

Work Session/Business Meeting Minutes – November 6, 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
Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Personnel
Paul Lee, Assistant Superintendent for
Finance and Technology

OTHERS: Student Representatives to the Board of
Education Elizabeth Regan and Kevin VanDevelde,
Reporter from the Putnam County News and Recorder, staff
from the Putnam Valley School District, and community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Work Session at 7:06 p.m. and asked everyone to join CONVENE
her in the Pledge of Allegiance. MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Mr. Paul Lee summarized the 1st quarter of the current school year financials, explaining there is a short fall in revenue of approximately \$403,000.00 due to \$128,000.00 in state aid, \$275,000.00 in interest, and an overage in out-of-district tuition of \$125,000.00. The current total year estimate is that there will be a short fall of \$214,000.00. The Board discussed, given the current financial conditions in New York State, being proactive and carefully reviewing all budget expenditures. Ms. Fitzgerald summarized her meeting with Governor Patterson at which he discussed the estimated \$7.1 billion state revenue shortfall. He also discussed that New York State does not calculate Medicaid funds in a manner similar to other states and is being short-changed by the Federal Government. She will be meeting with Senator Leibel and the Board asked that she emphasize that given the current financial state; there cannot be any unfunded mandates. It was also noted that the proposed tax cap is only a cap on expenditures because equalization rates and assessments can cause the taxes to be higher than the cap, i.e. Putnam Valley this past year.

Student Representatives to the Board of Education Beth Regan and Kevin VanDevelde updated programs ongoing in the schools. They met with Middle School Principal Ed Hallisey to ensure that they will also represent the building's needs at the Board meetings. They noted that the Middle School held a mock presidential vote; a drug/alcohol awareness week; school spirit week; and the New York State Social Studies assessments to take place in November. It was mentioned that Ashley Morgan was

the Con-Ed scholar athlete winner for October; the field hockey team would be in the regional tournament against the Long Island winner this Saturday, November 8 at 4:00 p.m. at Lakeland; and Jim Hertzell had qualified for the New York State cross-country championships to be held this weekend in Long Island.

The Board discussed the Putnam/Northern Westchester Chief School Administrators' Statement regarding "Education is a Civil Right." The Board pointed out that education is a civil right for all students and agreed to adopt a resolution to this effect at the November Business Meeting. It was noted that to be a civil right where all have the same opportunities, funding of education in New York State must change.

The Board reviewed the graduate exit survey and the post-graduate follow-up survey. They will work on revising the questions. It will be given at the time of graduation and at the two- and four-year post-graduation. It will be sent to all former graduates to establish a baseline. The Board will work on the survey and have a resolution by the December 4 Board meeting.

The Board discussed their self-evaluation. They agreed to include school and community feedback. They will continue to work on the questions with the goal of completion by the end of November.

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PERIOD

Mr. Reale summarized the New York State School Boards Association convention held in New York City on October 17, 2008. He attended a negotiation session. The Board's motion was not brought to the floor. Mr. Reale spoke to the New York State Insurance Reciprocal Group on what the correct number of coaches should be to be safe and they did not define this. We need to ensure that there are sufficient coaches to ensure a quality safe program. The assistant coach could be a program coach.

Ms. Mackay asked the Board and community for any other items for discussion. There was none.

At 8:30 p.m., Ms. Mackay opened up a Business meeting and announced the Board would move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and upon their return, no new business would be conducted.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION
09/120

At 8:31 p.m., on motion of Ms. Mackay, seconded by Mr. Reale, the Board, along with Dr. Space and Dr. Fuchs, moved into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:34 p.m., on motion of Mr. Reale, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board returned from Executive Session and at 9:35 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN
MEETING
09/121

Submitted by
Guy Cohen
Vice President
Board of Education

Submitted by
Linda Pregiato
District Clerk