

Business Meeting Minutes - March 19, 2009

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

Trustee Mary Maus was not present (notified)

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  
Athletic Coordinator, Brian Hogaboom  
Nick Bellantoni, Director of Operations

OTHERS: Student Representatives to the Board of Education  
Elizabeth Regan and Kevin VanDevelde, Reporters from  
the Putnam County News and Recorder and North County News,  
Members of the Budget Committee, Girls' Basketball Team  
Members, and staff and community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Business Meeting at 7:10 p.m. and asked everyone to  
join her in the Pledge of Allegiance. CONVENE  
MEETING

On motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, to approve the  
minutes of the Work Session/Business Meeting of February 5, 2009, the amended  
minutes of the Special Business Meeting of February 11, 2009, and the Business  
Meeting of February 26, 2009. Motion carried unanimously. APPROVE  
MINUTES  
09/203

Ms. Mackay announced the Treasurer's Report for January 2009 was posted in the  
Business Office and available for anyone wishing a copy.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**PRIDE IN PUTNAM VALLEY**

Dr. Space introduced and recognized the Putnam Valley High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team who were League Champions with a record of 15-7. It was noted that Jackie Gallagher was Honorable Mention All League and Nicole Scott was All League and Honorable Mention All Section.

Dr. Thomas Higgins and Mr. David Stern from Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES described the history and administration of the Health Consortium, which 13 districts belong. It was noted that the average cost increase from 1993-2008 was 5.85% compared to the State average of 8.44%. The current increase is 13% and noted that last year was 8%. Aetna is the administrator of the Plan with Express Scripts being responsible for prescription coverage. The Board discussed ways to reduce costs including benefits, which must be approved by the trustees, co-pay, local provider agreements, and increased payments from members. It was noted that benefits are reviewed yearly.

The 2009 Budget Committee presented their recommendations to the Board for the 2009-10 budget. Discussed were cost efficiencies and cost effectiveness items. Under cost efficiencies were: AD should be full time position; opportunity to increase class size at the High School and Grade 2 at the Elementary School; minimum class size at the High School to justify offering a course; review non-core subjects--amount of offerings; eliminate Twilight Program at the High School, and review the need for a full-time Director of Buildings and Grounds. Cost effectiveness items included: eliminate or reduce staff development; review all conferences--are they necessary; increase charges for theatre productions; reduce paper by using laptops; review and try to minimize overtime; have town or county collect taxes; look at clubs and stipends and make advisors accountable; review Academic Eligibility Program for sports to incorporate into the regular day and have AD coordinate and monitor program; reduce sport budget, looking at coaches, ordering of materials/equipment only when necessary; consider elimination or cut for modified sports; charge a fee to play (including clubs; reduce timekeepers and chaperones-use volunteers; and as part of community service, use varsity athletes to assist with modified program.

Ms. Mackay asked Mr. Lee to provide a line item detail budget proposal for the March 26 meeting.

Mr. Cohen notified the community that Ms. Maus sent her regrets and noted that the Board, District and community hope she is able to return quickly to the Board.

Dr. Barbara Fuchs introduced the Integrating Technology into the Middle School Classroom Presentation done by Ms. Jodi Sepa, Mr. Craig Glenn and Mr. Mick Coleman, Middle School teachers. They showed how technology was integrated into a collaborative fifth grade class. It was noted that the class has 19 classified students.

Ms. Natalie Doherty presented the 2009-10 budget for Special Education. It was noted that currently there are a total of 220 classified students; 210 in-district and 10 out-of-district. The following services are offered: declassification, related services (Occ Ed), resource room (40 hours per week/student), Integrating/Co-teaching, self-contained (New Horizons, and Achieve Program), home instruction. These services are provided based on individual IEPs, with the goal to reduce out-of-district placements and to integrate students into the regular environment. It was noted that when appropriate even self-contained students are integrated into the regular classroom setting. Staff reductions proposed for 2009-10 are 1 FTE teacher, 0.6 clinical and 3.0 teacher aides. The services are not reduced with staff being reassigned. Early intervention and support services (Occ Ed) have permitted the District to reduce the population from 15% in the 1990-s to current levels of 10%. Out of district placement reduction costs cut \$50,000-\$100,000 per student brought back in program.

Mr. Brian Hogaboom, Athletic Coordinator presented the Athletic Budget and Modified Sports Program recommendations. There will be a capping of modified team sizes, with a reduction of modified assistant coaches. Assistant coaches at the varsity level will assist at all levels. Section I has realigned to reduce travel time. The supply budget has a zero increase and no consultant to discuss "How to apply for athletic scholarships" brought in next year. There are 68 coaches, with salaries increasing 1.9%. High School student participation is 59% and Middle School is 75% participation in interscholastic athletics.

Mr. Nick Bellantoni, Director of Operations presented budgets for Buildings and Grounds, Transportation and Special Projects. It was noted fuel costs have gone down. Supplies will be kept at a zero increase with the total operations budget decreasing 0.8%. Contractual expenses will have no change. Transportation costs will go up 0.7% due to the increase in driver salaries. The bus contract with Hudson Valley is based on CPI, estimated at 3%. The following special projects are planned: rebuilding the Elementary School field after construction is completed; update the teachers' bathrooms at the Elementary School; start to replace the Elementary School windows; and install a camera system at the Middle School.

A committee has been formed to look at maximizing bus routes. A discussion occurred concerning transporting students to non-PV schools. It was noted that we must transport all students to schools specified in their IEPs. For students choosing to go to schools outside the District, we transport up to 15 miles from the center of town--thus JFK in Somers. We share services, when applicable, in transporting students to out of district schools.

Ms. Mackay asked Mr. Lee to have a slide for the March 26 meeting that will have the assumptions.

There was a continued discussion on the Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator position and full versus part time. Mr. Reale reviewed the history. The Board recommended a full time AD whose responsibilities should include PE and Health coordination and coordination of nursing staff. Class size in High School PE was discussed with the contractual maximum of 35 students. Varsity students who participate in sports can opt-out of PE for one quarter. The Board suggested looking for an AD with a salary of \$85,000.

Student Representatives updated the Board and community on activities in the schools: fundraiser in honor of Kelly Cortesi held and \$3,000.00 raised for a scholarship in her honor; Elementary School Grade 3 Cranium evening on March 20; Tri M Music Honor Society Induction held with new members Michael Byrne, Henry Chen, Sarah Liscia, Natania Oliverio, Daniel Faber-Manning, and Stephanie Stoitsits; art work of Daniel Amato, Michele Belanich, Jessica Bermudez, Zachary Flegar, Jaclyn Gallagher, Anthony Gurierrez, Robert Mattioli, James VandeVeerdonk, Tina Wallach, Jeremy Whalen, Ashley Whitney and Micaella Zygmán displayed at the Young Artists Show at the Katonah Galleries; Bye Bye Birdie presented at the Middle School on March 27 and 28; Special Olympics will be held on our fields April 18 with our students as facilitators; Make A Difference Club will participate in Relay For Life at Mahopac High School on April 18; Future Teachers of America Club collecting school supplies at the High School.

PTA/PTSA announced Math Night at the Elementary School on March 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

APPROVE On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on  
2008-09 recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following  
HEALTH & 2008-09 contracts for Health and Welfare Services provided to resident students  
WELFARE of Putnam Valley attending non-public schools within the following school  
SERVICES. districts, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign the  
CONTRACT contracts, as per the documents attached to the official minutes of this meeting.  
BEDFORD

<u>LAKELAND</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u># OF</u>	<u>COST PER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>SOMERS</u>	<u>DOCUMENT #</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>STUDENTS</u>	<u>COST</u>
09/204	#71/09	Bedford	1	\$ 961.04
	#72/09	Lakeland	88	\$74,202.48
	#73/09	Somers	15	\$10,786.80

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cohen explained student going to Lakeland and Somers were transported but not to Bedford.

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, by the Board of Education to adopt the following policies in Policy Series #0000-#1925, as per Document #74/09:

ADOPT  
POLICY SERIES  
#0000-#1925  
09/205

- 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. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, by the Board of Education, to adopt the following policies in Policy Series #2000-#2410, as per Document #75/09:

ADOPT  
POLICY SERIES  
#2000-#2140  
09/206

- 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.

APPROVE On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, FIRST READING by the Board of Education to approve the first reading of the following policy: POLICY #2160

09/207 Policy #2160 Code of Ethics

Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on GENEROUS recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept a generous DONATION donation from the North County News and Entergy in the amount of NORTH COUNTY \$100.00 for a PVHS Athlete of the Week, Ashley Morgan, featured NEWS & October 22, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

ENTERGY  
09/208

ARRANGE FOR On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on CSE/CPSE recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for CSE/CPSE PLACEMENTS placements, as per Document #76/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

09/209

AUTHORIZE On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, that SUPERINTENDENT the Superintendent is hereby authorized to direct a comprehensive medical TO DIRECT A examination and evaluation, (including psychiatric/psychological MEDICA EXAM examination and evaluation, if necessary), of Employee No. 6537, in OF EMPLOYEE #6537 accordance with the provisions of Section 913 of the Education Law;

09/210 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby directs that Employee No. 6537 submit their medical records, if any, from the last two years to the School appointed physician(s) at or before such examination/evaluation.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on ADDL. SPRING recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve additional 2008-09 spring 2008-09 coaches/stipends, as per Document #77/09, attached to the COACHES/ official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

STIPENDS  
09/211

Mr. Cohen noted that this coach was an excellent teacher and coach. The lack of formal participation in Lacrosse for this individual is not a hindrance.

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Allison Southard to a three-month leave replacement position as a Grade 8 ELA teacher, at the Putnam Valley Middle School, on Step 1 BA of the P.V.F.T salary schedule, effective April 6, 2009 through June 30, 2009 (or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education). Ms. Southard holds ELA 7-12 (Initial) Certification. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT  
A. SOUTHARD  
3-MON. LEAVE  
REPLACEMENT-PVMS  
EFF. 4/6/09-6/30/09  
09/212

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Keren Larkin to a four-month leave replacement position as an Earth Science teacher, at the Putnam Valley Middle School, on Step 1 MA of the P.V.F.T. salary schedule, effective March 13, 2009 through June 30, 2009 (or sooner at the discretion of the Board of Education). Ms. Larkin holds Earth Science (Grades 5-9) Initial Certification. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT  
K. LARKIN  
4-MON. LEAVE  
REPLACEMENT-PVMS  
EFF. 3/13/09-6/30/09  
09/213

Ms. Mackay announced the Board, Dr. Space and Dr. Fuchs would move into Executive Session before voting on Motion #11.

At 9:50 p.m., on motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, the Board moved into Executive Session for collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of 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  
09/214

At 9:55 p.m., on motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, the Board returned from Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

RETURN FROM  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
09/215

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to take personnel actions, as per Document #78/09, attached to the agenda and the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL  
ACTIONS  
09/216

**PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PERIOD**

Ms. Mackay asked for public contribution.

Mr. Cohen noted that the Destination Imagination Team of Emily Weise, Sarah Sperling, Mckenna Feeney, Madison Hamilton, Colby Meagle, and Katie VanDevelde qualified for the State competition. Our teams captured two third places and a fourth place. Students demonstrated the ability to solve changing problems creatively.

Mr. Mello spoke regarding modified sports and how it was a strong program for our children. He also addressed the charges for field use for town teams, Lacrosse Club and noted these were our students.

Ms. Jerilynn Cohen noted that Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society) inducted 11 new members. They celebrated Pi Day and will facilitate Math Night at the Elementary School, which they have done in the past. Also noted was the Girls' Lacrosse Team to offer a clinic for younger players and all his players think highly of the JV Coach. Ms. Cohen also spoke in support of the Twilight Program. The program has been beneficial for our students to find success. Costs of the Twilight Program versus the District's cost to send a student to BOCES to obtain a GED should be compared.

Ms. Mackay announced the Board would move into Executive Session for collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of 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 further business would be discussed.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION  
09/308

At 10:17 p.m., on motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board, along with Dr. Space, 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.

At 10:57 p.m., on motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board returned from Executive Session and at 10:58, p.m., and there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN  
MEETING  
09/309

Submitted by  
Guy Cohen  
Vice President  
Board of Education

Typed by  
Linda Pregiato  
District Clerk