

Business Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2008

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

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Marc Space, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum and Personnel  
Paul Lee, Assistant Superintendent for  
Finance and Technology  
Edward Hallisey, Middle School Principal  
Natalie Doherty, Director of Special Education and  
Student Services  
Nick Bellantoni, Director of Operations

OTHERS: Representatives from KG&D Architects, Reporter from the Putnam  
County News and Recorder, staff from the Putnam Valley School  
District, and community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Business Meeting at 7:04 p.m. and asked CONVENE  
everyone to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance. MEETING

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, to approve the APPROVE  
minutes of the Work Session/Business Meeting of October 1, 2008 and the MINUTES  
Business Meeting of October 16, 2008. Motion carried unanimously. 09/122

Ms. Mackay announced the Treasurer’s Report for September 2008 was posted in the  
Business Office and available for anyone wishing a copy.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**  
**PRIDE IN PUTNAM VALLEY**

Dr. Space recognized Jason Kane for September with a Pride in Putnam Valley certificate for being selected as School Practitioner of the Year for 2008 by the Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Chapter of the New York Association of School Psychologists and the School Psychologist of the Year in New York State.

Dr. Space also recognized Gerry Carlin, Middle School teacher, for being selected as one of ten A+ teachers in Putnam County.

Dr. Barbara Fuchs reported on the recent Superintendent's Conference Day. The focus was on curriculum, inquiry-based instruction, and differentiation. This was a direct focus conference. The presentation is attached. The next conference day will be December 12 and will be building-based.

Mr. Russ Davidson and Mr. Joseph Bonifacio of KG&D Architects presented the plans for the bus garage proposal to be built on the lower parking field of the Elementary School. It will be a pre-engineered building with construction slated to start in August 2009. There will be two phases. Phase I will be the building constructed by contractors and Phase II, the wash station and finishing to be constructed by PVCSD staff. The estimated costs are \$875,000.00 for Phase I and \$400,00.00 for Phase II. It was not decided if the facility would have its own septic system or hook-up to one of the two school systems. The wash station will have a water recycling/purification system.

The Board reviewed the proposed post-graduate student survey and suggested the questions should specify high school. The Elementary School question should be eliminated. A question about the instruction--understanding versus giving answers should be formulated. They were hopeful the survey would be available by the new year.

Mr. Cohen summarized some of the school activities: winter sports beginning on December 1; Mu Alpha Theta pajama, book drive ongoing; a food/toiletries/gift/toy drive going on for troops in Iraq; Toys for Tots collection ongoing until December 5; Make A Difference Club dessert fundraiser; Tickets for "All In The Timing" fall play available for performance December 5-7; and the Debate Team has won two contests. Team Members include Kevin VanDevelde, Casey Leake, Angela Italia, Quinn Gilman-Forlini, Nicole Conti, Jillian Kestenbaum, and Tori Hamilton.

Ms. Mackay asked for public contribution on agenda items. There were no comments.

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to direct the tax collector to make refunds pursuant to the following Small Claims Assessment Review decisions:

McLaughlin	84.19-1-32	2008-09	\$ 192.36
Tansey	62.10-1-16	2008-09	\$ 134.65
Scuccimarra	84.7-1-7	2008-09	\$1,921.70
Montaldo	72.15-1-13	2008-09	\$1,673.56

DIRECT  
TAX COLLECTOR  
TO MAKE REFUNDS  
PURSUANT TO  
SMALL CLAIMS  
ASSESSMENT REVIEW  
DECISIONS  
09/123

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to direct the tax collector to make refunds pursuant to the Tax Certiorari judgment awarded to Consolidated Edison Company of NY.

SBL# 999-99-30.2			
Index #			
1088/04	2004-05	\$29,350.67	
1262/05	2005-06	\$27,072.65	
1540/06	2006-07	\$33,182.85	
1446/07	2007-08	\$79,351.58	

DIRECT  
TAX COLLECTOR  
TO MAKE REFUNDS  
PURSUANT TO  
TAX CERTIORARI  
JUDGMENT AWARDED  
TO CON EDISON CO.  
09/124

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appropriate \$168,958.00 from the Tax Certiorari Reserve and to increase the 2008-09 Budget Account A1930 by \$168,958.00 to pay for the Tax Certiorari awarded to Con Edison Company of NY. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROPRIATE  
MONIES FROM  
TAX CERTIORARI  
RESERVE TO INCREASE  
2008-09 BUDGET  
ACCOUNT  
09/125

It was noted by Mr. Lee that these funds are from the District’s dedicated Tax Certiorari fund.

DIRECT TAX COLLECTOR TO MAKE CHANGES IN ASSESSMENTS ON 2008-09 TAX ROLL DIRECTED BY On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to direct the tax collector to make changes in the following assessments on the 2008-09 tax roll as directed by the Putnam County Department of Real Property Tax Services and to make commensurate adjustments to the tax bills:

<u>PUT. CO. DEPART. OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES</u>	<u>09/126</u>	<u>SBL</u>	<u>Old Taxable</u>	<u>New Taxable</u>
Macquignon		41.6-2-65	\$301,890.	\$279,390
Szilva		41.14-1-80	-0-	\$301,540
Morando		41.14-1-88	\$ 85,000	\$ 10,800
McLaughlin		51.73-1-14	\$265,000	\$100,000
Town of PV		84.-1-72	\$494,000	-0-

I was noted that this was caused by a clerical error by the Town and also noted that this is an example of the problems in budgeting. The amount of tax certiorari is unknown and the District has no control and that now the District is giving back funds, which was anticipated in spending.

ACCEPT 2008-09 PVCSD TAX COLLECTORS REPORT On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept the 2008-09 Putnam Valley Central School District Tax Collector’s Report, as per Document #46/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.  
09/127

DESIGNATE PVCSD BD. OF EDUCATION LEAD AGENCY IN SEQUA REVIEW OF BUS FACILITY PROJECT DECLARED AS TYPE II ACTION On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, that WHEREAS, the Board of Education is planning a project involving the construction of a Bus Garage on the Elementary School campus; and WHEREAS, the Putnam Valley Central School District is the involved agency principally responsible for undertaking this project; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has reviewed the components, phases and aspects of the proposed project; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has been advised by its architects, Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson, that the proposed project consists of activities designated as a Type II action under SEQRA, specifically, the “construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, non-residential structure or facility involving less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area. . . .” (6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(7)); and

09/128

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has been further advised by its architects, Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson, that the proposed work will have no significant adverse impact on the environment based on the criteria in SEQRA and its regulations, and does not exceed any of the thresholds of a SEQRA Type I action;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board of Education of the Putnam Valley Central School District, as the involved agency principally responsible for undertaking the construction of a Bus Garage on the Elementary School campus, declares itself lead agency in the SEQRA process for this proposed action, and
2. The Board of Education of the Putnam Valley Central School District, as lead agency in the SEQRA review of this project declares that this project is a Type II action under 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(7), which will not have a significant impact on the environment and is not subject to further SEQRA review.

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Putnam Valley Central School District endorse the statement of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrators Association which appears herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk upon adoption of such resolution, through a certified statement notify the president of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrators' Association of such adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools review the statement of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrators with building principals and other administrators with the expectation that principals will review the statement with respective faculty groups; and

PVCSD  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ENDORSES  
STATEMENT OF  
PUTNAM/WESTCHESTER  
CSA ADMIN. ASSOC.  
"EDUCATION IS A  
CIVIL RIGHT"  
 09/129

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the statement of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrators' Association that appears below be spread across the minutes of these proceedings for all to see the commitment of the Putnam Valley Central School District Board of Education to the same principles as outlined in the statement.

**Statement of Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrators' Association**

In the history of our nation and our world, race and religion have been both powerful motivations for progress, as well as a source of conflict and intolerance. In fact, intolerance often extends to perceived abilities, socio-economic status, life style, and beyond.

The Superintendents of the Putnam/Northern Westchester region, in concert with the New York State Council of School Superintendents, believe strongly that education is a civil right, which is essential to the achievement of the fundamental, inalienable right of equality.

We believe:

- All students must have access to a rich and challenging educational experience.
- All students must be provided the necessary support to achieve at a level that prepared them to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- All students should learn and value their roles as citizens in a global society.
- All students should embrace our differences and distinctiveness and understand that those characteristics contribute to the greater good.
- All students, when confronted with issue of intolerance, should challenge such attitudes appropriately.

We believe that as school district leaders, it is our responsibility to:

- Promote and support open and honest discussion about issues of intolerance.
- Create a climate of respect for all.
- Educate our students to appreciate and celebrate differences.

Motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion by the Board on Motion #8, to approve the revised K-12 curriculum maps located on the District website. It was decided this was not appropriate or necessary, due to the fact that no other publication of curriculum material was approved.

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was moved to table Motion #8 indefinitely. Motion carried unanimously.

TABLE  
MOTION #8  
09/130

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept a generous donation of a digital Sports Video (DSV) System from The Putnam Valley Touchdown Club, valued at approximately \$4,199.90, to be used at the Putnam Valley High School. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT  
GENEROUS  
DONATION  
PV TOUCHDOWN  
CLUB  
09/131

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, to grant permission for Dr. Marc Space to attend the Mid-Hudson School Study Council Collective Bargaining Forum, in Newburgh, NY on December 9, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANT  
PERMISSION  
M. SPACE  
TO ATTEND  
MID-HUDSON SCHOOL  
STUDY COUNCIL  
COLLECTIVE  
BARGAINING FORUM  
NEWBURGH, NY-12/9/08  
09/132

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve CSE/CPSE placements, as per Document #47/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE  
CSE/CPSE  
PLACEMENTS  
09/133

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve 2008-09 winter sports coaches/stipends, as per Document #48/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE  
2008-09  
WINTER SPORTS  
COACHES/STIPENDS  
09/134

There was a discussion of the title for the assistant coach to program assistant. It was concluded that this would violate the P.V.F.T. contract. It was decided to keep the title as assistant and the varsity coaches would manage the assistant's time and assignments. It was also noted the Modified Committee had met and a December presentation to the Board would take place.

ACCEPT  
LETTERS OF  
RESIGNATION FOR  
PURPOSE OF  
RETIREMENT

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept, with regret, a resignation for purpose of retirement, from the following staff, as per the Document attached to the official minutes of this meeting:

09/135	Giuseppe Costantini	effective January 16, 2009	Document #49/09
	Janet L. Reale	effective July 1, 2009	Document #50/09
	Christine McDermott	effective July 1, 2009	Document #52/09

Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT  
J. BONIELLO  
6-MON. PROB. APPT  
SCHOOL BUS DRIVER  
EFF. 11/17/08-5/17/09  
09/136

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint John Boniello to a six-month probationary appointment, as a School Bus Driver, for the Putnam Valley Central School District, on Step 1 of the C.S.E.A. salary schedule, effective November 17, 2008 through May 17, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL  
ACTIONS  
09/137

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to take personnel actions, as per Document #51/09, attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PERIOD**

Ms. Mackay asked the Board and community for other items for discussion.

Ms. Fitzgerald reported on the Putnam/Northern Westchester Legislative Action Committee Meeting attended by our local state senator and assemblywoman. She stated it was a positive meeting and that they heard the message. Discussions included school savings approaches, which would not impact on state budget, changes in burden of proof for special education services, Wicks Law, pension contributions, unfunded mandates, and larger health insurance consortiums. Ms. Fitzgerald also reported on the School Boards/Superintendents Dinner. Discussion included basic cost saving actions at both the district and regional levels. It was noted that the Putnam Valley Central School District Budget Committee would meet December 2.

Ms. Mackay indicated the Board would review goals in January.

Dr. Space discussed talks with Westchester Community College to establish a campus at Putnam Valley Central School District.

A member of the community asked that given the financial state, how could the District go ahead with the bus garage project and asked for clarification on the tax certiorari. It was noted by Mr. Cohen that the District owns half the fleet and we save money because of this. Attempts to share a bus facility and to find a local garage to perform routine services failed. A small facility is needed to maintain the District's fleet. Mr. Bellantoni noted the District is still looking for a space or partner. The architects noted that it would be possible to move the proposed facility if another location was found.

Ms. Mackay announced the Board would move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and that no new business would be discussed upon their return.

At 8:45 p.m., on motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Mr. Reale, the Board, Superintendent and Paul Lee moved into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION  
09/138

At 9:37 p.m., on motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Maus, the Board returned from Executive Session and at 9:38 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN  
MEETING  
09/139

Submitted by  
Guy Cohen  
Vice President  
Board of Education

Submitted by  
Linda Pregiato  
District Clerk