

Work Session/Business Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2008

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Tina Mackay, President PRESENT
Guy Cohen, Vice President
Trustees Mary Maus and Marie Zarcone

Trustee Frank Reale was not present (notified)

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Marc Space, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction
Paul Lee, Assistant Superintendent for Business
and Finance
Brian Hogaboom, Athletic Coordinator

OTHERS: Town Board Liaison Gene Yetter, Reporter from the Putnam
County News and Recorder, staff from the Putnam Valley School
District and community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Work Session/Business Meeting at 7:05 p.m. and asked the CONVENE
MEETING
community to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Mackay announced the following changes to the agenda:

1. Due to the NYS legislature still in session, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef would not be able to attend the meeting to discuss shared services.
2. The update to the District Website would be the first presentation.
3. The Board would go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

The Board agreed with these changes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Webmaster Alex Gofman presented the new school district website. The sight will go “live” on Monday, April 7. It was noted that Alex Gofman, Paul Lee and Barbara Fuchs will be meeting next week to finalize the process to ensure that the website remains up-to-date. It was noted that the District Policy Manual will be added to the website once it is updated. There will also be a link to the Health Advisory Committee page. The Board commended Alex for the improved navigation of the site.

The Budget Committee presented their recommendations to the Board and the community on the current budget. A copy of the presentation is attached. The Committee noted the following items should be considered for additions to the budget: clubs for enrichment at the Elementary School, AIS services before and after regular school day at the Elementary School, marching band, full-time band and chorus teacher at the Elementary School. The Committee recommended considering the following deletions to the budget: no-cut policy in sports, defend the 1-1 laptop program (is there truly a benefit), raise the prices of the PVHS drama presentations to cover costs, investigate class sizes in 2nd grade. They also asked the Board to consider a part-time Athletic Coordinator and a reduction in the number of assistant coaches. Other recommendations were that presentations should include the cost in real dollars for homeowner of the current budget and the contingency budget and discuss in real dollars how the money is being used; broadcasting budget information on TV, on signs in the community, through backpacks, and the Connect Ed network. Accomplishments of students’ schools, teams, and faculty should be listed in the budget newsletter and send speakers to various community groups.

Community members indicated the full-time athletic coordinator and other sources of revenue should be investigated such as sponsors.

The Board thanked the Committee for their hard work, dedication and insight into the budget. It was hoped that the Committee would agree to remain together for the 2009-10 budget.

Mr. Paul Lee presented the Superintendent’s budget. The proposed budget is approximately a 4.9% increase from 2007-08. Salaries and benefits comprise 82% of the budget. Ms. Marie Zarccone noted that Nassau County Executive would be speaking on other ways to fund education (the Cahill Bill) on June 9. The Board requested updates on class size for the High School. It was noted that the revenue side of the budget is not finalized; no equalization rates, no State or Federal revenue numbers. A copy of the Superintendents’ budget presentation is attached.

It was announced there would be a special Board meeting on April 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria to continue budget discussions.

The community noted that the contingency budget would represent a 3.5% increase compared to the 4.9%. On April 14 there would be a county hearing on financing the SRO officers in the school districts. Ms. Mackay asked for public contribution on agenda items. There were no comments.

APPROVAL On motion of Ms. Zarccone seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved by the Board of TO TRANSFER Education of the Putnam Valley Central School District, in the counties of Putnam MONIES FROM and Westchester, New York, as follows:

2004 TAX

CERTIORARI FUND**Section 1.** That an Annual School District Meeting of the qualified voters of the TO MAINTENANCE/Putnam Valley Central School District, in the Counties of Putnam and Westchester, CONSTRUCTION

FUND

New York, hereinafter called the “District,” shall be held at the places and locations specified in the notice of meeting, on the 20th day of May, 2008 at 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on said day and as much longer as may be necessary to enable the voters then present to cast their ballots.

Section 2. That a proposition shall be presented to the voters at the Annual School District Meeting as follows:

Shall the Board of Education of the Putnam Valley Central School District be authorized to construct repairs and additions, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and other improvements, and costs incidental thereto, at all school buildings in the District, at a maximum cost of \$2,250,000, said sum to be appropriated from the District’s general fund without the necessity of additional taxation?

Section 3. That the proposition for repairs and additions at all schools in the District involves routine activities of the Putnam Valley School District, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area, and that such activities are Type II activities that are not subject to SEQRA review.

Section 4. That the business to be acted upon at said Annual School District Meeting shall be stated in the notice thereof, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and

directed to cause the Notice of Said Annual Meeting to be published in the Journal News, The Putnam County News and Recorder and The North County News, newspapers having general circulation within the District, said publication to be made four (4) times within seven (7) weeks next preceding such Annual School District

Meeting, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of said Annual Meeting.

Section 5. That said Notice of Annual Meeting shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING, BUDGET VOTE AND
ELECTION
PUTNAM VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOWNS OF PUTNAM VALLEY, CARMEL AND CORTLANDT COUNTIES OF
PUTNAM AND WESTCHESTER NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing of the qualified voters of the Putnam Valley Central School District, Putnam and Westchester Counties New York, will be held in the High School in said District at 146 Peekskill Hollow Road on Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., prevailing time, for the presentation of the budget document.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that said vote and election will be held on May 20, 2008 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, in the High School at 146 Peekskill Hollow Road, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine upon the following items:

1. To vote on the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2008-09 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.
2. Shall the Board of Education of the Putnam Valley Central School District be authorized to construct repairs and additions, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and other improvements, and costs incidental thereto, at all school buildings in the District, at a maximum cost of \$2,250,000, said sum to be appropriated from the District's general fund without the necessity of additional taxation?
3. To elect one (1) member of the Board of Education, for a term of three (3) years, commencing July 1, 2008 and expiring on June 30, 2011.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for 2008-09 may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours beginning May 6, 2008, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays at the Administration Office, 146 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, NY and at each of the following schoolhouses: Putnam Valley Elementary School, 171 Oscawana Lake Road and Putnam Valley Middle School, 142 Peekskill Hollow Road and Putnam Valley High School, 146 Peekskill Hollow Road.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the Office of Member of the Board of Education must be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the School District, located in the District Office at the High School at 146 Peekskill Hollow Road, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. no later than April 21, 2008; the 30th day preceding the election.

Vacancies on the Board of Education are not considered separate, specific offices, candidates run at large. Nominating petitions shall not describe any specific vacancy upon the Board for which the candidate is nominated; must be directed to the Clerk of the District; must be signed by at least 27 qualified voters of the District; must state the name and residence of each signer, and, must state the name and residence of the candidate. Petition forms are available at the Office of the Clerk of the District, located in the District Office in the High School at 146 Peekskill Hollow Road.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable during school business hours from the District Clerk beginning April 7, 2008; completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be given personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on May 20, 2008.

A list of persons to whom absentee ballots are issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District in the office of the District Clerk on and after April 28, 2008, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays prior to the day set for the annual election and on May 20, 2008, the day set for the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds for making his/her challenge and the reasons therefor known to the Inspector of Election before the close of polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that personal registration of voters is required either pursuant to § 2014 of the Education law or pursuant to Article 5 of the Election Law. If a voter has heretofore registered pursuant to § 2014 of the Education Law and has voted at an annual or special district meeting within the last four (4) calendar years, he/she is eligible to vote at this election; if a voter is registered and eligible to vote in general elections under Article 5 of the Election Law, he/she is also eligible to vote at this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register.

The Board of Registration will meet for the purpose of registering all qualified voters of the District pursuant to § 2014 of Education Law at the Elementary School, on May 5, 2008, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., on May 7, 2008, at the High School between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., on May 14, 2008, at the High School between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to add any additional names to the Register to be used at the aforesaid election, at which time any person will be entitled to have his or her name placed on such Register, provided that at such meeting of the Board of Registration he or she is known or proven to the satisfaction of said Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at such election for which the Register is prepared. The Register so prepared pursuant to § 2014 of the Education Law will be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the School District at 146 Peekskill Hollow Road, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District beginning five days prior to the election between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., prevailing time, on weekdays, and each day prior to the day set for the election, except Sunday, and at the polling place on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to § 2014 of the Education Law of the State of New York, the Board of Registration will meet on May 17, 2008, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., prevailing time, at the District Office to prepare the Register of the School District to be used at the election to be held in 2008 and again on May 29, 2008 between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., prevailing time, to prepare the Register of the School District to be used at the elections to be held in 2008 and any special district meetings that may be held after the preparation of said Register.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with § 2035 and § 2008 of the Education Law, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with the Board of Education at the District Office, 146 Peekskill Hollow Road, on or before April 21, 2008, no later than 4:00 p.m., prevailing time; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be directed to the Clerk of the School District; must be signed by at least 67 qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of each signer. However, the School Board will

not entertain any petition to place before the power of the voters to determine, or any proposition which fails to include a specific appropriation where the expenditures of monies is required by the proposition.

Linda Pregiato
District Clerk
Board of Education
Putnam Valley Central School District
Putnam Valley, New York 10579

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PERIOD

A representative from the PTSA noted that their Art Auction fundraiser would be Thursday, April 10 at the Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant starting at 6:30 p.m.

The Sound of Music would be performed at the Middle School on April 4 and 5 and West Side Story would be performed at the High School on April 11-13. Math Night at the Middle School would be held on April 16. The Garrison Art Center is showing our High School students' work now and the Middle School students' work starting April 19.

Mr. Cohen thanked Mr. Sperling's 4th grade class for inviting him to the Tea Party, stating that even though there were plenty of seats the Mad Hatter complained when he sat down.

Ms. Mackay announced the Board would move into Executive Session for a personnel matter and upon their return, no other business would be conducted.

At 8:45 p.m., on motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Ms. Zarccone, the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION
08/222

At 9:16 p.m. Ms. Zarccone left the meeting.

ADJOURN
MEETING
08/223

At 9:22 p.m., on motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Mackay, the Board returned from Executive Session and at 9:23 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by
Guy Cohen
Vice President
Board of Education

Typed by
Linda Pregiato
District Clerk