

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

It was noted that this meeting was part of the budget process and that each of the administrators, including Dr. Fuchs and Mr. Lee, would present information regarding enrollment and the impact it will have on the 2011-12 budget.

The reports from the principals began with Ms. Edelman presenting the enrollment numbers for the Elementary School. She projected that the Elementary School building enrollment would be 588 for the 2011-12 school year. She noted that this represents a decrease of 38 from the 2010-11 school year. Ms. Edelman projected manageable class sizes even with the reduction of two staff members. Mr. Hallisey noted that the Middle School would have no change in enrollment overall but the seventh grade class size would decrease and the 8th grade class size would increase. He noted that the estimated class sizes would be 22 in 5th grade, 22 in 6th grade, 24 in 7th grade and 24 in 8th grade. Mr. Burruano also projected no overall enrollment change for the 2011-12 school year. He noted that enrollment in electives and AP was still on-going and that he anticipates he will only run classes with enrollment at a minimum of twelve to fifteen students. The total estimated enrollment at the High School is anticipated to be approximately 618 for the 2011-12 school year.

The department reports began with Ms. Doherty presenting her enrollment figures for the Special Education Department and giving a summary of the current enrollments in the existing programs. She noted that the annual review process was just beginning and this will determine the numbers for next year. However, she did note that she anticipated similar numbers to the current year.

Mr. Kuczma reported on the Athletic Department. Mr. Kuczma noted that he will make recommendations as to staffing for the sports' teams based on the same numbers recommended for enrollment in an AP class. He noted that there will be no change in the sports' offerings for the 2011-12 school year at either the High School or the Middle School. Savings will come with the reduction of assistant coaches, which will be based on the number of participants of a team.

Mr. Lee reported for Mr. Bellantoni on buildings, grounds and transportation. He noted that there would be a reduction in the number of groundskeepers from three to one and that a retiring custodian would be replaced with a cleaner. Mr. Lee reported that the current custodial workers would assume the groundskeepers' role as they had done prior to the construction of the High School. The two groundskeepers' positions would also be replaced with cleaner positions. This would result in a savings to the District as a result of the lower salary for the cleaner positions. With regard to transportation, there will be no change in the staffing numbers but two retirements will allow for replacements at a lower step. Mr. Lee noted that the CSEA contract has a zero percentage increase for next year.

Ms. Rufo asked if the staff changes would have any impact on the District's five-year maintenance plan which included no priority one items. Mr. Lee anticipated that the staffing changes would have no effect on the District's on-going maintenance.

Dr. Fuchs presented the overall budget plan as of March 3. She noted the previous staffing and program cuts that had been made in the District beginning with the 2006-2007 school year. She reported on the unfunded mandates and contractual expenses within the budget. Dr. Fuchs noted the proposed staff changes for the 2011-12 school year. She also presented information as to what the proposed budget would be with the option of full-day kindergarten versus half-day kindergarten. Dr. Fuchs did note that due to the one-time full-day kindergarten conversion aide payment of \$300,000, a proposed budget with full-day kindergarten would cost less than half-day kindergarten for one year only. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that we must be able to sustain full-day kindergarten financially for more than one year if we are to consider placing it within the proposed budget for next year. Ms. Edelman and Mr. Ferraro did note that while the NYS Dept of Education does not mandate full-day kindergarten, its newly adopted common core standards for kindergarten will require more student contact. The Board noted that there will be further discussion of this topic.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

Ms. Alexander congratulated the new inductees of the Tri-M music honor society. She noted that the Mu Alpha Theta induction would be held on March 15. The Middle School's Straight Talk program will take place on March 24. She also noted that Mr. Burrows and Mr. McDonald, District physical education teachers, have been offering a self-defense program for the female students of the High School which has been very worthwhile and she thanked the faculty members for providing it.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

In her Superintendent's report, Dr. Fuchs congratulated Quinn Gilman-Forlini for being named the Class of 2011 Valedictorian and the Board's student representative, Christine Alexander for being named the Salutatorian. She also commented on the classical music concert that was co-sponsored by the Town and the District. Dr. Fuchs attended and said it was a successful event. She also noted that the Elementary School gym show was a wonderful event.

PTA/PTSA REPORT

The report from the PTA and PTSA included the following information. The Elementary School family science night is on March 11. On April 26, Mr. Anthony Wolf, a nationally known speaker, will be presenting in the PAC. The PTSA will be hosting an event on March 10 discussing practical college advice for parents and students.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the Make A Difference Club worked with Fordham University doing a "Midnight Run" delivering meals and clothing to those in need in Manhattan.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for questions or comments on the agenda from the audience.

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Meredith Marvins thanked the Board for their hard work during these dismal economic times. She noted that full-day kindergarten is a positive opportunity within all the negativity and that she felt it would make a difference in the lives of our students.

Ms. Eileen McGinty noted that she understands the fiscal responsibility of the Board, but she wants to ensure that the Board will invest in the children of the District and institute full-day kindergarten. She also noted that the newly adopted common core standards is one reason to institute full-day kindergarten. She presented the Board of Education with a petition signed by approximately 250 people supporting full-day kindergarten.

Ms. Fran McLaughlin spoke about the history of constructing and educating the District's high school students. She noted that she had great concern about the sustainability of full-day kindergarten in the current financial environment.

Mr. Frank Zamberlin noted that he was a principal in a neighboring district. He compared the Putnam Valley class sizes in the low 20's to his district where class sizes run 25-30 and noted that the strength of the educational system in Putnam Valley is in the student/teacher ratio. He also spoke to his opinion that in order for the District's students to be competitive in the long run. He noted that the District should implement full-day kindergarten.

Mr. Andre McCator noted that the residents in favor of full-day kindergarten should show tangible support for full-day kindergarten by donating the money that the state's STAR program saves them directly to the District. Mr. McCator presented an unsigned petition to the Board with this information.

Ms. Nicole Mohle questioned the Board regarding the \$300,000 conversion aid payment and where the District will find the monies in the ensuing years. It was noted that Ms. Edelman had spoken to this by saying that as the lower enrolled grades move through the Elementary School, teaching positions will be removed which will offset the \$300,000 one-time conversion aid payment.

Ms. Jeannie Denike thanked the community for coming and speaking at the Board meeting.

Dr. Fuchs noted that engaging in these conversations and having the public involved in discussions is wonderful.

Ms. Gardner expressed concerns about the future. She questioned whether the students who currently attend a full-day kindergarten program in outside schools come into 1st grade are more advanced. Also, she questioned the need for an assistant principal at the Elementary School in light of the declining enrollment. She asked the Board to look at all the issues at Elementary School and not just the kindergarten program.

Mr. Mark Cooperman spoke of the hard economy and how it affects the community. He noted that any tax increase in taxes is of great concern and spoke to his frustration with the process. He noted that the budget should contain additional cuts due to the unknown actual monetary aid from the state and federal government.

Ms. Fitzgerald thanked the community for their comments. She asked the community to write to the legislators about the concerns that have been raised at the meeting. She noted that the next meeting of the Board would be March 9 and that there would be continuing budget discussion.

There were no further comments and the Board moved into the new business.

APPROVE
PERSONNEL ACTIONS
#227/11

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve personnel actions as per Doc. #60/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the personnel actions contained additions to the substitute teachers' list, winter coaches' stipends for extended seasons, the spring coaches and Mr. Thomas Hirsch's appointment as a volunteer videographer. Mr. Cohen praised Mr. Hirsch for taking pictures and video at all athletic matches since the High School opened.

ENTER INTO
LETTER OF INTENT
W/JFK--ICE HOCKEY
TEAM MERGER
#228/11

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to enter into a letter of intent with the John F. Kennedy Catholic High School for the purpose of allowing our students to participate in ice hockey in the Section 1 Interscholastic Athletic Program as per Document #61/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ENTER INTO
LETTER OF INTENT
W/LAKELAND
BOYS SWIM TEAM
#229/11

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to enter into a letter of intent with the Lakeland Central School District for the purpose of allowing our students to participate in boys swimming in the Section 1 Interscholastic Athletic Program as per Document #62/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve and authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign the following 2010-11 contracts for Health and Welfare Services provided to resident students of Putnam Valley attending non-public schools in the following school districts:

APPROVE
2010-11 CONTRACTS
FOR HEALTH &
WELFARE SERVICES
#230/11

<u>School District</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>Cost Per Stud.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Doc. #</u>
Ossining Union Free	7	\$824.25	\$5,769.75	#63/11
Bedford Central	1	\$925.90	\$925.90	#64/11

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that there was a legislative forum on March 10 sponsored by the Westchester Putnam School Boards' Association which she will be attending. Mr. Ferraro noted that he would be attending a session being held by Senator Ball.

There were no further comments.

On motion by Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Rufo, the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:10pm to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).
Motion carried unanimously.

CONVENE
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#231/11

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

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 10:08pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#232/11

ADJOURN
MEETING
#233/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen Bellino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Maureen Bellino
District Clerk