

Poultney Board of School Directors
Regular Meeting
May 17, 2011
5:30 PM Open Session
8:04 Executive Session
Poultney High School

Official Minutes

Board Members Present: Mary Jo Teetor, Pat Davenport, Chrispin White, and Alicia Marcy
Administration Present: Superintendent Joan Paustian, PHS Principal Tom Fitzgerald, Dean of Students Joe DeBonis, Business Manager Louis Milazzo, and Director of Student Support Services Darren McIntyre

The meeting was called to order at 5:35PM by Chair Mary Jo Teetor.

Open Session - 5:35 PM. - The Pledge of Allegiance.

By consensus of the Board, the agenda was changed to allow elementary students to present their projects from Vermont History Day. This group of talented students will be going to Baltimore, in June for the National competition. The six student presenters were Alexis LaPine, Caylin Gloss, Lindsey Hewes, Elizabeth Posch, Shelby Mack and Carrie Peck.

Superintendent Paustian shared the progress from Jonas Rosenthal's report about the Safe Routes to Schools Grant. Permits have been filed and Jonas is waiting for Federal permit approval. Anticipated start date of the sidewalk at PHS ball field is August/September 2011.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion made by Pat Davenport and seconded by Chrispin White to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried 4-0.**

Report of the Superintendent:

- The Southeast and Southwest Superintendent Groups met with Rea Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner of Education, to gather information and express concerns with the new mandates and the new Common Cores Standards, explaining that it was difficult to work on curriculum across the many small school districts in the supervisory unions. Superintendent Paustian shared the work that the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union was doing in terms of curriculum, which includes identifying Essential Standards, creating Instructional Calendars, aligning the Vermont Standards (Grade Expectations) with the new Common Core Standard, and using WestEd as a consultant for this work. Administrators are scheduling 2 days of work on creating SU wide assessments to measure mastery of essential standards and 3 days of working on determining the Essential Standards for mathematics in June. Targets CFP professional development funds which need to be used by June 30 will be used to cover the expense of this curriculum work.
- Mrs. Cecelia Towne's school retirement celebration was held at PES.
- Contracts have been distributed and signed by teachers.
- Superintendent Paustian is requesting approval tonight to distribute intent to hire letters for Instructional Assistants.

- Central Office is working with vendor contracts to convert these to employee contracts.
- Appraisal for PES is \$4,496,000. This property is tax exempt for the school district, but this is the value we insure.
- Negotiations are continuing.
- Graduation dates are set: PHS is June 10 and 6th grade graduation is June 20

Report from PES Principal Caliguiri:

- Upcoming events:
 - Combined PES/PHS band concert scheduled for May 18
 - Spring concert featuring Grade 3 on May 25
 - Memorial Day Ceremony in conjunction with final Celebration of Learning on May 26
 - Sixth grade trip to Camp Chingachgook from June 1 through June 3
 - VIP BBQ is scheduled for June 15.
- Kindergarten Registration was held on April 22 with 34 new students registering for Fall FY 12.
- Snowplowing Bids are due back on June 6 and will be brought to the June meeting.

Report of PHS Principal Fitzgerald:

- Congratulations to 2011 Valedictorian Ms. Lindsay Fox, who will be attending UVM next year and Salutatorian Mr. Zachary Sawyer, who will be attending Georgetown University next year.
 - Graduation may be held outside depending on weather. Adults are asked to wear academic regalia at the celebration. Diplomas should be signed by BOE tonight.
 - Maps Testing- a baseline testing has been completed for grades 7-11.
 - Seventh and eighth graders recently visited the Bronx Zoo and it was a very successful trip.
- Donations: **Motion to approve the following grants and donations made by Alicia Marcy and seconded by Pat Davenport. Motion carried 4-0.**
- \$1000 for PHS from the Friends of Burlington Gardens presented to Russell Ford and \$1000 grant for PES from the Friends of Burlington Gardens presented to Dawn Sarli.
 - \$100 donation was made toward the new scoreboard from Mrs. Elsie J. Jones in memory of her brother, Benny, who was a member of the Class of 1941.
 - \$50.00 donation from the Zumba class for the use of the building

Report from Business Manager, Louis Milazzo:

- Minimum anticipated Budget surplus in the amount of \$145,778.
- Estimating a loss of revenue of \$4100 for the Food Service due to drop in enrollment which means fewer students are purchasing breakfasts and lunches, increased personnel costs due to a time change for breakfast at the PHS, decrease in catering, and decrease in ala carte purchases. Possible increase (up to \$.10) of lunch price to be determined at a later time.
- Warrants #112 for a total of \$162, 173.56, dated 3/25/11, and Warrant #113 for a total of 192,149.23, dated 4/8/11, were read into the minutes.
- Bid for Lighting Project at PES was awarded to Power Wave for a total of \$24,867.

General Public Comments:

An audience member supplied dates of previous School Board Minutes that pertained to weighted grades. Questions were raised by the same audience member about whether a quorum was present at said meetings. Discussion ensued.

Old Business:

- **PHS NECAP Report-** Principal Fitzgerald reports that there is no NECAP data on grades 9, 10, and 12. Academic action includes:
 - Technology based program FastForWord will be included in experience groups for grades 7 and 8
 - Continued focus with the program Study Island-a technology based program
 - Focus on Math to ensure that students receive appropriate number of math classes before testing.

New Business:

- **Substitute List:** **Motion to approve the substitute list as presented by Pat Davenport and seconded by Chrispin White. Motion carried 4-0.**
- **Update on Community Forum Plans:** Forum is scheduled for May 25 at 6 PM and will be held at PES.
- **Board Goals:** Goals were presented. Members should review goals and make comments/suggestions at the June meeting.
- **Code of Conduct:** Members Mary Jo Teetor, Pat Davenport, and Alicia Marcy signed the Code of Conduct, and Chrispin White will read the Code of Conduct and sign at a later time.
- **Full Board:** Board Chair will call a member who has been unable to attend meetings

Policies:

- Policy F-103 Residency policy is ready for adoption at the June meeting.
- Policy G-3 Field Trips is ready for adoption at the June meeting
- Policy G-5 Instructional Materials was previously adopted by Poultney on 6-22-10. Inquiries of why this is being brought back to the Board. Has there been a change?

Policies for adoption:

- **Motion to approve Policy F-109 Tuition Payment made by Pat Davenport and seconded by Alicia Marcy. Motion carried 4-0.**

Policies to rescind:

- Staff Conduct with Students and Employee Misconduct. The RSWSU's System Management Committee's recommendation is to not have these policies as they do not cover all possible infractions. Mary Jo is uncomfortable with the recommendation and will cross reference other policies to ensure concerns raised are covered in other policies. Possible draft of new policy will be presented at another meeting.

Action of Personnel Contracts:

- **New Hires:** **Motion made by Pat Davenport and seconded by Chrispin White to hire Nick Munch as a Junior High Math Teacher for this one year position, which is sub granted through Title 1 funds. Motion carried 4-0.**
- **Resignations:** **Motion to accept with regrets the resignation of Karie Hawthorne, an Instructional Assistant, and effective June 20, 2011, made by Pat Davenport and seconded by Alicia Marcy. Motion carried 4-0.**

- **Leave of Absence: Motion to approve a parental leave for Jen Lennox, PES art teacher, made by Pat Davenport and Alicia Marcy. Effective date is August 29, 2011 retuning January 13, 2012. Motion carried 4-0.**

Executive Session:

- **Motion to enter Executive Session for a student issue, contracts, and negotiations at 8:04 PM made by Pat Davenport and seconded by Chrispin White.**

Present: Superintendent Paustian, Mary Jo Teetor, Pat Davenport, Alicia Marcy, Chrispin White, Tom Fitzgerald, Joe DeBonis, Louis Milazzo, Darren McIntyre

Excused at 9:05- Darren McIntyre

Excused at 9:15 Louis Milazzo

Excused at 9:20 Tom Fitzgerald and Joe DeBonis

- **Motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:40 made by Mary Jo Teetor and seconded by Pat Davenport. Motion carried 4-0.**
- **Motion to issue Support Staff and Instructional Assistant At Will letters made by Chrispin White and seconded by Pat Davenport. Motion carried 4-0.**
- **Motion to adjourn at 9:45 made by Pat Davenport and seconded by Chrispin White. Motion carried 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Marcy
Poultney School Board Clerk