

Poultney School Board  
June 16, 2009  
Official Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:35.

In attendance: Tom Gallagher (Superintendent), Kristen Caliguiri (PES Principal), Jean Oakman (PHS Principal), Louis Milazzo (Business Manager), Tracy Gallipo (Guidance Director), Vinnie Covino (Technology Coordinator); Board members: Mary Jo Teetor, Al Jackson, Mike Nagar, Tracee Oakman-Rupe, Pat Davenport.

Audience: Stephanie, Chris and Spencer Fowler, Christie and Kailyn Gloss, Soaring Vail, Dawn Sarli, Linda Smith, Alicia Marcy, Molly, Doug and Rodman Jones.

Presentations:

1. Presentation given by Kailyn Gloss and Spencer Fowler. It covered all the exciting topics the students have covered for the year. The school newspaper was mentioned, the reading program was explained, science projects were shared (terrariums, rainforest studies, human body) with great enthusiasm. A power point presentation was their means of communication and they did a fantastic job!
2. Presentation by Rodman Jones (former PHS alumni)- Rodman presented the incredible art projects that he completed this past year at Sage college. He shared white and gray charcoal drawings and design boards. Rodman stated that he was grateful for the instruction Mrs. Kristiansen had given him; it proved valuable at college. Rodman hopes to be an interior designer but must put in many years to achieve that goal. It was obvious that he was very passionate about his career choice. Mr. Gallagher asked Rodman what his biggest challenge in college seemed to be. Rodman stated that he felt his note taking skills were not adequate. He was best prepared for college through the art classes he took at PHS and felt it was important that students access college courses in high school if possible.
3. Presentation by Outright Vermont: Christopher Neff and Ella Kaplan presented to the board. Outright Vermont is a non-profit organization committed to building safe, healthy, and supportive communities for LGBTQQ youth. Their approach is research based. All services are free.
4. Presentation by Tracy Gallipo: Tracy stated that the summer school program will be held at PES due to the construction at the high school. The Fast ForWord program will be used.
5. Presentation by Vinnie Covino: Vinnie discussed the security system and purchasing the necessary materials now and putting out to bid the installation. Royal Glass would like to bid but needs an additional 7 days to put a bid together. It was suggested that the equipment be purchased now so we do not lose the money earmarked for it and then bid out the installation. Seeing that it is a state contract we could do the purchasing now. The bid specifications will be put out as soon as possible. The Board agreed to give Tom the okay to begin the process on behalf of the Board.

#### Consent Agenda:

Approval of meeting minutes: May 13, May 19 (with corrections), May 21, May 27 and May 29. Motion made by Mike, seconded by Al. Motion carried 4-0.

Superintendent's report: Tom spoke with Don Kirby regarding the Pawlet bus. Don would need some advance notice regarding the bus to and from Pawlet. The cost would be \$25,000; \$15,000 after reimbursements are made. It was suggested that the bus might be housed in Wells and students from Pawlet will go to Wells and pick up the Poultney bus there and be returned there as well at the end of the day. Tom will look into this possibility.

Tom has put in \$50,000 for technology training and more SmartBoards.

Tom thanked the board for their work this year and gave a chronology of accomplishments this year.

Principals' Reports: Kristen noted the student handbook in the board packets. The Keezer Memorial Walk will be held on Wednesday with a VIP barbecue to follow. Through the Safe Routes to School program four bikes were given away. Kristen would like to recognize Calvin Brooks for his recycling efforts at the school.

Additions to Jean's report: The draft truancy and bullying policies and procedures are put on hold at this time. Jean is looking to have Outright Vermont do a presentation possibly in September. The DVD promoting the school is not quite ready. Tracee suggested it be posted on the school's website. Jean has ordered two SmartBoards.

Two donations were presented: \$200 from the Poultney Snowmobile Club and \$1780 from the Rotary. The Rotary Club donation will be used to purchase one of the SmartBoards. Motion to accept the \$200 donation was made by Al, seconded by Tracee; motion to accept the \$1780 from the Rotary Club was made by Tracee, seconded by Mike. Both motions were carried 4-0. Frank Barker has been instrumental in obtaining a baseball backstop for the high school. It was donated by Castleton State College. Motion to accept the backstop was made by Al, seconded by Mike; motion carried 4-0.

Jean shared that it has been an extraordinary year for math. Dave Gardyne has done yeoman's service for the school with math. He has stepped up and substituted for a math position that was vacated; he completed student assessments and addressed their needs; he created the exams needed and mentored those that were able to remain in the position for any length of time. Jean asked that he be paid the stipend, as per the contract, for all the extra work he has done during his prep time since November. This request will be followed up when Dave can give an approximation of the time he has spent.

Maureen Capman's class planted all 80 barrels downtown as part of a community service project. A student has volunteered to water the flowers over the summer as well.

Kim Ryder (school based clinician) has resigned. She will be taking a position at Fair Haven Union High School.

#### Business Manager's Report:

Louis discussed the fuel bid. The board decided to go with Local Fuel. Variable cost of \$0.17 above cost. Motion was made by Mike, seconded by Tracee; motion carried 4-0.

IA Practices: For the at-will employees, their insurance is paid year round. Louis' concern was that the Board may have to recoup this cost if the employee should not return. It was

suggested that something be put in place to address this issue. It was addressed in the letter sent to each at-will employee.

Financials: We have an anticipated fund balance of \$172,962.

#### Warrants:

1. un-numbered warrant: dated 4/29/09, amount of \$600.
2. #59: dated 5/22/09, amount of \$141,038.36
3. #60: dated 5/26/09, amount of \$2,244.15.
4. #61: dated 6/05/09, amount of \$92,463.33.

#### Old Business

Board Code of Conduct: was signed by Tracee as the remaining member of the board to sign. It will be posted in both schools.

Driver's Ed car: three were recommended by Louis: Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla and Subaru Legacy. The Honda and the Toyota are 2009's, the Subaru is used and a 2008. The Board authorized Louis to take the current car to each dealer and inquire about the trade-in value and the installation of the brake. Louis will negotiate the final cost. Motion to allow this was made by Al, seconded by Mike; motion carried 4-0.

#### New Business

- a. approval of text books: none
- b. approval of substitute list: motion made by Mike, seconded by Al; motion carried 4-0.
- c. & d: Motion to go with Local Fuel for \$0.17 over cost. Motion made by Mike, seconded by Tracee; motion carried 4-0.
- e. anticipated fund balance is \$172,962.
- f. security system: addressed by Vinnie earlier in the meeting.
- g. plant manager job description: corrections were made to the draft and it will be on the next agenda.
- h. anticipation loan: Pattie McCoy submitted her research regarding the borrowing of one million dollars. Her recommendation was to go with TD Banknorth. (2.50% and reinvest at 3.04%) Motion made by Al, seconded by Pat; motion carried 4-0.

#### Policies

Policies C-1(Board Meeting, Agenda Preparation), C-2(Board Meetings), E-5(Emergency Closings),E-7(School Crisis Prevention & Response), F-15(Student Publications), G-4(Selecting Library Materials), G-6(Complaints About Instructional Materials), G-10(Special Education), H-2(Parental Involvement), C-3(Public Participation at Board Meetings) were approved for a first reading.

Policy H-1 (School Community Relations) was tabled. A policy on International Exchange Students will be brought back in July.

#### New Hires:

Sierra Melcher (IA), Dr. Wright (substitute math teacher for remainder of the school year), Georgia Jarrell (foreign language teacher, FY10).

Motion made by Al, seconded by Mike; motion carried 4-0.

Resignations:

Rebecca Jones (IA), Jay Rodenberger (substitute math teacher), Kim Ryder (School Based Clinician).

Motion made by Al, seconded by Pat; motion carried 4-0.

Terminations:

Sharon Teer (IA)

Motion made by Mike, seconded by Al; motion carried 4-0.

Public Comments:

Alicia Marcy commented on the wonderful presentation made by Rodman Jones. She is concerned about the cuts to the art program and would they affect students getting into college. (It was explained that the arts portion of the curriculum has shifted at the high school; two art electives have been cut but the music electives have been increased; students are able to do independent classes, work-based learning or attend local colleges to obtain more art courses).

Regarding the number of resignations: are exit interviews done? They are not formally done but Tom and the principals do have the reasons for them. Tom stated that resignations this year have been money related, proximity to home and for health reasons.

Increase of time for office staff: This has been done in conjunction with a revision made earlier but the staff practices policies did not reflect it.

Kudos to Dave Gardyne for all the extra work he has done for the students and the school.

Mary Jo informed the board that we have to select a date for arbitration. The date of September 9 was chosen.

Into executive session to discuss personnel at 10:45. Motion made by Pat, seconded by Mike; motion carried 4-0.

Out of executive session at 10:55; no action taken. Motion made by Al, seconded by Mike; motion carried 4-0.

Motion to adjourn made by Mary Jo, seconded by Pat. Motion carried 4-0.

Next meeting is July 21, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Davenport  
Board Clerk