

Poultney School Board
Official Minutes
April 22, 2008

Attending: Mary Jo Teetor, Board Chair, and Board Members Tracee Oakman Rupe, Al Jackson, and Michael Nagar, Cheryl Chedester, RSWSU Superintendent, Jean Oakman, PHS Principal, Kristen Caliguiri, PES Principal, Anne Colpitts, PSB Recording Clerk, Tracy Gallipo, Bonnie Lenihan, Tammy Petty, Medrick Petty, Beverly Fedolfi, Jerry Keezer, Melissa Kristiansen, Shayron Bill, Marie Kerber, Dale Kerber, Linda MW Smith, Mare Rosenthal, Tammy Holcomb, Nancy Schwaner, and Catherine Oliverio.

Chair Mary Jo Teetor called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Al Jackson moved to start the meeting with the PHS presentation on scheduling. Michael Nagar seconded, and the motion carried.

Presentation on PHS '09 Schedule: Christopher Baker and Kyleen Martelle presented a proposed high school schedule that would have 5 blocks instead of the current 4. The length of the classes would drop from 78 to 63 minutes, lunch would be a little longer, and the rotating 5th block would be used to better incorporate band, chorus and driver's ed. For students not in band, chorus, or driver's ed, blocks 1-4 would repeat during block 5 (one per day) to allow time for special projects, not study hall. Daily TA/break time would decrease from 35 to 20 minutes, with 63 minutes on Fridays for PDC's, meetings, and assemblies. The new schedule would allow for additional classes, including advanced Language Arts in grades 9-12, public speaking and creative writing for grades 9 & 10, and new math courses. The presenters also proposed changing to a 6-week reporting period instead of the current 9-week reporting period with 4.5-week progress reports. This would be less work for teachers and guidance, while still providing parents with regular reports. In response to a question about Soaring Vail's role next year, Principal Oakman responded that she will support guidance, supervise almost all independent studies and work on developing more service learning, instead of classroom teaching.

Al Jackson moved to go to executive session at 7:20pm. Mike Nagar seconded. The motion carried.

Mike Nagar moved to move the parking lot paving bid discussion to the front of the agenda and the approval of minutes to the end. Al Jackson seconded. Motion carried.

Parking Lot Paving: Jerry Keezer presented the two lowest bids for the parking lot paving job. Although it was the second lowest bid, Jerry recommended Springfield Paving because they use a high quality mix and the price difference is only approximately \$200. Springfield Paving is also already doing some work with the village. Tracee Oakman Rupe moved to approve Springfield Paving for the parking lot paving project. Al Jackson seconded. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

a. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Chedester thanked the public for passing the budget in recent elections. She reported that Rutland County Sheriff Steve Bernard awarded \$5000 to RSWSU for drug and alcohol awareness and prevention, and that principals can correspond directly with him regarding projects to use this grant funding. Information about the current legislative session and its impact on school funding is posted on school district website. Superintendent Chedester recently attended a personnel workshop by Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust designed to minimize discrimination claims. She also reported that automated electronic defibrillators have been installed at all school and training is being scheduled.

b. Principals' Written Reports: PES: Principal Caliguiri presented a written report. Highlights: Two Odyssey of the Mind teams competed at the state competition, where Calvin Brooks won several OM awards, including a chance for his team to compete at the World Competition in May. Congratulations are in order for the Vermont History Day Team that received 2nd place for Brown vs. Board of Education presentation and qualified for nationals in June. Jump Rope for Heart raised more than \$1300 for the American Heart Association. Two teachers attended a reading presentation by Dr. Joe Torgeson that they found very useful, and Fitz Vogt and Associates is holding a promotion to encourage students to eat more fruits and vegetables the week of 4/28.

PHS: Principal Oakman presented a written report. Highlights: PHS offered training for staff on using the new defibrillators on 4/5. Michael Nagar suggested that all coaches should be required to be trained on the defibrillator. The Senior Trip to Myrtle Beach from 4/15-4/20 was very successful. Principal Oakman especially thanked the senior advisors and Colleen Nagar for their excellent planning. The students enjoyed the drumming and dance presentation by Steve Leichae on 4/4, and Brad Bauman gave a presentation on alternative fuels, including running cars on recycled vegetable oil, on 4/7. Principal Oakman also handed out the PHS Schoolwide Action Plan for 2008-2010 and said that PHS mainly needs to focus more on writing.

c. Business Manager's Report: Brian Hampl was not in attendance. Mary Jo Teetor requested a budget projection for next month's meeting.

1. Approve Warrants:

- a. #23, in the amount of \$1,576.25, dated 3/7/2008
- b. #24, in the amount of \$173,494.73, dated 3/21/2008
- c. #25, in the amount of \$1,600.00, dated 3/26/2008
- d. #26, in the amount of \$41,954.54, dated 4/4/08

Old Business:

- a. NECAP Presentation by Shayron Bill, tabled from March meeting: Superintendent Chedester reported that this information is embargoed until 4/28/08, so the presentation will be given at the May meeting.
- b. Support Staff revised practice (clarification): Mary Jo Teetor will meet with Jan Dente to clarify final revision. Board has already approved changes.
- c. IA revised practices (pending review and approval by Board): Mary Jo will clarify revisions with Jan.

New Business:

- a. Selection of Board Representatives on RSWSU Committees: RSWSU needs board members to serve on Finance, Human Resources, and Policy Committees. Al Jackson volunteered to work on Finance. Mary Jo Teetor will continue on HR and Mike Nagar will consider sharing that committee with her. Tracee Oakman Rupe will work on the Policy Committee, schedule permitting.
- b. Technology at PHS - Discussion: Moved to May meeting.
- c. Parking lot paving bids: (see above)

Policies - Drug and Alcohol Policy (1st Reading):

- a. Old (current PSD policy) and New (VSBA mandatory versions): Principal Oakman handed out information packet, including recommendations from Kim Rider. The board will return to this issue for a first reading at May meeting.

Action on Personnel:

- a. New hires: Denise Rainville, long-term French sub from 3/31/08 to the end of school year. Al Jackson moved to approve this position. Tracee Oakman Rupe seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Resignations: none
- c. Terminations: none
- d. Other: Family leave for Ashley Converse Mulholland from 5/9/08 to end of school year. Tracee Oakman Rupe moved to approve leave of absence. Al Jackson seconded. Motion carried.

General Public Comment:

- a. Upcoming Arts Events: Art teacher Michelle Kristiansen issued an invitation to upcoming art events, including an art show at Wells Village School on 4/24/08 and 4/25/08, a student show at the Chaffee through 5/5/08 in which Poultney students have 14 pieces, 5 of which have won prizes, and the Congressional Art Show, where 5 students are exhibiting work. An award ceremony for the Congressional Art Show will be held on 5/12/08.
- b. Drug and Alcohol Policy: Tammy Petty asked why students get 3 chances to keep playing sports after an alcohol or drug offence. She said she thinks they should get one chance and then lose the privilege of playing sports. Also, it is unclear what "cumulative" means in the policy - is it 3 offenses per year or over the course of a student's school career? Dale Kerber commented that he thinks that it should be mandatory to involve police if a student is caught with alcohol or drugs so that legal requirements take effect and students get mandatory counseling through the courts.
- c. RSWSU Vote Issue: Linda Smith said that a question was raised at the RSWSU meeting about whether the vote for the chair was done properly, and she wondered if that issue has been resolved. Mary Jo Teetor said that the resolution

should be in the minutes from that meeting, unless it was discussed in executive session.

Next Regular Meeting: May 20, 2008, 6:30 pm, PHS

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Colpitts, Recording Clerk