

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUTNAM VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
146 PEEKSKILL HOLLOW ROAD
PUTNAM VALLEY, NEW YORK 10579
Meeting was held in the Middle School Cafetorium

TIME:6:00pm
No. of Pages: 8

Type of Meeting:
Work Session/Business Mtg.

Date:April 7, 2011

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
Natalie Doherty, Director of Spec. Education
Jamie Edelman, Elementary School Principal
Edward Hallisey, Middle School Principal
Vincent Burruano, High School Principal
Michael Hanna, Middle School Asst. Principal
Patricia Murray, Assistant to the Elementary School Principal
Peter Kuczma, Director of Athletics
Nick Bellantoni, Director of Buildings & Grounds

OTHERS: Maureen Bellino, District Clerk
Christine Alexander, Student Rep. to the Board
Johnmichael Chiriyen, Student Rep. to the Board
Dan Mahoney, Videographer
Approximately 80 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Ms. Fitzgerald at 6:04 pm.

CONVENE MEETING

CONVENE
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#245/11

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board of Education moved into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of one person. Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Session was held in the Middle School in room number 182.

ADJOURN
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#246/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Spittal, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 6:58pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fitzgerald reconvened the Work Session/Business Meeting in the Middle School cafetorium with the Pledge to the flag.

The meeting began with a budget presentation by Dr. Fuchs and Mr. Lee. Dr. Fuchs reviewed the budget process and proposed budget for the 2011-12 school year. Dr. Fuchs noted that the proposed budget includes all-day kindergarten, which will be supported by a one-year grant of conversion aid from the state. She also noted that due to the decreasing enrollment trend, the program will be sustainable into the future. Dr. Fuchs reported on the proposed position reductions for the 2011-12 school year. She also reported that the schools would continue to share staff, especially between the Middle School and the High School. Dr. Fuchs discussed the District's music program and how it compares to the state requirements. Dr. Fuchs reported that the District received notification that it would receive some additional financial aid from the state. Mr. Lee noted that the estimated proposed tax levy increase is 1.33% and that the total expenditures increase is 2.36%. He noted that \$925,000 from the fund balance will be used and that supply lines would be frozen at current levels. Mr. Lee summarized the budget over the last five years and noted the positioning of the Putnam Valley Central School District as it relates to the other eighteen districts in the PNW BOCES consortium. Mr. Lee reported that if the staff receives the contractual step increases, health insurance increases, retirement increases and social security/Medicare increases, the budget will increase approximately 3.2% each year for the next five years. He also noted that the fund balance would be depleted within two years if the District continued to use \$900,00 from the fund balance each year.

Mr. Lee reported on the options that the Board had if the proposed budget was defeated. He noted the Board could adopt a contingency budget, which would prohibit free use of the District's facilities by outside groups, or put another budget up for a vote. If a second vote is rejected by the community, the District must adopt a contingency budget, which is based on the December 2010 national CPI of 1.6% with certain subtractions and additions. Mr. Lee noted that the proposed budget is basically the contingent number. He reminded the community that the vote is on May 17, from 6am to 9pm, at the Elementary School. (Presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting.)

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for clarity on Advanced Placement courses. It was noted that Advanced Placement courses will be offered but that there are enrollment limits and that the use of on-line courses is still being investigated.

The Board discussed the children of non-resident professional staff members attending District schools. The Board noted that those children currently attending can continue to attend. A discussion ensued regarding the siblings of those students who are currently attending as well as the new requests from professional staff members. Mr. Cohen proposed starting the moratorium with the 2012-13 school year with a no "grandfather" clause. Mr. Ferraro stated he wanted to include the "grandfather" clause but siblings should pay tuition. Ms. Rufo discussed the advantage of staff having children in the District and that she would accept the one-year moratorium. Ms. Fitzgerald proposed that all children currently attending school in the District be allowed to remain. She recommended that any siblings could be admitted but must pay tuition. Ms. Fitzgerald also recommended that no other children should be allowed to enter the District's schools for at least one year. The Board concurred with Ms. Fitzgerald's proposal.

In her Superintendent's report, Dr. Fuchs reported that she would be attending a meeting of a newly formed group for the Putnam Valley community which was formed under the auspices of Putnam County's Community That Cares Coalition. This meeting, comprised of members from the Putnam Valley community, will take place on April 12 at 3pm in the Putnam Valley Town Hall. Dr. Fuchs noted that she had attended "Straight Talk" on March 24 at the Middle School. This event included discussions on cyber-bullying. Adam Levy, Putnam County District Attorney, was one of the featured speakers. Dr. Fuchs also reported that she had the pleasure of attending the following events: *Cinderella*, performed by members of the Middle School; the Elementary School's performance of *Jungle Book*, and the PTA's third grade "Pizza and Cranium" evening. Dr. Fuchs also noted that area senior citizens had attended a performance of Theatreworks' *Sweeney Todd* and had a dinner sponsored and served by the High School's Make A Difference Club. Dr. Fuchs reported that the Board of Education trustees were now paperless with regard to their meetings and communications with the District. This paperless initiative is one of the District/BOE goals for the 2010-11 school year. Dr. Fuchs concluded her report with the upcoming dates for budget presentations (April 11 with all staff, April 12 with the PTA/PTSA, April 14 at the BOE business meeting and on April 20 at the Town Board meeting). She noted that the Town Board meeting would be taped and seen on the local access stations.

A representative for the PTA/PTSA reported that a noted speaker, Dr. Anthony Wolf, would be speaking at the High School at 7pm on April 23 regarding parenting. They noted that May 17 was the budget vote and encouraged all to make sure they were registered and reminded all to get out and vote.

The student representative report noted that the production of *Sweeney Todd* would be performed on April 8, 9 and 10, the Middle School book fair would be held from April 11 through April 15, the National Honor Society Induction would take place on April 27 and that the Elementary School would be holding their spelling bee on April 15.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the District had two teams who qualified at the state level and would be going to the national competition in Tennessee. Ms. Rufo commented positively on the arts and the theatrical performances that are performed by the students.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for comments from the audience on the agenda items.

Ms. Marie Zarcone thanked Mr. Lee and Dr. Fuchs for their budget presentations and that she concurred that the District should no longer provide tuition free schooling for children of non-resident staff members.

Ms. Tess Torregrosa, a PVHS senior, noted that she felt the Advanced Placement classes should not be cut. She reported that she believed that there was sufficient interest in the AP chemistry and AP physics classes but that the students had not signed up. She noted that the High School should foster an environment where students will be challenged and that AP classes can also save families money on college tuition. Ms. Torregrosa also noted that she felt that the elimination of some AP science classes could prevent some students from maintaining their membership in the Science National Honor Society since students need three years of science to continue to be a member of this society.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Burruano to comment on the High School's AP program. Mr. Burruano noted that based on the Budget Advisory Committee's recommendation that there be minimum enrollment numbers for electives and/or Advanced Placement classes, it was determined that there must be a minimum enrollment of twelve students for electives and AP classes. He also reported that it was determined that there be prerequisites for enrollment in certain AP classes. As an example, he noted that to take AP chemistry or AP biology, a student must take physics. The guidance department had a list of students who met the prerequisites and who were recommended for AP courses. Students were asked by their guidance counselor to consider enrolling in the various AP classes and some students declined. Mr. Burruano also noted that next year's senior class is smaller in size than the current class by approximately 20 students.

There were no further comments and the Board began the New Business.

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, that there will be a moratorium on approving the admission of non-resident children of the professional staff who were not previously enrolled in District schools, siblings of those students currently enrolled in the District may attend with specific approval of the Board and the payment of tuition. Motion carried unanimously.

MORATORIUM
APPROVING ADMISSION
OF NON-RESIDENT
PROF. STAFF MEMBERS'
CHILDREN ATTENDING
DISTRICT SCHOOLS

#247/11

It was noted that those students currently attending District schools would be allowed to continue tuition-free; any siblings of these currently attending students would be accepted for enrollment upon payment of tuition.

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Amanda Maddaloni as a leave replacement teacher in the New Horizons 2-4 program at the Elementary School effective March 14, 2011 through June 30, 2011 (or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education) on Step 1-MA of the PVFT salary schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT
A. MADDALONI
LV. REPL.
ES NEW HORIZONS
PROG.
3/14/11-6/30/11

#248/11

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Crystal Rose Hernandez to a 3-month leave replacement position as a music teacher at the Middle School effective April 14, 2011 through June 24, 2011 (or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education) on Step 1-MA of the PVFT salary schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT
C. HERNANDEZ
LV. REPL.
MS MUSIC
4/14/11-6/24/11

#249/11

ADOPT
BOE MEETING DATES
#250/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the Board of Education meeting schedule dates for the 2011-12 school year as per Document #70/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE
PERSONNEL ACTIONS
#251/11

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 Document #71/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that the personnel actions included approval of two volunteer coaches for sports' teams and a leave of absence of a staff member.

APPROVE
H&W CONTRACTS
LAKELAND, SOMERS,
TARRYTOWN
#252/11

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve and authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign 2010-11 contracts for Health & Welfare Services provided to resident students of Putnam Valley attending non-public schools as per the following. Documents are attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting.

School District	No. of Students	Cost Per Student	Total	Doc. #
Lakeland	88	\$920.12	\$80,970.56	72/11
Somers	21	\$776.90	\$16,314.90	73/11
Tarrytown	1	\$652.00	\$652.00	74/11

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that this was for Putnam Valley students attending non-public schools in the above school districts. The schools are as follows: Lakeland-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Somers-John F. Kennedy Catholic HS and Tarrytown-Hackley

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation of Angela White from the Putnam Valley Central School District effective June 30, 2011, as per Document #75/11 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT
RESIGNATION
A. WHITE
EFF. 6/30/11
#253/11

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

Ms. Rufo noted that the volunteers who were helping with coaching were assuming the cost of obtaining the proper certifications. She asked if the District could consider paying these fees for the volunteers. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that this issue could be looked in to.

Mr. Cohen asked if the Board wanted to consider adding an extra meeting for the following week for further discussion on the budget. He noted that the Board anticipated adopting the budget at the meeting on April 14. Ms. Rufo agreed. It was decided to not add an additional meeting at this time since the budget adoption could be moved to the following week if necessary.

Mr. Bellantoni noted that Dr. Fuchs and Mr. Lee would be presenting the budget to the staff on April 11.

Ms. Barbara Parmly updated the Board on the Destination Imagination team's recent competition.

Ms. Barbara Parmly also reported that her students had noted to her that there was no plaque in the new wing of the Elementary School. The students had noticed plaques in the other additions.

Mrs. Jerri Cohen noted that she felt that AP classes should be large, not small. She stated that college classes are large not small and larger AP classes would be a better preparation for that environment.

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, the Board, at 9:28pm, moved into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of seventeen individuals. Motion carried unanimously.

CONVENE
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#254/11

Dr. Fuchs, the principals (Mr. Burruano, Ms. Edelman and Mr. Hallisey) and Ms. Doherty joined the Board in the Executive Session.

Ms. Doherty was excused from the Executive Session at 9:51pm, Mr. Burruano was excused at 10:08pm, Ms. Edelman was excused at 10:26pm and Mr. Hallisey was excused at 11:22pm.

ADJOURN
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#255/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Spittal, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 12:06am. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN
MEETING
#256/11

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Spittal, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07am. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Maureen Bellino
District Clerk