

Work Session/Business Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2008

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

Trustee Mary Maus was not present (notified)

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Marc Space, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction
Paul Lee, Assistant Superintendent for Business
and Finance

OTHERS: Hannah Schmidt, Student Representative to the
Board of Education, Reporter from the Putnam County
News and Recorder, staff from the Putnam Valley School
District and community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Work Session/Business Meeting at 7:09 p.m. and asked the community to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance. CONVENE MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Mr. John Pellegrino, Mr. Mick Coleman and Ms. Dolores Bellomo, Trustees of the P.V.F.T. Welfare Fund, announced that the P.V.F.T. had arranged with Raymond Optical for any resident of the Putnam Valley community to obtain prescription eye services at the same rates as the union. Dr. Space thanked the union for taking this initiative.

Dr. Marc Space and Dr. Barbara Fuchs summarized the proposed Budget for the 2008-09 school year. It was explained the budget continues to provide a quality education for students in a safe environment and is fiscally responsible. Ms. Mackay commented that she attended the Technology Fair and saw how the laptops have been successfully integrated into the curriculum and is a tool that permits greater learning to occur.

Mr. Paul Lee presented the financials of the 2008-09 budget. The proposed budget represents a 4.27% increase over the current budget with an estimated tax rate increase of 2.61%. He noted that the contingency budget rate will be approximately 2.8% and if the budget is not adopted, the District would have to reduce the budget by approximately \$380,000.00.

The budget vote is scheduled for May 20 from 6 a.m.-9 pm. There would be two propositions: the 2008-09 school budget and the creation of a repair/reserve fund of \$2,250,000.00 from the tax certiorari fund. The community will also vote for one Board of Education member.

Ms. Mackay and Mr. Reale praised Mr. Lee and the team for a financially sound and strong educational budget.

Ms. Mackay noted that, in addition to the second proposition, the District is currently in the midst of building at the Elementary School—a \$3.6 million project that is funded from EXCEL funds and the remaining monies from an earlier bond.

Mr. Lee reviewed the third quarter financials of the District. This presentation is attached to the minutes.

Ms. Mackay asked the audience for questions on the budget or the quarterly statement. It was asked how much additional monies are being allocated for fuel. Mr. Lee noted that \$50,000.00 in additional funds is being allocated. There was a discussion of the reasons why the NYS retirement funds have had such a high increase over the last 10 years. It was noted that, by law, the fund must be actuary sound and thus there were times that the school district had to make up significant short falls due to investment losses. It was asked if New York State had ever not paid school aid. It was noted in 1992, the second half of the year's aid was not dispersed due to state budget problems.

Ms. Mackay asked for public comments on agenda items. There was none.

ACCEPT
RESIGNATION
D. DENNISTON
EFF. 6/30/08
08/258

On motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Ms. Zarcone, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Douglass Denniston, Instrumental Music Teacher at the Putnam Valley Middle School, effective June 30, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT
RESIGNATION
DR. D FINE
EFF. 6/30/08
08/259

On motion of Ms. Zarcone, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Dr. David Fine, Middle School Assistant Principal, effective, June 30, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PERIOD

Student Representative to the Board of Education Hannah Schmidt noted that Victoria Hamilton and Kristen Macher had been awarded National Merit Commendations; the PVHS National Honor Society, the PVMS Jr. National Honor Society, and the PVHS Tri-M Music Honor Society held their inductions;

and Shannon Brown, Katie Mahoney, Melinda Cestaro, Jackson Gilman-Forlini, and Hannah Schmidt were NYS Regents Scholarship winners. Dr. Space noted that the PVCSD Music Program has been nationally recognized.

Mr. Cohen noted he also had attended the Middle School Technology Fair and for the first time saw the benefits of the laptops. He also attended the PVES Spelling Bee.

A community member spoke on the budget and thanked the District for developing a financially sound and educationally strong budget. Another community member asked how the District was able to reduce the number of school psychologists by 1 FTE. Dr. Space noted that the reduction will not impact counseling services and the individual was involved solely in testing.

Ms. Mackay announced the Board would move into Executive Session to discuss two personnel matters and one legal matter and upon their return, no other business would be conducted.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION
08/260

At 8:18 p.m., on motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Mr. Reale, the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss two personnel matters and one legal matter. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board was joined by Dr. Space and Dr. Fuchs.

ADJOURN
MEETING
08/261

At 8:49 p.m., on motion of Ms. Zarcone, seconded by Ms. Mackay, the Board returned from Executive Session and at 8:50 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by
Guy Cohen
Vice President
Board of Education

Typed by
Linda Pregiato
District Clerk