

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

TIME:7:00pm
No. of Pages:4

Type of Meeting: Special Business Mtg.

Date:03/25/10

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

ADMINISTRATORS: Marc Space, Superintendent
Barbara Fuchs, Asst. Superintendent
Paul Lee, Asst. Superintendent
Jonathan Bryant, High School Principal
Edward Hallisey, Middle School Principal
Jamie Edelman, Elementary School Principal
Natalie Doherty, Director of Special Education

OTHERS: Maureen Bellino, District Clerk
Dan Mahoney, Meeting Videographer
Reporter from Putnam County News & Recorder
Approximately 67 members of the community & school district.

Ms. Mackay convened the meeting at 7:06pm with a pledge to the flag. **CONVENE MEETING**

Ms. Mackay asked the Board if it would be agreeable to act on the first motion of the meeting, the overnight trip to Florida for the High School field hockey team. The Board concurred.

Two parents of athletes on the team, Ms. Debbie Weeks and Ms. Michelle Lussier, and one athlete, Diane Rush, spoke with respect to the benefits of the trip. It was noted that the Board had letters of approval from 15 of the 21 eligible team members. Ms. Mackay noted that the team has had active fundraisers and there are plans to assist students who cannot afford the trip.

Ms. Mackay noted that she has had the opportunity to review Coach Cortina's plan for the trip and see the enthusiasm of the team members She noted that she supported the trip. Ms. Maus and Mr. Reale also noted that they are in support of the trip.

On motion by Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve an overnight field trip for September 2010 for the Putnam Valley High School field hockey team. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE
OVERNIGHT
HS FIELD HOCKEY
TEAM TRIP
10/242

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

The 2010-11 budget was discussed. Dr. Space noted that the Twilight Program would be discussed at the April 8th Board meeting.

Mr. Bryant discussed class offerings at the High School, estimated class enrollments and sharing of staff. He also discussed graduation requirements, the foreign language program and electives. Mr. Hallisey discussed the restructuring of the Middle School's 6th grade program, the AIS program, changes in encore subjects and the advantages of sharing staff with the High School. Ms. Edelman reviewed Elementary School class sizes and noted that kindergarten enrollment was down. She discussed a plan for an all-day enhanced kindergarten program for students that show a need based on the Phelps and letter identification tests that are administered at the kindergarten screening. This proposed program will concentrate on reading and language skills. The goal is that the students, due to this program, will not be in need of classified services later in their education. Ms. Edelman noted that the Childside program will be continuing. She also noted that her budget proposal for next year includes a modification of the Budget Committee's proposal to keep the three teacher aides at the Elementary School. Ms. Edelman's proposal keeps two of the teacher aides and adds one monitor. This is a reduction of one teacher aide. Ms. Mackay suggested possibly adding back the third aide and that this person could be used to cover when substitutes are needed. Ms. Doherty discussed the re-allocation of the Federal ARRA funds to hire a reading teacher. Ms. Doherty assured the Board and the community that there is sufficient staff to service all those in need (both classified and AIS students). She also noted that the enhanced kindergarten program will reduce the need for the summer program.

Dr. Fuchs summarized the changes in curriculum/faculty training. The summer training program will be cut. The four Superintendent Conference Days will remain. She also reviewed staff and program cuts over the last five years which included: Twilight Program-\$50,000, Staff Development-\$73,000, Future School Leaders-\$20,000 and \$74,000 from the athletic budget. Dr. Fuchs noted there also had been no increase in the supply budgets. Ms. Cohen noted that the Budget Committee had asked the Athletic Budget be cut by \$89,000 and that the High School had a reduction in administrative support by 1.5 FTE's not 1.0 FTE. Dr. Space noted that the District's goal is to maximize resources. (Administrator presentations are attached to the official minutes of this meeting.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

A community member asked if the shared teacher salaries will be divided in the budget document. It was noted by Mr. Lee that the salaries will be divided but there will be only one benefits line. The community member also asked if the enhanced kindergarten program would cause a busing issue. Ms. Edelman noted that it would not due to the students arriving with all the Elementary School students in the morning and returning at the end of the day when the entire school dismisses. A community member asked if the guidance counselor and reading teacher that are retiring will be replaced and whether the fund balance will be used towards a reduction of the budget. A community member asked what drives the High School schedule and Mr. Bryant responded that the course "singletons" drive the schedule and it is built from there. The community member also noted that the 7300 minutes referred to in the Middle School presentation should have been 3600. Mr. Hallisey noted she was correct. A community member asked what the negatives were regarding the cuts in staff development and the use of monitors versus teacher aides. Dr. Fuchs noted that in these critical financial times the cuts in staff development were necessary and preferable over cutting a person. It was noted that that due to lower enrollment numbers the proposed cut of teacher aides would not impact students immediately but it was noted that staff development cuts do have future impact on all students. A community member asked if non-classified students would continue to receive the same services as in previous years; Ms. Edelman noted that these services would not change. It was also noted by a community member that the 6th grade math program was being cut 33%. Mr. Hallisey and Dr. Space both noted that they were confident and that they strongly believed that the students will continue to do well on the state testing and that any at risk students will receive additional help.

There were no additional questions or comments on the budget. Ms. Mackay asked if there were any questions on the other agenda items; there were no additional comments. The Board moved into the remaining new business.

NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Raymond Hauver, from his position as a custodian effective April 2, 2010 as per Document #101/10 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT
RESIGNATION
FOR RETIREMENT
R. HAUVER**
10/243

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 #102/10 attached to the agenda and official minutes of this meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE
PERSONNEL ACTIONS**
10/244

It was noted that the personnel actions included additions to the substitute/tutor list and an approval for a letter of agreement with the CSEA related to retirement benefits.

Ms. Mackay asked for comments from the Board and the community members present.

Ms. Mackay reviewed the agenda topics for the upcoming meetings.

There were no comments from the community.

On motion by Mr. Reale seconded by Ms. Maus, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING
10/245

Submitted by:

Maureen Bellino,
District Clerk