

# MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

TIME:6:00pm Type of Meeting: Work Session/Business Mtg.

Date: October 1, 2009

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

**ADMNISTRATORS:** Marc Space, Superintendent  
Barbara Fuchs, Asst. Supt for Curriculum & Personnel  
Paul Lee, Asst. Supt. for Finance & Technology

**OTHERS:** Maureen Bellino, District Clerk  
Dan Cray, Student Rep. to the BOE  
Chris Nelson, Student Rep. to the BOE  
Reporter from PCNR  
Legal Counsel-D. Shaw & L. Rush  
BOCES Health Consortium Lead--D. Stern  
PTA/PTSA Exec. Board Members  
Reporter from PCNR  
Approx.10 members of the community, faculty & staff

Ms. Mackay convened the meeting at 6:03pm.

**CONVENE MEETING**

On motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss one issue of collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

10/110

Joining the Board were Drs. Space and Fuchs, Legal Counsel D. Shaw and L. Rush, and BOCES Health Consortium Lead, D. Shaw. Motion carried unanimously.

**RETURN FROM  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

10/111

At 7:04pm, on a motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Maus, the Board of Education moved out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Legal Counsel, D. Shaw & L. Rush, and BOCES Health Consortium Lead, D. Stern remained in conference.

At 7:09pm, Ms. Mackay reconvened the Board of Education meeting with the pledge to the flag. Ms. Mackay noted that the Board had been in Executive Session for a collective bargaining discussion.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

The members of the Board of Education reviewed the 19 motions that are set to be put forth at the annual NYS School Boards Association (NYSSBA) convention on Saturday, October 17.

Ms. Fitzgerald will be representing the Board as the voting delegate for Putnam Valley. Based on input from Dr. Space, Legal Counsel David Shaw and the recommendations of the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association, the Board of Education instructed Ms. Fitzgerald to vote "yes" for all motions except resolutions 11, 14, 15 and 18. The NYSSBA resolutions and the District's legal counsel analysis are attached to the official minutes of this meeting. It was noted that there is a meeting prior to the voting for all of the Westchester/Putnam delegates. It was suggested that Ms. Fitzgerald discuss the Putnam Valley Board of Education rebuttal to resolution No. 12 to possibly garner support for the resolution. It was also noted that additional motions could be brought to the floor and Ms. Fitzgerald should proceed with voting as she sees fit.

Dr. Fuchs and Mr. Lee discussed the HS/MS connector/library project (presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting). The project will move forward for discussion purposes as it relates to the area being a common learning area (hereafter called the Learning Commons Project). The area would serve as a reference/resource area for both buildings and for the community. The plan is for the area to have its own outside entrance but also be connected to the two buildings with additional entrances. The Board asked for information on how the District would ensure maximum use of the facility and the plan for the integration into the curriculum of both buildings. It was noted that there is a school district in Massachusetts that has a Learning Commons and has it integrated into its curriculum. Also, BOCES library liaison, Mr. John Monahan, will be running a workshop related to this topic in October. Dr. Fuchs and Dr. Space will be attending this workshop and Mr. Monahan will come to the November 19 Board of Education meeting for further explanation and discussion of this concept. Dr. Fuchs also plans to visit the Learning Commons at the school in Massachusetts to see their program.

Mr. Lee noted that no additional funding monies would be required to be borrowed for the Learning Commons Project. It was noted that the actual build time of the project would be approximately six to nine months. It was noted that when the laptop program was instituted it was done over a period of a few years and it was asked why not a similar plan for the Learning Commons. The Board noted that the present timeline of a community vote in December does not seem reasonable and that a significant amount of information was still needed. Discussions concerning the Learning Commons will continue at the November 5th work session.

Mr. Lee discussed the District's Moody's rating. Moody's upgraded the Putnam Valley Central School District from a "B" six years ago to its current level of "A2". The District's long-term borrowing will be at a lower rate. It was noted that this rating upgrade is a result of Moody's normal three-year review process. (Presentation attached to the official minutes of this meeting).

The Board of Education discussed a proposed document called: Protocol for Board of Education/Superintendent Roles and Responsibilities. The document with revisions is attached to the official minutes of this meeting. The final document will be an agenda item for approval at the next Board of Education business meeting and the Board of Education will re-adopt the document at their annual Reorganization Meeting in future years.

The Student Representatives reported that October 5 through 9 is Spirit Week at the High School. There will be a bonfire event on October 8 and the homecoming football game is on the evening of October 9.

## **PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Henry Lopez asked what was in reserve for debt service. Mr. Lee reported that the District had \$3,700,000. Also, state aid for the proposed Learning Commons project would be approximately \$1,600,000 which is a 43.6% return. Mr. Lopez questioned why the projects approved in the 2008 capital project referendum were still outstanding. It was noted that these approved projects were not necessarily needed to be done right away. The approved projects included roof work at the Middle School, turf replacement, window replacement at the Elementary School and a new bus garage.

Ms. Barbara Parmly questioned the need for a new learning center at the Middle School and High School and whether staff members could be trained to make better use of our current facilities and use the money for other needs.

Ms. Jeannie Denike spoke to currently seeing many teachers in shared spaces and possibly looking at other options for the space. Also, Ms. Denike wanted to know if there has there been an effect on our Middle School students by not having a library.

Ms. Therese Dwyer asked how research is currently being done by students at the Middle School, how will the proposed library be integrated into the Middle School curriculum and raised a concern of the mixing of grades in the proposed common area. Ms. Dwyer noted if security is a concern of the District, how would the community be able to use this area? Also, since the Middle School currently has no Library/Media Specialist, additional staffing might have to be considered. She also noted that teachers should have in-service to improve their technology needs.

There were no other comments and the Board of Education moved into new business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **AUTHORIZATION FOR DISTRICT PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOV. EFFIC. GRANT PROGRAM**

10/111

It was resolved, on motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Maus, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to authorize Putnam Valley Central School District's participation in a Local Government Efficiency Grant Program as follows:

#### **a) Authorization to Apply for the Grant**

The Putnam Valley Central School District wishes to participate in a Local Government Efficiency Grant Program, in concert with the 18 component districts of Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, with Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES as the Lead Applicant. The Putnam Valley Central School District designates Dr. Thomas Higgins, Assistant Superintendent for Administration at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, as the Lead Applicant contact person and authorizes him to submit an application for a Local Government Efficiency Grant on our behalf. Dr. Higgins shall be authorized to execute all financial and/or administrative processes relating to the grant.

#### **b) Project Title and Description**

The project, entitled the Putnam/Northern Westchester Shared Out-of-District Transportation Project, is intended to conduct a feasibility study to determine the potential for savings that would result from increased the sharing of out-of-district transportation for special education placements, private schools and parochial schools.

**c) Funding Request**

The grant application will request a grant award of \$30,500, toward a total project cost not to exceed \$33,900.

**d) Local Share Information**

The Putnam Valley Central School District will commit its share of up to \$189, representing the required 10% local match for participants.

**e) Co-Applicant Information**

The participants include, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES as the Lead Participant, and the school districts of Bedford, Brewster, Briarcliff, Carmel, Chappaqua, Croton-Harmon, Garrison, Haldane, Hendrick Hudson, Katonah, Lakeland, Mahopac, North Salem, Ossining, Peekskill, Putnam Valley, Somers and Yorktown.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Mackay asked for public contribution on non-agenda items.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that Assemblywoman Sandra Galef has two upcoming forums. The first one is being held on October 7 on property tax stability and the other on October 15 on consolidation of services. Both forums are being held in Croton.

Dr. Space reported that at the next Business Meeting he will appoint the members of the 2010 Budget Committee. He has invited all the members of the 2009 committee and will add a representative of the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Reale noted that he will not be at the October 22 Business Meeting. He will be in Washington DC with the Peers Influencing Peers Partnership.

Mr. Cohen noted that he attended a NYSSBA web seminar on teacher performance, evaluation and assessment, and the need for an annual performance plan adoption by the board of education. He noted that due to the work of Dr. Fuchs, Putnam Valley is in the forefront compared to other districts in attendance at the meeting. He also attended a seminar at New York University entitled, "Does Special Education Instruction Actually Work" which included a cohort of approximately 20,000 students who were followed from kindergarten to post-high school. The initial results showed that outside of the school setting it was not working.

Ms. Mackay noted the upcoming board meeting topics from the Master Planning calendar. Added to the October 22 topics, will be a convention update from Ms. Fitzgerald. It was noted that the Risk Assessment update listed on the December 3 work session might be moved to the December 17 business meeting.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

10/112

At 9:16pm, on motion by Ms. Mackay, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board moved into executive session for one issue related to the employment history of a particular person, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person. There would be no further business after the conclusion of the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

**RETURN FROM  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

10/113

At 9:29pm, on a motion by Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, the Board moved out of executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN  
MEETING**

10/114

At 9:29pm, on a motion by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Mackay, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Maureen Bellino  
District Clerk