

Business Meeting Minutes - February 26, 2009

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  
High School Principal Jonathan Bryant  
Middle School Principal Edward Hallisey  
Middle School Assistant Principal Michael Hanna  
Director of Special Education and Student  
Services Natalie Doherty

OTHERS: Student Representatives to the Board of Education  
from the Elementary School Olivia Roman, Town Board  
Liaison Gene Yetter, Reporters from the Putnam County News and  
Recorder and North County News, Members of Boy Scout  
Troup #41, staff from the Putnam Valley School District, and  
community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Business Meeting at 7:07 p.m. and introduced Boy Scout Troup #41 who lead the Board and community in the Pledge of Allegiance. CONVENE MEETING

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, to approve the minutes of the Work Session/Business Meeting of January 8, 2009 and the Business Meeting of January 22, 2009. Motion carried unanimously. APPROVE MINUTES  
09/180

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

Ms. Mackay announced a change in the agenda order so that Pride in Putnam Valley would be delayed until the honored guest arrived.

Dr. Barbara Fuchs introduced the Integrating Technology Into an Inquiry Based High School Science Classroom presentation. Mr. Brian Kuczma and Mr. Jerry Zupan demonstrated the integration of technology (laptops and SmartBoards) into the Biology classroom, demonstrating how technology was not an “add-on” but an integral part of the learning process. This assists the students in critical thinking, is a resource, permits various levels of challenges and permits student assessment. Various learning styles can be supported in a single classroom with constant checking of understanding/assessment both by teacher and student.

Mr. Jonathan Bryant summarized the current High School community service graduation requirement. Current 9<sup>th</sup> graders are required to have 40 hours of service that can be a combination of school activities or community projects. A Community Service Leader (CSL)--coordinator will be appointed to oversee the requirement and would have to approve all non-school projects. There would be an appeal process.

Dr. Space recognized Jeanne Denike as the Pride in Putnam Valley recipient for her unselfish dedication to the District, community and students. She works to keep all of us informed about what is happening in the community.

Mr. Jonathan Bryant, Mr. Ed Hallisey and Mr. Paul Lee presented a summary of the laptop initiative that is currently available for all Grade 5-12 students. The students in Grades 7-12 are allowed to take their laptops home while the laptops for the Grade 5 and 6 students are primarily used in school. At the Elementary School, there are classroom sets on carts and all buildings are wireless. The District has one network administrator and three technology specialists (one for each building). All classrooms for Grade 5-12 have SmartBoards while half of the Elementary School classrooms have them. Internal analysis of students’ performance, done by tracking cohorts of students, clearly demonstrate the power of the tool. Student performance has been improving as the laptop initiative is rolled out. Mr. Hallisey responded to a letter received from a parent: Students are taught responsibility with respect to laptop usage and with the current environment access to many undesirable sites becomes accessible to them, with school, community and parents being vigilant to the sites they have access to; Student in Grades 5 and 6 start by using laptops in the classrooms and as they show responsibility and maturity they are permitted to take them home; students are taught the proper use of the laptop; cost of the program is not as high as one thinks due to state aid and BOCES support with students paying if the laptop is damaged due to their negligence; and the next step in the education process is parent education to begin in the fall. Mr. Lee explained the cost of the program. Laptops have lasted five years and still are working. State aid covers 59% of the cost of the program. The net yearly cost is \$200,000.00.

It was noted the January 2009 issue of Ed Tech Magazine contains an article about the District and an interview with Michael Lee.

The Board discussed the appointment of a liaison to the Town Board. The Town Board meets the third Wednesday, with agenda items due the Friday before. Ms. Mackay will be the formal contact. Board Members will attend on a rotating basis.

Dr. Space presented the District calendar for 2009-10 school year. It was noted that the snow make-up days were incorrectly listed. The correct days are March 29 and 30. The calendar has 182 instructional days. There are three full teacher conference days. New York State permits these days to be counted as instructional, if needed. The calendar corresponds to the BOCES calendar with the exception that BOCES is closed on April 5. The District will be open and our BOCES students will spend the day at their designated Putnam Valley school.

PTA/PTSA representatives spoke of activities in the buildings: PARP continues and on March 6 at the PAC with movies which represent the school reading in the Elementary and Middle Schools being shown; Grade 4 Cranium Night is scheduled for February 27 at the Elementary School; the next PTA meeting is March 18; the PTA email is [PVPTA@pvcasd.org](mailto:PVPTA@pvcasd.org); High School students will be assisting with Science night at the Elementary and Middle Schools; Math Night at the Elementary School is March 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.; PTSA has started a SAT preparation program and Meet the Candidates Night is scheduled for May 4.

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 that

WHEREAS, the Putnam Valley Central School District wishes to adopt the  
Deferred Compensation Plan for Employees of the State of New York and  
Other Participating Public Jurisdictions (the "Plan") for the voluntary  
participation of all eligible employees; and

ADOPT  
NYS DEFERRED  
COMPENSATION  
PLAN  
09/181

WHEREAS, the Putnam Valley Central School District is a local public  
employer eligible to adopt the Plan pursuant to Section 5 of the State  
Finance Law; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam Valley Central School District has reviewed the Plan  
established in accordance with Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code and  
Section 5 of the State Finance Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Plan is to encourage employees to make and continue careers with the Putnam Valley Central School district by providing eligible employees with a convenient and tax-favored method of saving on a regular and long-term basis and thereby provide for their retirement;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby:

RESOLVED, that the Putnam Valley Central School District hereby adopts the Plan for the voluntary participation of all eligible employees; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the appropriate officials of the Putnam Valley Central School District are hereby authorized to take such actions and enter such agreements as are required or necessary for the adoption, implementation, and maintenance of the Plan; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Administrative Services Agency is hereby authorized to file copies of these resolutions and other required documents with the President of the State of New York Civil Service Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lee noted that this is the creation of a 403b type of savings for the staff. There is no cost to the District.

PARTICIPATION  
IN JOINT  
BIDDING  
WITH DISTRICTS  
OF SOUTHERN  
WESTCHESTER BOCES  
SUPPLIES

09/182

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved that

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the participating school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services, adopting this resolution to bid jointly in those supplies, commodities, materials and equipment set forth below.

NOW, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Putnam Valley School District agrees to participate with other school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Westchester County, New York, adopting this in the joint bidding of:

- Art Supplies
- General School Supplies
- Office Supplies

- Fine Paper Supplies
- Audio Visual Supplies & Equipment
- Custodial Supplies
- Custodial Paper Supplies
- Lumber Supplies
- Laser & Ink Jet Toners
- Microcomputer Software
- Microcomputer Hardware
- Office and Classroom Furniture
- Graphing Calculators

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall remain in effect until June 30, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lee noted that joining a cooperative bidding group (see motion #14) does not commit the District to purchase items from that group. It gives us the opportunity if the costs are the lowest.

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

ENDORSEMENT  
IN SUPPORT OF  
MUSIC EDUCATION  
09/183

WHEREAS, the study of music contributes to young people’s development through heightened skills in listening, reading, self-expression, and creativity; and

WHEREAS, music education in the schools includes a broad range of types of music and active musical experiences; and

WHEREAS, music and the other arts significantly enhance the morale and quality of the school environment; and

WHEREAS, it is stated objective of the public school to prepare children for a productive role in our society; and

WHEREAS, MENC: The National Association for Music Education has designated March as Music In Our Schools Month,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Board of Education of Putnam Valley High School endorses the observance of Music In Our Schools Month as an opportunity to support the purposes and practices of music education and encourages teachers, parents, students, and all citizens to participate.

The Board of Education of the Putnam Valley Central School District, for its own part, rededicates itself to the maintenance of a music education program that will be relevant to the needs of the children placed in its care and will reach and positively influence each child.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Reale noted that given the difficult times it is important to remember that music teaches the students creativity--a great asset.

APPROVE  
FIRST READING  
POLICY SERIES  
#0000-#1925

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, by the Board of Education to approve the first reading of the following policies in Policy Series #0000-#1925:

09/184

- Policy #0000 Mission Statement and Vision
- Policy #0100 Equal Opportunity
- Policy #0110 Sexual Harassment
- Policy #0150 HIV/AIDS
- Policy #0300 Accountability
- Policy #0310 Board Self--Evaluation
- Policy #0320 Evaluation of the Superintendent
- Policy #1000 Community Relations Goals
- Policy #1050 Annual District Meeting and Election
- Policy #1740 Relationship with Nonpublic Schools
- Policy #1741 Home-Schooled Students
- Policy #1120 School District Records
- Policy #1130 News Media Relations
- Policy #1230 Public Participation at Board Meetings
- Policy #1400 Public Complaints
- Policy #1420 Complaints About Curricula or Instructional Materials
- Policy #1500 Public Use of School Facilities
- Policy #1530 Smoking and Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
- Policy #1900 Parental Involvement
- Policy #1925 Interpreters for Hearing-Impaired Parents

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, by the Board of Education, to approve the first reading of the following policies in Policy Series #2000-#2410:

APPROVE  
FIRST READING  
POLICY SERIES  
#2000-#2410  
 09/185

- Policy #2235 Student Liaison to the Board
- Policy #2260 Citizens' Advisory Committees
- Policy #2270 School Attorney
- Policy #2342 Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
- Policy #2410 Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation and Review

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Space and Mr. Cohen noted that Policy #2160 (Code of Ethics) is not included and that correct version is "c." It will have its first reading at the next meeting.

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve District membership for the 2008-09 school year with Lower Hudson Education Coalition. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE  
2008-09 DISTRICT  
MEMBERSHIP  
LOWER HUDSON  
EDUCATION COALITION  
 09/186

Mr. Cohen noted that the Lower Hudson Education Coalition is a state and federal lobby group that has the interests of our District.

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following 2008-09 contract for Health and Welfare Services provided to resident students of Putnam Valley attending a non-public school within the following school district, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign the contract, as per the document attached to the official minutes of this meeting:

APPROVE  
2008-09  
HEALTH & WELFARE  
SERVICES CONTRACT  
PEEKSKILL CITY SD  
 09/187

<u>DOCUMENT #</u>	<u>SCHOOL DISTRICT</u>	<u># OF STUDENTS</u>	<u>COST PER STUDENT</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
#65/09	Peekskill	1	\$ 775.00	\$775.00

Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT  
DONATION  
N. BELLANTONI  
TO BE USED IN PVHS  
09/188

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept a generous donation of a Vitamaster Soft Track by Goodyear, valued at approximately \$250.00, from Mr. Nick Bellantoni, to be used in the Putnam Valley High School. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANT  
PERMISSION  
DR. M SPACE  
TO ATTEND  
NYSSBA  
OPEN MEETINGS LAW  
MEETING-4/17/09  
09/189

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, by the Board of Education, to grant permission for Dr. Marc Space, to attend The New York State School Boards Association meeting on "School District Obligations Under the Open Meetings Law," on April 17, 2009, in Latham, NY. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANT  
PERMISSION FOR  
NON-RESIDENT  
FACULTY MEMBER'S  
CHILD TO ATTEND PVES  
FOR THE 2009-10  
SCHOOLYEAR  
09/190

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to grant permission for a non-resident faculty member's child to attend Putnam Valley Elementary School for the 2009-10 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE  
CSE/CPSE  
PLACEMENTS  
09/191

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 #66/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL  
ACTIONS  
09/192

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to take personnel actions, as per Document #67/09, attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE  
2008-09  
SPRING COACHES/  
STIPENDS  
09/193

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve 2008-09 spring sports coaches/stipends, as per Document #68/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Mackay asked for modified sports enrollments and Dr. Space said he would provide the numbers.

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved that

WHEREAS, the Putnam Valley Central School District, (“hereinafter HVMPG Member”), desires to participate in the regional purchasing program of the Hudson Valley Municipal Purchasing Group; and

WHEREAS, Putnam Valley Central School District has submitted an application to be a Member in the Hudson Valley Municipal Purchasing Group (hereinafter HVMPG), a program created by local governments in accordance with and pursuant to the General Municipal Law, Section 119-o; and

WHEREAS, the HVMPG Member, is of the opinion that participation in the HVMPG will be highly beneficial to the taxpayers of the local government or their non-profit organization through the efficiencies and potential savings to be realized; and

WHEREAS, the HVMPG Member desires to participate and join with other local governments and non-profit organizations in a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (“Agreement”) for the purpose of fulfilling and implementing their respective public and governmental purposes, needs, objectives, programs, functions, and services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the HVMPG Member does request that the HVMPG allow its municipal government or non-profit organization to use the HVMPG’s Regional Bid Notification and E-Procurement System and also requests that the HVMPG include its stated needs in HVMPG’s Cooperative Bids if so decided on a case by case basis. HVMPG Members may be allowed to purchase those items from the HVMPG’s contracts, and the HVMPG is authorized to sign and deliver all necessary requests and other documents in connection therewith for and on behalf of the HVMPG members that have elected to participate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the governing Board of the HVMPG Member does hereby authorize its Chief Executive, Board President, Supervisor, Chairman or other officer to execute the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement; and it is further

PARTICIPATE  
IN REGIONAL  
PURCHASING  
PROGRAM OF  
HUDSON VALLEY  
MUNICIPAL  
PURCHASING  
GROUP  
09/194

RESOLVED, that the execution of the Resolution shall evidence the election of the HVMPG Member to become members of the HVMPG upon the terms and conditions stated. The governing Board has, at the time of adoption of this Resolution had, full power and lawful authority to adopt the foregoing Resolution and to confer the obligations, power, and authority to the persons named, who are hereby granted the power to exercise the same.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT  
2009-10  
DISTRICT  
CALENDAR  
09/195

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the 2009-10 school district calendar, as per Document #69/09, as amended, during the discussion (correction to the make-up days--March 29, 30 and not April 5 and March 30), attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PERIOD**

Ms. Mackay asked for public contribution.

Mr. Reale asked about paperless board packets and meeting. Dr. Space noted that this was the goal for the 2009-10 school year.

Dr. Space announced the principals would make budget presentations at the March 5 meeting and at the March 19 meetings presentations would be made by special education, athletics and buildings, grounds and transportation. Ms. Mackay announced there would be a special budget meeting scheduled for March 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Putnam Valley High School cafeteria. Dr. Space noted that the Budget Committee has a special meeting on March 3.

The Health Consortium will present to the Board on March 19.

On March 5 there will be a discussion of Athletic Coordinator/Athletic Director position and an update on the District Clerk's position by Dr. Space.

Ms. Jerilynn Cohen, Varsity Women's Soccer and Lacrosse Coach spoke on the need for additional modified coaching support for this spring. Currently the sign-ups have 32 students in Women's Lacrosse, 40 students in Boys' Lacrosse, 32 students in Baseball and 25 students in Softball. The 2008-09 budget did not specify number of coaches and there should be monies in the budget for additional support. Most spring sports had reduced the number of games/matches by two to reduce transportation and referee costs. Presently there is a shortage of coaches for the spring. Craig's List has been used to help with locating prospective candidates. Mr. Brian Hogaboom will be meeting with

Dr. Space on Monday afternoon to discuss. Ms. Cohen wanted the Board to understand the urgency of this matter if these positions will be filled and there needs to be quick action to obtain candidates. Mr. Mello, a coach, parent and resident of Putnam Valley spoke on the Athletic Director versus Athletic Coordinator position. As a coach, he and other coaches believe that only an Athletic Director will serve the needs of the students and coaches.

Ms Mackay announced the Board would move into Executive Session for collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law) and medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, and upon their return, no new business would be conducted.

At 10:18 p.m., on motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Ms. Maus, the Board, along with Dr. Space and Dr. Fuchs, moved into Executive Session for collective negotiations to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law) and medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION  
09/196

Dr. Fuchs left the Executive Session at 10:26 p.m. and Dr. Space left the Executive Session at 10:38 p.m.

At 11:09 p.m., on motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. Maus, the Board returned from Executive Session and at 11:12, p.m., and there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN  
MEETING  
09/197

Submitted by  
Guy Cohen  
Vice President  
Board of Education

Typed by  
Linda Pregiato  
District Clerk