

Poultney Town School District
Board of School Directors Meeting
Official Minutes
January 20, 2009

Attending: Mary Jo Teetor, Board Chair, and Board Members Pat Davenport, Tracee Oakman Rupe, Al Jackson, and Michael Nagar, Superintendent Tom Gallagher, JeanMarie Oakman, PHS Principal, Kristen Caliguiri, PES Principal, Anne Colpitts, Recording Clerk, Carol Bunce, Renee Howard, Tracy Gallipo, Beverly Fedolfi, Bonnie Lenihan, Melissa Kristiansen, Karen Powers, Linda MW Smith, Tammy Petty, and Joe DeBonis.

Mary Jo Teetor called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes: Action: *Pat Davenport moved to approve minutes from December 2, 2009 (Special), December 16, 2008 (Special/Regular and Continuation), January 5, 2009 (Special), and January 8, 2009 (Special), with amendments. Mike Nagar seconded. Motion carried.

b. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Gallagher provided an update on the superintendent search, and urged the board to move quickly because of the large number of current openings for superintendents in Vermont. There have been 27 applicants, and Superintendent Gallagher anticipated that the board will probably interview 4-6 candidates in February, depending on how well the remaining applicants meet the district's criteria.

c. Principals' Reports:

PHS: Presentations: 1) Senior class advisors Renee Howard and Carol Bunce, a parent and a grandparent of seniors, requested the board's approval of an 2 night/3 day senior trip in June. The senior class and chaperones are planning to visit the Wildwood or Cape May area of New Jersey to go to the beach and to Six Flags Great Adventure. The school administration will hold a mandatory parent/student meeting on February 3rd, and students will need to put down a deposit and observe a strict code of conduct. Students have worked hard on fundraising, and have currently raised about \$12,000 of the \$15,000 needed by running food booths and sponsoring a monthly dinner at the American Legion during the spring. The Vermont Principals' Association recommends against overnight senior trips, but Principal Oakman is willing to allow the trips so that future graduating seniors have the same opportunity past classes have had, unless an event occurs that would disallow such trips. She recommended that the class of 2009 be allowed to go on this trip. **Action:*** Pat Davenport moved to approve the planning of the class of 2009 senior trip to the Jersey Shore. Mike Nagar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Tracy Gallipo, Guidance Director, presented information about students earning honors (and a Killington Ski Pass) and recent SAT scores. Superintendent Gallagher noted that, while differences in achievement are of

concern, the SAT is not intended as an achievement test; it is meant to predict the success of students in the first semester of college, and it only does that reliably for 1 in 3 students. Principal Oakman added that PHS has introduced college prep English 9-12 to help improve the low scores. Also, according to a recent letter from the Vermont Department of Education, the PHS graduation rate for 2008 was 92%, which is significantly higher than the graduation rate of several years ago.

PES: The nutrition audit has been rescheduled (again) for February. PES collected 700 lbs. of food for the Poultney Food Shelf. Some 4th grade students will be participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on February 26th. **Action:** *Tracy Oakman Rupe moved to accept a donation of \$75 from the Poultney Women's Club to the PES music department. Mike Nagar seconded. Motion carried.

d. Business Manager's Report:

1. Approve Warrants:
 - a. #45, in the amount of \$87,556.81, dated 12/5/08
 - b. #46, in the amount of \$77,005.84, dated 12/19/08
 - c. #47, in the amount of \$240,174.70, dated 1/2/09
2. Financial Reports: None

Old Business:

- a. Change School Informational Meeting Date: The date of the School Informational Meeting was changed to Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 7:30 pm. Architects will be there to present on proposed renovation of the science classrooms as part of the information session.

New Business:

- a. Determine amount for separate articles(s) on Town Meeting warning: The board had plans drawn up to renovate the district's science classrooms as an option to put before the voters for using all or part of the \$644,387 currently in reserve. The plans include a complete overhaul of the science facilities, including new plumbing and electrical and state-of-the-art technology. Architects met with science department teachers and representatives of the board and administration, looked at the current facilities, and considered the amount of money available to decide the scope of work. The estimated cost is \$675,000, but given the current economic situation, it may be possible to do the project more cheaply. If voters approve the project, bids would go out in April and the work would happen over the summer. All members of the public present said that, as taxpayers, they felt it would be money well-spent. Tracee Oakman Rupe said that it is hard to look at one piece of the budget without looking at the school budget as a whole, and asked to continue the discussion of how much to ask voters to approve later in executive session.
- b. Approve textbooks (as presented by principals): None
- c. Approve announced tuition rate for 2009-2010: **Action:** *Tracee Oakman Rupe moved to set 2009-2010 tuition for PES and PHS at the current state rate of \$8,544,

to be reconsidered if the state changes the rate. Pat Davenport seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Policies:

2nd/ 3rd Reading:

- i. Policy on Policy: Table pending re-write.
- ii. Board Member Conflict of Interest: Move to adopt.
- iii. School Board Code of Conduct (replaces VSBA Code of Ethics): Move to adopt.
- iv. Public Participation at Board Meetings: Send to policy committee for reworking of portion entitled "Public Comment on Agenda Items."
- v. Professional Development: Move to adopt.
- vi. Volunteers and Work Study Students: Strike line saying, "The District will not pay the fees associated with criminal records checks," under "Administrative Responsibilities" #1. Under "Administrative Responsibilities" #5, change "of" to "with" and the capital "p" on "policies" to a lower-case "p". Number 5 should read: "Policies and Procedures: The Principal will assure that all volunteers and work study students are familiar *with* the Poultney Town School District's policies and procedures." Move to adopt, with amendments.
- vii. Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace: Move to adopt.
- viii. Public Complaints About Personnel: Move to adopt.
- ix. Drug and Alcohol Testing – Transportation Employees: On page 2, under "Consequences of Drug Use," "carry our" should be changed to "carry out." Tabled pending language regarding zero tolerance.

Action: *Al Jackson moved to adopt the following polices: Board Member Conflict of Interest, School Board Code of Conduct, Professional Development, Volunteers and Work Study Students, Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace, and Public Complaints About Personnel. Mike Nagar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading (tabled from November):

- i. Harassment of Employees: Move to 2nd reading.
Procedures – Harassment of Employees: Amend to strike language specific to each school year's District Equity Coordinator, so that the procedure doesn't need to be updated each year. Move to 2nd reading.
- ii. AIDS/HIV Infection: Move to 2nd reading.
- iii. Residency Policy: Add that after 40 days of residency outside the district, the student must petition the board in writing to continue attending Poultney schools. Move to 2nd reading.
- iv. Firearms: Move to 2nd reading and review in conjunction with Weapons Policy.
- v. Limited English Proficiency Students: Move to 2nd reading.

- vi. Participation of Home Study Students: Move to 2nd reading.
- vii. Hazing: Move to 2nd reading.
- viii. Pupil Privacy Rights: Move to 2nd reading.
- ix. Education Support System: Move to 2nd reading.
- x. Student Conduct and Discipline: Move to 2nd reading.
- xi. Selection of Instructional Materials: Move to 2nd reading.
- xii. Head Lice: Move to 2nd reading.
- xiii. Wellness: Move to 2nd reading.

Action on Personnel:

a. New Hires

- i. Joe DeBonis Jr, 5th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach, PES
- ii. Daniel Mackey, 5th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach, PES
- iii. Brian Wade, 6th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach, PES
- iv. Robert Simons, 6th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach, PES
- v. Christine DeVito, Odyssey of the Mind Coach, PES*
- vi. Tammy Petty, Class of 2010 Co-Advisor, PHS (2nd ½ of year)
- vii. Kandi Bradley, Class of 2010 Co-Advisor, PHS (2nd ½ of year)
- viii. Dan Jones, Interim Boys JV Basketball Co-Coach, PHS
- ix. Steve Brown, Interim Boys JV Basketball Co-Coach, PHS
- x. Stacey Devino, History Day Advisor, PHS
- xi. Dawn Sarli, Honor Society Advisor (pro-rated), PHS
- xii. Amy Kerber, Long-term Substitute Music Teacher, PES
- xiii. Substitute list for PES and PHS

*insufficient student participation, employment offer withdrawn 1/9/09

Action: *Al Jackson moved to approve all new hires. Mike Nagar seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Resignations - None

c. Terminations - None

General Public Comment: None

Next Regular Meeting: February 17th, 2009, 6:30 pm, PHS.

Mary Jo Teetor adjourned the meeting to move to executive session at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Colpitts, Recording Clerk