

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

TIME: 7:00pm **Type of Meeting:** Work Session/Business Mtg.
No. of Pages: 4

Date: April 8, 2010

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. Supt for Curriculum & Personnel
Paul Lee, Asst. Supt. for Finance & Technology
Nick Bellantoni, Director of Buildings & Grounds

OTHERS: Maureen Bellino, District Clerk
Sam Oliverio, High School Assistant Principal
David Campion, High School Guidance Counselor
Chris Nelson, Student Rep. to the BOE
Dan Mahoney, Meeting Videographer
Reporter from PCNR
Approximately 16 members of the community, faculty & staff

Ms. Mackay convened the meeting at 7:05pm with the pledge of
allegiance.

CONVENE MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Dr. Space introduced Mr. Oliverio and Mr. Campion to do a presentation on the Twilight Program at the High School. The Twilight Program was designed to assist students who are not functioning in the regular high school environment in completing their high school degree. One hundred percent of the participants in the program have either graduated with their class or within the following year. It was noted that it is hoped that in the future RTI and other adapted programs may replace the Twilight Program. At this time, the Board has noted it will continue the program at a budget of \$25,000 for the 2010-11 school year. (Presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting).

Mr. Hallisey summarized the restructuring of the 5th and 6th grade program. The goal of the restructuring is to ensure that our students continue to perform well and are better prepared for the rigors of the 7th grade. The program will address the ELA needs by increasing reading and writing. The math period will be shortened; however, the class sizes will be cut back to 12-20. Some of the current fifth grade teachers will loop with their students to the sixth grade to assist with continuity of instruction. (Presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting).

Mr. Lee summarized the budget for the 2010-11 school year. Dr. Space introduced the budget by reminding the community of the process and constraints that have been placed on us by the financial problems in the nation, NYS and the community. The proposed budget that will be presented has an 0.82% budget to budget increase with an estimated 0.98% tax levy. This does not include the \$25,000 for the Twilight Program; however, Mr. Lee noted that he will find the monies in the budget from the revenue side to cover the expense. (Presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting).

Dr. Space recognized and congratulated Christopher Nelson for receiving his Eagle Scout designation. Chris' project was building a walkway at the senior citizen center in the town park.

The budget discussion continued, and Dr. Space noted that restructuring in the past has actually been a benefit to the staff. One of the teachers who had been affected by restructuring this year, was recommended by one of his current students and will receive a "Disney Teacher of the Year Award".

Ms. Mackay praised the budget process including the work of the administrative team and the Budget Committee. She noted that the District has been cutting staff over the last few years including not replacing retirees. She then asked for comments from the community members present on the budget.

A community member noted that the class sizes for math are lowering and that the ELA support program is based on need. The community member questioned the difficulty of the 5th grade teachers to learn 6th grade curriculum and the 6th grade teachers to learn 5th grade curriculum. It was noted that there will be time before the current school year ends for the teachers to acquaint themselves with the curriculum.

A community member noted their support for the Twilight Program and also asked why athletics was not cut by 10% as recommended by the Budget Committee. Clarity was provided as to how many of the eight retirees were being replaced and it was noted that the number is 3. Thus, the staff is being cut by 5-FTE's. The High School guidance counselor, a special education teacher and a physical education teacher are being replaced.

A community member asked if there were other options to improve ELA scores at the Middle School. It was also noted that the current math program is working and the community member asked why it was being changed. Mr. Hallisey noted that the program will continue to be monitored.

A community member expressed concern about the looping of the teachers, and Mr. Hallisey clarified that process.

A community member asked why one budget item was not cut at all and what increase does the proposed budget include for salaries? Mr. Lee noted that it contained the steps for the teachers who are going to be with the District in 2010-11.

A community member raised concern about the Middle School's 5th and 6th grade plans. It was noted that the population of the District has been decreasing, and the District has been adjusting staff accordingly by restructuring programs to match the staff. The regular education reduction of \$170,000 is savings from salaries of the retirees. It was noted that the ELA plan was an innovative plan created to ensure a strong program.

A community member reminded the Board that many in the community are struggling and to keep that in mind as the budget is finalized.

Mr. Chris Nelson presented the students' report. He noted that there is a showing of our students' artwork at the Garrison Art Center until April 11. On April 22, the Make A Difference Club will host a dinner for senior citizens after they have seen the Theatreworks' production of "Crazy for You". The show will open to the public on Friday, April 23 at 8pm. There are additional shows on Saturday, April 24 at 8pm and Sunday, April 25 at 2pm. Mr. Nelson excused himself from the meeting at 9:48pm.

Mr. Cohen noted that the Board of Education Meeting for April 22 will be at the Middle School cafeteria due to the Theatreworks' senior citizen event.

The Board of Education reviewed the Policy 9000 series.

Ms. Mackay asked for any additional public contribution; there was none.

CONVENE
EXECUTIVE SESSION
10/246

On motion by Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Maus, the Board moved into Executive Session at 10:09pm to discuss one issue related to collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law). Motion carried unanimously.

Drs. Space and Fuchs joined the Board in the Executive Session.

ADJOURN
EXECUTIVE SESSION
10/247

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 10:26pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN
MEETING
10/248

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Maus, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27pm.

Submitted by:

Maureen Bellino
District Clerk