. to the Board  
Johnmichael Chiriyen, Student Rep. to the Board  
Dan Mahoney, Videographer  
Approximately 123 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Ms. Fitzgerald at 6:30pm.

CONVENE MEETING

On motion by Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, the Board moved into Executive Session regarding collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law). Motion carried unanimously.

CONVENE EXECUTIVE  
SESSION  
#303/11

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

**ADJOURN**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
#304/11

On motion by Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 6:45pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fitzgerald reconvened the Business Meeting in the High School cafeteria at 7:01pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the Treasurer's report for March 2011 was available in the Business Office of the District.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Business Meetings of April 20 and 26, 2011 and the Work Session/Business Meeting of May 5, 2011.

**APPROVE**  
**MINUTES**  
#305/11

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Special Business Meetings of April 20 and 26, 2011 and the Work Session/Business Meeting of May 5, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

Dr. Fuchs presented Pride in Putnam Valley to the members of the Elementary School Character Education Committee. The recognition certificates were presented to Rosa Amendola, Sue Boyd, Madeleine Calhoun, Kelli DiBattista, Dorothy France, Leesa Hernandez, Kristan McCarty, Jenette Mistretta, Sue O'Connell and Lauren Soprano. It was noted that the committee's mission is to provide students with a more culturally diverse curriculum and to improve the school environment and the community at large.

Mr. Dave Moran from ACCUME Associates presented the internal audit report for the spring audit on the District's Extra-curricular Activity Funds. The presentation is attached to the official minutes of this meeting. It was noted that the District has already begun to address some of the issues raised in the report. Mr. Cohen noted that the District's Audit Committee met prior to the Board meeting and accepted the report and the recommendations.

In her Superintendent's report, Dr. Fuchs thanked the community for the passage of the budget. She noted that the budget balanced the educational needs of our students with the fiscal abilities of the Putnam Valley community, and she congratulated Ms. Fitzgerald and Mr. Spittal on their election. Dr. Fuchs also reported that on September 1, 2011, the new APPR system for teacher and principal evaluations will be in place. She noted that as of now, 60% of the assessment will be regulated by the state, 20% will be based on student results in the state testing assessments and 20% of the regulations would be locally developed assessments.

In their student representatives' report, the two student representatives voiced their concerns about the 2nd resolution on the agenda (accepting the resignation of a District employee). They asked the Board to reconsider accepting this resolution for an employee that they felt was dedicated and well-respected.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for comments from the community on agenda items. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that public comments cannot include the name of any specific employee and that according to law, the Board cannot comment on any questions concerning District personnel.

Putnam Valley High School senior, Jim McCann, said he spoke on behalf of the students and noted that the Board should support teachers who make a difference to the students. He urged the Board to not accept the resignation of the teacher named in the second resolution on the meeting's agenda.

Rob Tendy, a senior at the High School, noted that he felt that physical education was a different educational setting than a regular classroom. He noted that he felt that the Board would be making a major mistake if they accepted the resignation of the staff member named in the second resolution.

A 2010 graduate of the High School, Dan Cray, noted that he had attended Putnam Valley schools throughout his kindergarten through grade 12 education and that he was proud of all that he encountered in the District schools, including the beautiful facilities with teachers who care about their students. He also noted that each teacher had an individual style, technique and manner. Mr. Cray spoke about the turnover and lack of consistency in the District with regard to the High School principal and superintendent positions. He asked the Board to consider the implication and weight of their vote on resolution number two of the agenda.

Barbara Volpe, who identified herself as a parent, teacher and life-long Putnam Valley resident, noted that she was confused about the observation process for the teacher named in resolution two, and it was her opinion that an injustice was taking place. She also noted that she felt the Board of Education needed to take control over this action.

A parent, Michael Gembecki, noted that he has been involved in the District schools for many years and spoke about the positive influences that the employee named in the second resolution had on the students that he has come into contact with. Mr. Gembecki spoke specifically about the positive experiences his own son had and continues to have as an alumni with this employee. He noted he had a petition addressed to the Board containing approximately 500 signatures asking the Board to not to accept the resignation of the employee listed in resolution number two of the agenda. Mr. Gembecki read the wording of the petition. (Petition was presented to the District Clerk later in the meeting and is attached to the official minutes of this meeting.)

A Middle School student noted that he has not had the teacher being discussed but that he wanted to say he looks like a fun guy who should remain working in the school.

Two Middle School students, Ashley Volpe and Zachary Girvalo, noted that the employee identified in the second resolution of the meeting was their gym teacher and that he was a good teacher who makes the students like the sports they take in class. They also noted that he is a good counselor at the camps they have attended.

Mrs. Yetter, a parent, noted that during the course of the evening's meeting that she had heard the following words and phrases: "kind", "safe", "responsible", "respectful", "the public spoke and we actively listened" and that "we welcome feedback to improve". She also noted that she was extremely proud of the students who spoke or came to support the teacher at this evening's meeting.

A parent, Kim Gembecki, noted that she was the mother of four sons in the District (three graduates and a current junior at the High School). She asked two of the Board members who have children who have either been coached by taught by this employee to reconsider accepting the resignation. She noted that she felt this employee was a great teacher and coach as do the students and alumni who were present at the meeting. Mrs. Gembecki presented the petition referred to by Mr. Gembecki to the District Clerk.

Two Middle School students noted that this employee was a caring teacher who always encouraged them. They also noted that felt he was different than the other gym teachers and that he was fun and always nice.

A parent, Mrs. Jean McCann, spoke about how proud she was of all the students who spoke at the meeting and noted that she knows there are factors that must be taken into consideration that the public is not aware of. She noted to the Board that she hoped they would take the students comments and feelings into consideration before voting on this matter.

Steven Velichko, a High School senior, noted that he felt that an injustice was going to occur tonight and asked the Board to look into the situation again and rethink their decision regarding the teacher who he felt had a positive effect on students.

A High School Class of 2010 graduate, Michael Rufo, noted that most students have a "go to" person at school, and for him, the employee referred to in the 2nd resolution was that person.

A parent, Diane Rose, noted that the employee named in the resolution helped build up her son's low confidence and become the best athlete that he could be. She noted that this teacher models this behavior to all the students he comes in contact with and that she considers him a valuable coach. Her son, Devon Rose, noted that the employee was the best coach he has had, and he has been very helpful to him. He asked the Board reconsider their vote.

A High School student, Kenny Sills, noted that he had broken his leg as a freshman and that he missed most of his gym classes that year. The employee mentioned in resolution number two stayed after school to help him make up some of his missed class time on his own time.

Middle School student Antonia Hoyos and another Middle School student noted that they knew the teacher named in the resolution because he was their favorite teacher and that he always encouraged them.

A junior at the High School, Anthony Gentile, noted that there was a fine line between what makes a teacher better than other teachers, and he felt that this employee has always been one of those people. He noted that this employee was inspirational in getting him to continue to play football. He urged the Board to recommend keeping him.

John McCann, a High School student, noted that this teacher was one of the first people to help him out when he began school as a freshman. He also noted that it was his opinion that this teacher has a positive effect on every student as he noted is said in the Rachel's Challenge pledge.

Middle School student, Dan McCann, noted that this employee was his health teacher and that he inspired him to get good grades. He also noted that he helped him, on his own time, to be a better athlete on his sporting teams and that he hoped the Board would reconsider their votes.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that there would be one more speaker after which the Board would move into Executive Session.

Ms. Maryjo Dailey noted that she was a teacher as well as parent of a High School sophomore and a graduate, and she wanted to report that her daughter pointed out to her that there has been much change in the District recently and that change is not always good. She also noted that she felt that due to so many students of this age saying this employee is a great teacher as well as the support of the students at the meeting, she hoped that the Board would reconsider accepting the resignation.

Dr. Fuchs commended the students who had spoken and noted that all comments would be part of the public record.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

**CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION** #306/11 On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board moved into Executive Session, at 8:05pm, to discuss the employment history of a particular person. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Fuchs joined the Board in the Executive Session.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION** #307/11 On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Spittal, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 9:07pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fitzgerald reconvened the Business Meeting at 9:08pm and the Board moved into the New Business.

**APPROVE H&W CONTRACTS W/ BRIARCLIFF MANOR, WHITE PLAINS & KATONAH-LEWISBORO** #308/11 On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following 2010-11 contracts for Health and Welfare Services provided to resident students of Putnam Valley attending non-public schools within the following school districts, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign the contracts, as per the documents attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting:

DOC. #	SCHOOL DISTRICT	# OF STUD.	COST PER STUD.	TOTAL COST
90/11	Briarcliff Manor	1	\$990.16	\$ 990.16
91/11	White Plains	2	\$791.38	\$1,582.76
98/11	Katonah-Lewisboro	1	\$944.50	\$ 944.50

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to accept the resignation of Jason Weltman from the Putnam Valley Central School District effective June 30, 2011 as per Document #85/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried four to one. (Trustee Rufo voted no.)

**ACCEPT  
RESIGNATION  
J. WELTMAN  
EFF. 06/30/11  
#309/11**

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, by the Board of Education to accept the final vote tally for the Budget Vote and Board Election held on May 17, 2011, as follows:

**ACCEPT FINAL VOTE  
TALLY FOR THE  
BUDGET VOTE AND  
BOARD ELECTION ON  
05/17/11  
#310/11**

Budget:

Yes 833

No 432

Board of Education:

Marie Zarcone 461

Valerie Fitzgerald 925

David K. Spittal 828

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to make CSE/CPSE placements as per Document #92/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**MAKE CSE/CPSE  
PLACEMENTS  
#311/11**

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the proposed 2011 summer camps as per Document #93/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE  
2011 SUMMER CAMPS  
#312/11**

**APPROVE**  
**PERSONNEL ACTIONS**  
#313/11

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve personnel actions as per Document #94/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE**  
**WPSBA 2011-12 BUDGET**  
#314/11

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, to approve the 2011-12 Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association proposed budget in the amount of \$224,731, as per Document #95/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT**  
**RESIGNATION FOR**  
**RETIREMENT**  
**E. SCHMITT**  
**EFF. 7/1/11**  
#315/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Edward Schmitt from the Putnam Valley Central School District effective July 1, 2011 as per Document #96/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rufo extended the Board's wishes to Mr. Schmitt for a good retirement.

**ACCEPT**  
**DONATION-**  
**A. PADOVANO**  
#316/11

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept the generous donation from Mr. Anthony Padovano of a bust of George Washington, with an approximate value of \$10,000, to the Putnam Valley Central School District as per Document #97/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE**  
**SUPT. MEMBERSHIPS**  
#317/11

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, to approve the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Barbara Fuchs, joining the following organizations for the 2011-12 school year:

American Association of School Administrators  
New York State Council of School Superintendents

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Fitzgerald discussed the Board's vote on the second resolution of the meeting. She noted that the public does not have access to all information that the Board reviews and that the Board made a decision with the best interest of the students at stake.

Ms. Barbara Volpe commented on the Board's decision with regard to the 2nd resolution. She inquired as to why this employee is able to coach but not teach. She noted that she cannot accept the Board's decision and feels that the children's interests are not at stake.

On motion by Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, the Board moved into Executive Session, at 9:16pm, regarding litigation. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONVENE**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
#318/11

Joining the Board in the Executive Session were Dr. Fuchs and David Shaw, District attorney. Gerry Carlin (President of the PVFT) and Bruce Ludovicy (PVFT Executive Board Member) joined the Executive Session at 9:25pm. The union representation left the Executive Session at 10:30pm. Mr. Shaw left the Executive Session at 10:40pm.

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board moved out of the Executive Session at 10:41pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
#319/11

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**  
**MEETING**  
#320/11

SUBMITTED BY:

Maureen Bellino  
District Clerk