

Poultney Town School District  
Board of School Directors  
Special Meeting  
Official Minutes  
September 2, 2009  
5:30 PM  
PHS Library

**Attendance:**

Board Members: Pat Davenport, Al Jackson, Mike Nagar, Mary Jo Teetor, Tracee Oakman Rupe

Others: Business Manager Louis Milazzo, Leap Frog Pre-School Jamie Milazzo

Mary Jo Teetor called the meeting to order at 5:34PM.

Purpose of the meeting include agenda items for food service contract, pre-school, and executive session for board personnel issues.

**Action:**

\*Pat Davenport made a motion to approve the food service contract with Fitz-Vogt for the FY10 school year as presented in the current contract. Mike Nagar seconded the motion. Motion carried

Jamie Milazzo was present as a representative of "Leap Frog Nursery School" a privately run Pre-K program that is opening in Poultney. The discussion that followed was giving the board an overview of the program and looking for support of the school to consider partnering with this program so that the students would become part of the average daily membership (ADM) count in the Poultney Town School District...This would mean that if the "Leap Frog Pre-School" became accredited under the "STARS" umbrella (a state regulated accreditation), Poultney Town School District would receive ADM funding for Poultney resident students saving parents the expense of tuition and receiving a high quality pre-K program for their 3 and 4 year olds. This program would benefit the PTSD as a high quality feeder program for the elementary school.

Currently PTSD is served through the supervisory union with a EEE program which screens students and gives the selected students who qualify, a pre-K program with extra supports attached. This program is selective and not all 3 and/or 4 year olds qualify for entry. It has been determined over the last year that a pre-school program would benefit those children who are not admitted into the EEE program and that there is interest in the community for a high quality program.

The board considered the financial obligations and possible grant opportunities that would help in the first year of supporting this program. The business manager presented a projected budget for three years, with variables which included receiving grant money this current year if the program were awarded the STAR rating this year and/or if that possibility was pushed out until year 2 of the program. If the program were not eligible to receive the appropriate ratings and/or grant opportunities for this year then tuition would

be charged and the board would have the time to consider budgeting appropriately for FY11.

After a lengthy discussion and the boards' main interest in serving the children in the Poultney community, the board would like to support this private pre-school program as responsibly as possible.

**Action:**

\*Pat Davenport made a motion for the PTSD board of directors to approve contracting with "Leap Frog Nursery School" and offering publicly funded Pre-K program for up to 24 students (12, 3year olds, and 12, 4year olds). This is contingent upon the program obtaining the "STARS" rating prior to the October 2009 census deadline. Therefore, adding this student count to the 'FY 10 census for ADM purposes and the PTSD board will then negotiate a contracted rate for these services.

Tracee Oakman Rupe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Al Jackson made a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of board personnel issues at 6:40PM. Pat Davenport seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mike Nagar made a motion to move out of executive session at 7:30 PM. Tracee Oakman Rupe seconded the motion. Motion carried

**No Action Taken**

Mary Jo Teetor is going to set a special meeting with former Superintendent Thomas Gallagher for September 8, 2009 at 5:30 PM if he is available.

Al requested that new faculty be invited to the regular board meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> so the board has opportunity to introduce them to the community.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jo Teetor, chair