

Work Session/Business Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2008

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

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

OTHERS: Leah Murphy, School District Attorney, Reporter from  
Putnam County News and Recorder, staff from the Putnam Valley  
School District and community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Work Session/Business Meeting at 7:06 p.m. and asked the community to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance. CONVENE MEETING

Ms. Mackay announced Dr. Space would not be joining the Board tonight due to a family emergency.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Barbara Fuchs and Mr. Paul Lee updated the Board and the community on the proposed budget for 2008-09. The Board needs to adopt a budget by April 17.

Following is a summary of discussions and presentations

1. Review of standard testing show student improvement and strive for higher standards.
2. Current requirement for graduation is 22 credits. The elective program permits students to the goal. College courses through Syracuse, DCCC and the AP program permit students to graduate high school with a significant number of college credits. There is not only a Regents diploma, but also a diploma with distinction and the elective program permits students to earn this level of achievement.
3. Staff continues to organize, coordinate and share curriculum work. P.V.F.T. supports mandate mentoring program with money.
4. Possible budget modifications:
  - a. Not recommended to reduce number of sections in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to 6.
  - b. District will continue to investigate language offering, but not sound to combine French and/or Spanish classes next year and it is believed it will not be feasible to find a part time language teacher.

- c. District will continue to monitor bus routes and look for additional shared service opportunities.
- d. It is proposed to reduce staff by one psychologist, one F.T.E. from Elementary School AIS Program and the equipment manager.
- e. Heating and fuel costs are estimated to cost an additional \$55,000.00.
- f. Proposed reduction of \$48,000.00 in assistant coaches.
- g. Savings of \$17,000.00 due to the retirement of the Director of Special Education.

Members of the community spoke against budget cuts for athletic coaches and the need for additional modified coaches for this year. Mr. Reale spoke of the need to review each program individually.

The Board directed Dr. Fuchs and Mr. Lee to inform Brian Hogaboom to hire the necessary staff for this year to ensure continuation of quality programs with adequate supervision at the Middle School. The Board agreed to set the coaches' salary at the 2007-08 level (restored-\$31,000.00). The Board and Dr. Fuchs discussed the need for a committee established by Brian Hogaboom to review the modified program and the District's No—cut policy to make a recommendation by mid-May.

Adopting the recommendations put forth by Dr. Fuchs, including the restoration of the \$31,000.00 to the Athletic Budget, would put the District at approximately a 4.2% year-to-year budget increase.

Mr. Lee informed the District that the NYS Legislature had adopted a 2008-09 budget and our projected aid numbers are approximately \$1,000,000.00, greater than the former governor's request and \$880,000.00 greater than last year's package. The preliminary estimate is this would set the tax rate at about a 3% increase.

The Board gave verbal approval to the budget proposal.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Mackay announced the Board would move into Executive Session to discuss three legal matters and upon their return, no other business would be conducted.

At 8:57 p.m., on motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Ms. Maus, the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss three legal matters.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION  
08/224

Dr. Fuchs, and Leah Murphy, the school attorney, joined the Board in Executive Session.

Ms. Murphy left the Executive Session at 9:34 p.m.

ADJOURN  
MEETING  
08/225 At 9:44 p.m., on motion of Ms. Zarcone, seconded by Ms. Mackay, the Board returned from Executive Session and at 9:46 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