

Business Meeting Minutes – July 15, 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  
Paul Lee, Assistant Superintendent for  
Business and Finance  
Nick Bellantoni, Director of Operations

OTHERS: Staff from the Putnam Valley School District, and  
community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. CONVENE  
MEETING

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, to approve the APPROVE  
minutes of the Work Session/Business Meeting of June 4, 2008, the MINUTES  
Business Meeting of June 19, 2008, and the Special Business Meeting of  
June 24, 2008. Motion carried unanimously. 09/27

Ms Mackay announced that the Treasurers Report for May 2008 was posted and available  
for anyone wishing a copy.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

Ms. Jeanmarie Craane discussed the need for an increase in the Elementary School Instrumental Music  
position from the existing .4 position to an increase of a .6, making the position a full time position. She  
explained that there is 114 students out of 146 students involved in the program and a part time teacher  
makes it difficult to provide the best services to the students. Also explained was the fact that there is a  
big turnover of the position due to the fact that there are no benefits or insurance and teachers will leave  
for a full time position.

Mr. Reale asked what the advantage was of increasing the music program over programs in the Middle  
School or High School. Ms. Craane explained that students need the fundamental skills that begin in the  
Elementary School to be successful.

Dr. Space also stated that Putnam Valley has been cited with having a top music program.

Ms. Maus stated this would give students a greater opportunity to excel in music if they do not  
excel academically.

A question was raised as to whether the program could minimize the pulling out of children from classrooms by having before and after school lessons.

Mr. Lee stated that there would not be an impact in budget costs.

A teacher asked that the noise level be addressed because it impacts the classes around where students are taking lessons and that a place for lessons should be looked into away from the classrooms.

Mr. Bellantoni updated the Board on Elementary School renovations. On hold is the demolition and removal of the trailer because of the relocation of the electrical lines and telephone lines.

Projects that have been started are the demolition of the Principal’s office, the elevator shaft, replacement of third floor ceiling, beginning work of septic fields, and installing temporary utilities for the transportation office.

Anticipated completion of all work in the main building and septic work will be by September.

Projected completion of all work is December or a little later.

Ms. Mackay asked about the signs on the doors of the Elementary School concerning asbestos abatement. Mr. Bellantoni explained that when any work is done with regard to asbestos, signs must be posted 10 days prior to work starting. Ms. Mackay also asked if projected costs would increase because of the asbestos abatement and Mr. Lee said that it would not.

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

APPROVE On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved,  
CSE/CPSE on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve CSE/CPSE  
PLACEMENTS placements, as per Document #1/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting.  
09/28 Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved,  
504 ACCOM- on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve 504 Accommodation  
MODATION PLAN Plan Recommendations for the 2008-09 school year, as per Document #2/09, attached  
RECOMMEND- to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.  
ATIONS FOR  
2008-09  
09/29

Mr. Cohen explained these plans outline the educational plan for students.

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint Chairpersons of the Committee on Special Education, Committee on Preschool Special Education and parent members for the 2008-09 school year, as per Document #3/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON  
CSE & CPSE  
PARENT  
MEMBERS  
FOR 2008-09  
09/30

Mr. Cohen stated that Ms. Natalie Doherty and Ms. Eva Wayne were the two chairpersons.

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to appoint regular education teachers to the Committee on Preschool Special Education for the 2008-09 school year, as per Document #4/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT  
REG. ED.  
TEACHERS TO  
CPSE FOR 2008-09  
09/31

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the VESID Online list of Impartial Hearing Officers for the 2008-09 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE  
VESID ONLINE  
LIST OF  
2008-09  
IMPARTIAL  
HEAR. OFFICERS  
09/32

Mr. Cohen explained the State prepares a list of individuals who will hear an appeal if the Board of Education cannot come to agreement on a case.

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following Medicaid Policy be approved effective July 15, 2008:

APPROVE  
MEDICAID  
POLICY  
09/33

“The Board of Education and district staff shall comply with the requirements described in the New York State Education Department letter dated February 6, 2007 titled “Medicaid Reimbursement Billing Requirements, and the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General Medicaid-in-Education Alerts #07-2 and #07-3. Procedures will be implemented pertaining to these new requirements before claims are submitted for payment to ensure speech therapy and special transportation meet those requirements as well as meeting those documentation requirements outlined in the Medicaid-in-Education Handbook #6, including all updates.”

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Space explained the Board policies will begin to be looked at by a committee for revision but this policy needed to be put in place now.

APPROVE  
EXT. CONTRACT  
HUDSON VALLEY  
BUS COMPANY  
FOR 2008-09  
09/34

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the extension of the existing bus contact with the Hudson Valley Bus Company for the 2008-09 school year, with an increase of the CPI of 4%, for the sum of \$1,044,597.00, as per Document #5/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT  
GENEROUS GIFT  
FROM THE  
CLASS OF 2008  
09/35

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept a generous gift of a 50” plasma HDTV and wall mount from the Class of 2008, valued at approximately \$2,140.98, to be used in the Putnam Valley High School. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANT  
PERMISSION TO  
DISCARD  
SPANISH  
TEXTBOOKS  
09/36

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to grant permission to discard Spanish textbooks (“Nuevos Amigos” series) copyrighted by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers at the Putnam Valley High School. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANT  
PERMISSION FOR  
NON-RESIDENT  
FACULTY MEMBER’S  
CHILD TO ATTEND  
PVES FOR 2008-09  
SCHOOL YEAR  
09/37

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, 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 2008-09 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANT  
PERMISSION FOR  
DR. M. SPACE  
TO ATTEND  
CONFERENCES/  
CONVENTIONS  
09/38

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, by the Board of Education to grant permission for Dr. Marc Space to attend the following conferences and convention:

CSA Fall Retreat	October 23 & 24, 2008	New Paltz, NY
NYSCOSS Mid-Winter Conference	January 11-13, 2009	Albany, NY
AASA National Convention	February 19-22, 2009	San Francisco, CA

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Space will report on the American Association of School Administrators Convention in February.

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Mr. Cohen it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve additional counselors/stipends for the 2008 summer camps, as per Document #6/09, attached to the official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE  
ADDITIONAL  
2008 SUMMER  
CAMP  
COUNSELORS/  
STIPENDS  
09/39

These camps are self-sustaining.

On motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Maus, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve Jeanne Burruano as an additional substitute teacher for the Summer AIS Program, as per P.V.F.T. salary schedule, effective July 7, 2008 through August 1, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE  
J. BURRUANO  
ADDL.  
SUB. TEACHER  
SMR. AIS PGM.  
09/40

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, by the Board of Education, to approve a new contract setting terms and conditions of employment for the Superintendent of Schools, for the 2008-09 school year, and to authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign the new contract. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE  
CONTRACT FOR  
SUPT OF SCHOOLS  
2008-09 SCHOOL YR.  
09/41

On motion of Ms. Maus, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to take personnel actions, as per Document #7/09, attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL  
ACTIONS  
09/42

On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Reale, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that

CONTINUE  
TO UTILIZE  
SERVICES

WHEREAS, Kaeyer, Garment & Davidson Architects, P.C. (KG&D) have been previously engaged to perform architectural services in connection with the District’s capital projects involving the reconstruction of the elementary school and District-wide renovations and reconstruction and have been performing such services on an ongoing basis;

OF KG&D  
FOR 2008-09  
WITHOUT  
UNDERTAKING  
AN RFP PROCESS  
09/43

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby determines that it would be in the best interests of the District, for both reasons of economy and efficiency, to continue to utilize the services of KG&D during the 2008-2009 school year without undertaking an RFP process.

Motion carried unanimously.

NYSSBA  
RESOLUTION  
ON CPI-U  
09/44

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

The New York State School Boards Association seeks to have introduced, legislation requiring that for all educational laws where the consumer price index (CPI) is used as a maximum/limit with respect to financial expenditures, the most applicable rates be applied and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NY-Northern NJ CPI-U be used.

**Rationale;** Whereas, The New York State Legislature and the New York State Department of Education mandates using the National Consumer Price Index For All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to set limits for education contingency budgets.

Whereas, CPI-U for the United States can be significantly different than the CPI-U for a specific metropolitan region (NY-Northern NJ).

Whereas, since 2002 the CPI-U for NY-Northern NJ averaged 3.3% while the National CPI-U average 2.7%; a difference of 22.7%.

Whereas, these differences in the various CPI-U and their applicability can cause significant financial and thus educational problem for our local school districts and their administrative teams and

Whereas, the NY-Northern NJ CPI-U is already mandated by law to be used for School Lunch and Transportation contract extensions and

Whereas, Current NYS legislation is inappropriately considering setting tax levy limits based on the National CPI-U.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PERIOD**

Mr. Cohen announced that Margaret Sternberg, reporter for the Putnam County News and Recorder, would be locating to another state and would not be covering the Board meetings, wishing her the best.

Congratulations went out to Jon Bryant and his wife on the birth of his son.

Mr. Reale asked that the start times of the High School and Middle School students be looked at. Studies have shown that students are not functioning at peak during early morning hour start times.

Dr. Space asked for volunteers from Board Members for Westchester/Putnam School Boards Association committees. Mr. Reale volunteered to be the Board Liaison the WPSBA and Ms. Fitzgerald volunteered as the Legislative Action Committee representative.

The Board was updated on the status of the Middle School Assistant Principal search with the Committee meeting to interview six candidates on July 28.

Dr. Space explained the change of the position at the Elementary School from Assistant Principal to Assistant to the Principal. Dr. Space asked for feedback from the Board. Mr. Reale stated it made sense to make it a 10-month position. Ms. Fitzgerald wanted to know what other school districts do. Mr. Cohen supported a 10-month position, with need for summer work being on a per diem basis.

Ms. Jerilynn Cohen thanked Mr. Bellantoni and the custodial staff for getting the completed athletic mural ready in time for graduation. She also mentioned a change in the weight room over the summer that the coaches were not informed about. Dr. Space said he would explore this issue and update the Board.

A community member stated support for the increase in the music position at the Elementary School.

The Board agreed to increase the position and asked the District to start the process of filling the position.

Mr. Cohen asked if a special meeting would be needed to approve the tax levies and it was explained that there was no need for a special meeting. It could be done at the August 21 meeting.

Dr Space said there would be an update on the music teacher at the August 21 meeting.

At 8:30 p.m., on motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Ms. Maus, there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**  
**MEETING**  
09/45

Submitted by  
Linda Pregiato  
District Clerk