

# 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: 7

Type of Meeting: Business Mtg.

Date: November 18, 2010

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**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

**OTHERS:** Maureen Bellino, District Clerk  
Christine Alexander, Student BOE Rep.  
Johnmichael Chiriyen, Student BOE Rep.  
Dan Mahoney, Videographer  
Approximately 22 members of the public including students from the High School's Make A Difference Club.

The meeting was opened by Ms. Fitzgerald at 7:05pm with the pledge. CONVENE MEETING

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to approve minutes.

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the minutes of the Board meetings of October 21, November 4, and November 9, 2010 were adopted. Motion carried unanimously. APPROVE MINUTES

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

The members of the High School's Make A Difference Club were recognized by Dr. Fuchs and the Board of Education with Pride in Putnam Valley. The club was recognized for their recent activities which included painting and doing renovations at the VFW Post 391 located on Oscawana Lake Road in Putnam Valley. Dr. Fuchs read letters of thanks from Mr. Sam Oliverio, High School Assistant Principal and member of the post, and Mr. Karl Rove, National Chairperson of the VFW. Mrs. Linda Cefaloni, the co-advisor for the club, described the activities. The club presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the VFW so that the renovation work could continue. The club also presented a check in the amount of \$250 to Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Fitzgerald also thanked the members for all of their good work.

Dr. Fuchs expressed her desire to increase the activities of the Budget Advisory Committee. She noted that she hoped that the committee members would also be able to address possible new revenue sources. Mr. Lee summarized the PVCSD budget for the past four years (presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting). Ms. Barbara O'Hare, Business Office Administrative Assistant, discussed alternative revenue sources that the Budget Advisory Committee could research which could include usage fees, leasing space that is currently not used, gifts, grants and programs through businesses.

The Board discussed establishing a committee to assist in the celebration of the District's 75th anniversary and the High School's 10th anniversary. Ms. Fitzgerald asked that any community member who may be interested in serving on this committee contact her. On December 7th, the Putnam County Legislature will recognize the District's anniversary at their meeting. Dr. Fuchs noted that Mr. Ryan Odell, the High School band teacher, is planning on having a concert in June that will celebrate the High School's anniversary. She noted that Mr. Odell is having an original music piece composed in celebration of the anniversary for the students to perform. This composition was written by a nationally known composer who is also a friend of Mr. Odell. Ms. Rufo noted that former alumni should be contacted to have representation from all areas in the various events. It was suggested that the web site may serve as a communication tool.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Fuchs noted that cameras will be installed on all the large Putnam Valley and Hudson Valley buses. She noted that the Mr. Hanna (Middle School Assistant Principal) and Mrs. Tricia Murray (Elementary School Assistant to the Principal) will give behavioral management training to all bus drivers and monitors. Dr. Fuchs noted that she became aware of a petition circling on the Internet regarding the E-1 bus route. She noted that this was the first she had heard of the parents concerns but wanted them to know that she had already placed a monitor on that particular bus route. Dr. Fuchs also noted that she is always available in person, by phone or by email if members of the community have questions or problems.

Dr. Fuchs also discussed traffic congestion issues at the High School and Middle School campus. After studying the issue, the following was noted. During the anticipated paving this spring, the addition of another lane is a possibility. It was noted that Mr. Oliverio and Student Resource Officer, Richard Mansfield, direct traffic in the morning but due to the volume, have limited impact. It was suggested that student drop off in cars be limited to arrival before 6:50am. It was suggested that Middle School students who arrive early to attend Middle School clubs take the High School buses instead of being dropped off by their parents. It was noted that some Middle School parents do not want their children riding the High School buses, but Dr. Fuchs noted that the cameras will be used to assist in monitoring conduct on the buses. Mr. Cohen suggested looking at a Foothill Road access to the campus as a possible student drop off. Mr. Ferraro asked if the traffic light was properly synchronized. It was noted that it was. Mr. Spittal noted that he was meeting with a traffic expert regarding bus issues for a local organization with which he is involved, and he will discuss the District's issue with him and report back to the Board with any suggestions this consultant may have.

Dr. Fuchs noted that she met with Mr. Frank DiMarco of the Putnam Valley Parks & Recreation Department, and they have committed to continue to work together.

Dr. Fuchs also noted that the K-12 initiatives and taking the content areas to the next level are continuing under the leadership of the teacher coordinators.

She noted that classroom walkthroughs are continuing. All seven administrators have done walkthroughs together in Elementary School classrooms. This will continue in the Middle School and the High School to ensure that the administrators are on the same page. Dr. Fuchs noted that after the walkthroughs, the administrative team debriefs on what they saw by engaging in mock role-playing.

Dr. Fuchs noted that the individual building crisis teams had just received training from a consultant, and this training will continue.

## STUDENT BOE REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

It was noted that Friday, November 19th, is the PTSA's annual "Tag-it/Bag-it" auction. The Putnam Valley "Holiday Community Read" will be held at the Elementary School on Saturday, December 4 beginning at 11am. The High School will be performing *Noises Off* as their fall drama. Tickets are now on sale and the performances will be take place on December 10th and 11th at 8pm and the Sunday matinee will be on December 12th at 2pm. They noted that the auditions for the spring musical will begin on December 14th. They also noted the upcoming dates for the Middle School band and chorus concerts and that the High School cheerleaders were named sectional champions.

There was no report from the PTA or PTSA.

## COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

**Ms. Fitzgerald asked for questions or comments from the public on the agenda and for any comments from the Board.**

**Ms. Rufo attended and praised the Putnam Valley students who attended the annual "Pride Works" conference. The conference was held at the County Center in White Plains. She noted that there were over 450 students present from area schools. From Putnam Valley, 19 students attended with the High School's GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) club advisor, Mr. Jason Kane. She noted that it is the club's belief that there be acceptance, openness and understanding for all students (gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender).**

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the Board needs to set a Special Business Meeting date for a second vote for the vacant BOCES seat due to the result of a tie from the first vote. She also noted that there needs to be a second resolution on that meeting's agenda allowing BOCES to draw lots in the event of a second tie. The Board decided to have the Special Business Meeting for this vote on Monday, November 29th at 7pm in the High School main office conference room. It was noted that at this time there is no other business planned for this meeting.

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

### **MAKE**

### **CSE/CPSE PLACEMENTS**

#158/11

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to make CSE/CPSE placements as per Document #34/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, that the Board of Education hereby approves an Agreement dated November 9, 2010 with Employee No. 6452, as presented to the Board at this meeting, a copy of which (Document #35/11) shall be incorporated by reference within the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE**  
**AGREEMENT W/**  
**EMPLOYEE 6452**  
#159/11

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, to approve the Interim Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Barbara Fuchs, to enter into an interim agreement and appoint Mr. Pete Kuczma as the Interim Director of Athletics effective January 3, 2011 through June 30, 2011 or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE**  
**DR. FUCHS ENTERING**  
**INTO INTERIM**  
**AGREEMENT W/**  
**P. KUCZMA INTERIM**  
**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**  
#160/11

Mr. Kuczma was present at the meeting, and Dr. Barbara Fuchs welcomed him back to the District as the Interim Athletic Director.

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve a two night, overnight trip to the Taconic Outdoor Education Center for the following Elementary School classes on the dates listed below:

**APPROVE**  
**OVERNIGHT ES**  
**TRIP-TACONIC**  
**OUTDOOR EDUC. CTR.**  
#161/11

Mrs. Beyrer and Mrs. Boyd's classes June 1 through June 3, 2011  
Mrs. Crill and Mrs. Parmly's classes June 6 through June 8, 2011  
Mr. Sperling and Ms. Butter's classes June 8 through June 10, 2011

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ferraro asked if the fundraisers involved with this trip conformed with the procedures set in place by the Business Office. Mr. Lee noted that the Business Office will review all the associated fundraisers to ensure that they do conform with the new procedures.

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to take personnel actions as per Document #36/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE**  
**PERSONNEL ACTIONS**  
#162/11

It was noted that the personnel actions include an extension of a maternity leave of absence, adjustment of coaches' stipends for post-season play in field hockey and cross-country, and the employment of two teachers who are volunteering their time for cheerleading. Mr. Cohen recognized and thanked Mrs. Albano and Mrs. Brothers for volunteering to work with the cheerleaders.

**ACCEPT**  
**RESIGNATION FOR**  
**RETIREMENT**  
**PURPOSES**  
**M. MUSKUS**  
**EFF. 10/1/2011**  
#163/11

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Mr. Michael Muskus, as per Document #37/11, effective October 1, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

**REJECT**  
**ALL ATHLETIC**  
**CLEANING &**  
**RECONDITIONING BIDS**  
#164/11

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to reject all of the 2010-11 bids for the cleaning and reconditioning of athletic uniforms and equipment due to the bids not meeting the needs of the District. Motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT**  
**TAX COLLECTOR'S**  
**REPORT**  
#165/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved that whereas the Education Law provides that the Tax Collector shall be relieved of responsibility for the uncollected portion of the tax list when a complete list of the delinquent tax items have been certified to the Board of Education, and since the Tax Collector has affixed an affidavit to such statement and has filed a statement accounting for the handling of the tax warrant.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Board accept the report, Document #38/11, of the Tax Collector, and having determined that the Collector has accounted for the full amount of the tax warrant, direct that the lists of the delinquent tax items, with the addition of the two percent penalty be certified to the Office of the County Treasurer and/or other enforcement officer; and it is further directed that the tax warrant, tax roll and the Tax Collector's copies of the tax receipts be placed on file.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cohen noted that all delinquent taxes owed to the District are now turned over to the county tax collectors and the county pays out all outstanding taxes to the District.

Ms. Fitzgerald called for public contribution on any item.

Dr. Fuchs noted that the District was proactive with regard to bullying in any form that it may take. She noted that programs such as Rachel's Challenge, Safe Kids, GSA, Peers Influencing Peers Partnership, a zero tolerance policy on bullying and other programs have been instituted. She also noted that our Student Resource Officer, Deputy Mansfield, as well as Mr. Hallisey and Mr. Hanna have had parent workshops to discuss this issue. The Middle School and High School health program as well as the character education program at the Elementary School all have components for the District to be proactive to incidents of bullying. Upon notification of any bullying incident, the building administration immediately investigates the situation. It was also noted that the District laptops do not have access to social networks but that we need to partner with parents for their assistance in monitoring the technology use of our students while at home.

There were no further comments.

On motion by Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board moved into Executive Session regarding to discuss the employment history of six persons at 8:25pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONVENE**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
#166/11

It was noted that there would be no further business conducted after the Executive Session. Joining the Board in the Executive Session was Dr. Barbara Fuchs.

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 9:25pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
#167/11

On motion by Cohen, seconded by Mr. Spittal, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**  
**MEETING**  
#168/11

**Submitted by:**

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