

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

**PUTNAM VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
146 PEEKSKILL HOLLOW ROAD
PUTNAM VALLEY, NEW YORK 10579**

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

Type of Meeting: Business Meeting

Date: 12/8/11

BOARD OF EDUCATION: President Valerie Fitzgerald
Vice President Guy Cohen
Trustee Joseph Ferraro
Trustee Jeanine Rufo (Arrived at
6:32pm)
Trustee David Spittal

PRESENT

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Superintendent of Schools
Paul Lee, Asst. Supt. for Business & Finance
Vincent Burruano, High School Principal
Edward Hallisey, Middle School Principal
Jamie Edelman, Elementary School Principal
Natalie Doherty, Director of Special Education
Doug Judson, Supervisor of Transportation, Oper. & Maintenance

OTHERS: Maureen Bellino, District Clerk
Ryan O'Connor, Student Rep. to the Board
Gerry Carlin, PVFT President
Dan Mahoney, Videographer
Reporter from PCNR, Ann Chesnut
Approximately 35 members of the public including students and staff.

The meeting was opened by Ms. Fitzgerald at 6:25pm in the High School main office conference room.

CONVENE MEETING

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of three individuals.

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, the Board moved into Executive Session at 6:25pm to discuss the employment history of three individuals. Motion carried 4 to 0.

**CONVENE EXECUTIVE
SESSION
#135/12**

Joining the Board in the Executive Session were Dr. Fuchs, Ms. Edelman and Ms. Doherty. Ms. Rufo joined the Executive Session at 6:32pm. Ms. Edelman and Ms. Doherty left the Executive Session at 6:39pm. Mr. Burruano joined the Executive Session at 6:39pm and left the Executive Session at 6:45pm. Mr. Hallisey joined the Executive Session at 6:46pm and left the Executive Session at 6:54pm.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION

#136/12

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 6:55pm. Motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE MEETING

Ms. Fitzgerald reconvened the public portion of the Business Meeting at 7:02pm with the Pledge to the Flag. She noted that the Board had been in Executive Session regarding the employment history of three individuals since 6:25pm.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the Treasurer Reports for September and October 2011 were available in the District Office.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to approve minutes.

APPROVE MINUTES

#137/12

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, the minutes of the Work Session/Business Meeting of November 10, 2011 and the Business Meeting of November 17, 2011 were adopted. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Dr. Fuchs and Mr. Lee summarized the budget process and the proposed budget timeline for the 2012-13 budget. Mr. Lee noted each of the proposed meetings where the proposed budget would be discussed and the Board concurred with the timeline. Dr. Fuchs noted that the timeline would be placed on the website. (2012-13 budget timeline attached to the official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office.)

The next presenter was Mrs. Laura Hirsch. Mrs. Hirsch gave information on the proposed booster club initiative (which is an outgrowth of a subcommittee of the 2011-12 Budget Advisory Committee). Mrs. Hirsch noted that the proposed booster club was moving forward and the current committee includes Doreen Cohen and Rita Sharples. Ms. Hirsch noted that Ms. Bonnie Lord, a parent and attorney, has volunteered to do the legal work that is necessary in formulating the club and Ms. Lisa Micelli, parent and CPA, has volunteered to help with the necessary accounting start-up work. Mrs. Hirsch also thanked Mrs. Lisa Spittal for the information and guidance she has provided to the group in creating the booster club. Mrs. Hirsch noted that all filings will be completed at the beginning of 2012.

Mr. Burruano presented information on a financial education course. It was noted that the Board of Education/District Goals for 2011-12 included having a financial education course as a requirement for graduation. Mr. Burruano reported on the current elective offerings and the current requirements for graduation, and he noted what the proposed course could include compared to what the current offerings are for the students at the High School. The Board discussed the practical information that students would learn from the course and asked Mr. O'Connor, the student representative, his opinion. Mr. O'Connor noted that he thought this course would be extremely helpful to students and the type of information that would be presented is not available in any current course offerings. Mr. Cohen suggested a practical lab be included within the current course offerings to delve deeply into topics. Mr. Burruano asked if this is something that the Board would like offered to students in addition to current offerings or in place of a current offering. The Board decided to take a look at the current required Economic class offering to see what could be added. (Presentation attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting.)

Dr. Fuchs noted that another District/BOE goal was to explore the addition of another foreign language to the District due to the phasing out of the French language because of low enrollment. She noted that the LOTE teachers would be presenting their recommendations on this evening regarding another foreign language. The entire foreign language department was present at the meeting. Middle School LOTE teacher, Ms. Mary McGowan, thanked students for coming to the meeting and for the District's support of the foreign language program. Ms. McGowan noted that foreign language offerings are truly best for the student and hoped the Board would select an additional foreign language to be offered to the students. The question of what language to offer will be left to the Board. She noted that the LOTE department is dedicated to their work and will work together to develop a program with whatever language is selected. Ms. Rufo noted that the Board needs to make their decision based on financial reasons due to the fact that the District cannot support a program that will have six or eight students in a class but that she hopes the District will be able to offer a second language. (Presentation attached to the official minutes on file in the District Office.)

Dr. Fuchs also noted that the District has to be committed to whatever language is chosen for at least six years and that the Board had some difficult decisions to make on whether or not to offer the second foreign language.

Dr. Fuchs noted that Mr. Kuczma was going to present on the coaching evaluation system. Mr. Kuczma presented his findings. He explained the process he went through to develop the evaluation system. He discussed the purposes of the coaching appraisal, the categories of standards and a sample of the proposed evaluation form. Mr. Kuczma's presentation is attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office. Mr. Spittal asked if there is a reality for one athletic director to evaluate the large amount of coaches or is there an ability to delegate some of the duties. Mr. Kuczma explained that the number of coaches differs from season to season but he does have the ability to evaluate all the coaches.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Fuchs noted that she presented information on the upcoming budget to the District teachers at the Superintendent's Conference Day. She noted that any changes to additions to our course offerings must be looked at carefully due to the difficult financial decisions that need to be made. She noted that on the Superintendent's Conference Day there was a webinar from the Danielson evaluation system for the new APPR. She reported that she will be attending a LHCSS meeting tomorrow to meet with NYS legislators regarding state mandates. Currently, PVCSD has over \$10,000,000 in unfunded mandates within our current budget of \$44,000,000. Dr. Fuchs also reported that there have been many power outages recently as recently as last week at the Elementary School. She has asked Mr. Lee to look into the possibility of purchasing a generator for the Elementary School. She noted that the cost of a generator at the Elementary School is approximately \$200,000. The Board noted that all other possibilities need to be looked at before the District thinks about investing \$200,000 in a generator. It was noted that pressure needs to be exerted on NYSEG to provide consistent power to the schools and to respond to the schools on a priority basis.

Student Representatives Report

Mr. O'Connor wanted to note his support of the LOTE department and the addition of another foreign language. Mr. O'Connor congratulated the cast and crew of *Dracula* on their wonderful performance at the High School. He noted upcoming band concerts, the dates of the upcoming parent/teacher conferences and the upcoming recess dates.

There were no reports from the PTA or PTSA.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for comments from the public on any agenda items.

Ms. Chesnut noted that Senator Ball is pressuring NYS Electric & Gas regarding the handling of the recent power outages in the area. Ms. Chesnut also inquired as to the status of the BOCES capital budget vote. Dr. Fuchs noted that this would be a discussion topic at the January 12, 2012 Board meeting and that the Board would vote on this matter at the January 26, 2012 meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Kerry Dinsmore as a leave replacement as a special education teacher at the Middle School effective December 12, 2011 through April 20, 2012 (or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education) on Step-1 MA of the PVFT salary schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT
K. DINSMORE
MS SPEC. EDUC.
LV REPL.
12/12/11-4/20/12
#138/12

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Lauren Zagorski-Treuel to a six-month probationary appointment effective December 8, 2011 through June 8, 2012, as an office assistant at the District Office on Step-1 of the CSEA salary schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT
L. ZAGORSKI-TREUEL
PROB. APPT.-OFFICE
ASST.
12/8/11-6/8/12
#139/12

Dr. Fuchs noted that this appointment is the result of the retirement of Mary Lou Spagna.

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve personnel actions as per Document #47/12 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting on file in the District Office. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE
PERS. ACTIONS
#140/12

Mr. Cohen noted that the personnel actions included three Elementary School club advisors, three volunteer wrestling coaches and an addition to the substitute/tutor listing.

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Dawn Cassone as a temporary bus monitor on Step 2 of the CSEA salary schedule for new bus monitors, with a maximum of 11 hours per week, effective December 9, 2011 through June 30, 2012, or sooner at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT
D. CASSONE
TEMPORARY BUS
MONITOR
12/9/11-6/30/12
#141/12

Dr. Fuchs noted that this was a temporary assignment due to concerns about student behavior on buses.

APPROVE
SUPT. ATTENDING
WORKSHOP
#142/12

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, to approve Superintendent Dr. Barbara Fuchs' attendance at the Community Engagement Workshop to be held on December 8, 2011 at the PNW BOCES campus. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE
CSE/CPSE PLACEMENTS
#143/12

On motion by Mr. Ferraro, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve CSE/CPSE placements as per Document #48/12 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT
PARENT MEMBER
CSE/CPSE
#144/12

On motion by Mr. Spittal, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Anne Driscoll as a CSE/CPSE parent member. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT
RESIGNATION
W. SHARISON
EFF. 12/31/12
#145/12

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Spittal, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation of Wendy Sharison, for the purpose of retirement, from the Putnam Valley Central School District as of December 31, 2012, as per Document #49/12 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT
DONATIONS
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
#146/12

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept the following generous donations to the District's instrumental music program:

Second Act Clarinet (approx. value of \$100)-donated by Ms. Wendy Sharison

Flute (approx. value of \$50), Violin (approx. value of \$50), Snare Drum (approx. value of \$150), Bundy Trumpet (approx. value of \$150)—donated by Ms. Kim Brazee

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for any comments from the Board or the public on any matter.

Mr. Ferraro noted that the *Journal News* reported today on consolidation of Districts to save money. Mr. Ferraro reported that he wanted the community to know that Putnam Valley has explored this avenue in the past and the districts contacted did not respond favorably. He noted that Putnam Valley is not ignoring this consolidation discussion and that the District will continue to investigate this possibility. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that there is much involved in a consolidation process and that it is not always a cost savings. She noted that the state has conceded that consolidation works best in upstate areas of New York State with very small districts.

Mr. Ferraro noted that he wanted to know if the capital projects proposal at BOCES would be exempt from the tax cap. Mr. Lee explained that as of December 7 he was told it was not exempt. Mr. Cohen explained that the capital projects was a proposal for repairs at BOCES and that Putnam Valley, as one of their component districts, has to pay its portion if the Bond is approved by all the component districts. Ms. Fitzgerald noted that the Board would have that discussion at the next Board meeting on January 12. Mr. Ferraro noted he was going to Albany on December 9 to attend the NYSSBA workshop called "Solving the Budget Puzzle."

There were no further comments from the Board or the public.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss three matters of litigation and collective negotiations.

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Ferraro, the Board moved into Executive Session, at 8:53pm, for discussions regarding three matters of litigation and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law). Motion carried unanimously.

CONVENE
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#148/12

Joining the Board in Executive Session were Dr. Fuchs and Julie Shaw, the District's legal counsel. At 9:01pm, Gerry Carlin, Bruce Ludovicy, Karen Kruse and Dorothy France joined the Executive Session. Ms. Kruse and Ms. France left the Executive Session at 9:19pm. Mr. Carlin and Mr. Ludovicy left the Executive Session at 10:17pm.

On motion by Ms. Rufo, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 11:10pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN
EXECUTIVE SESSION
#149/12

ADJOURN
MEETING
#150/12

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Rufo, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:



Maureen Bellino
District Clerk