

Poultney Town School District  
Board of School Directors Meeting  
Official Minutes  
February 9, 2010

Attending: Mary Jo Teetor, Board Chair, and Board Members Pat Davenport, Mike Nagar, Al Jackson, and Tracee Oakman Rupe, Superintendent Joan Paustian, PHS Principal JeanMarie Oakman, PES Principal Kristen Caliguiri, Business Manager Louis Milazzo, Recording Clerk Anne Colpitts, Dean of Students Joe DeBonis, Guidance Director Tracy Gallipo, and Jaime Milazzo.

Mary Jo Teetor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Consent Agenda:**

**a. Minutes:** Approval of Unofficial Minutes from January 19, 2010 (regular and continuation). **Action:** \*Tracee Oakman Rupe moved to approve. Pat Davenport seconded. Motion carried.

**b. Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Paustian created a spreadsheet to give information about other budgets in SU. Last year budgets statewide went up an average of 2%; this year the average was about 0%. In the SU, all but one school's budgets decreased. The technology audit is coming along. Surveys have gone out and interviews are happening. Mary Jo Teetor will forward a report to board members about what other schools in the area are doing to implement technology successfully. The SU is planning to hire a new SLP. One Poultney coach asked if he can use the application from last year that is on file instead of submitting a new complete application. The board agreed that that would be fine as long as the coach keeps the information updated.

**c. Principals' Reports - PES:** PES currently has a poverty rate of 49%. There is a tentative plan to have the Science Fair at the firehouse on voting night. NECAP scores were 72% proficient in reading and 63% proficient in math. The school did a little better last year, but still compares favorably with schools in the region. Principal Caliguiri is planning professional development to try to address weak points in this year's test scores.

**PHS:** The junior and senior classes are planning overnight senior trips. Open House is planned for February 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm to view the science labs. There will be a dinner before Open House for janitors and secretaries. There will also be a brief awards ceremony in the gym. The town meeting to discuss the FY11 school budget will start at 7:30. Increased rigor on the Honor Roll has been challenging for students, since even good students may not be eligible because of one lower grade. Next year they will implement a new system yet to be determined, more rigorous than the previous system, but more flexible than the current system. NECAP results showed that 7<sup>th</sup> grade students went down from their scores as 6<sup>th</sup> graders last year, particularly in math, even when the same group of students (just Poultney) was considered. They will be examining these results with Dr. Rajia, the math specialist. Writing scores for grade 11 have

increased. Math scores are far below the state average. Graduation went up 12% over the 4 years leading up to FY08. There was a question of when an IA would move to a new column on the pay scale based on length of employment if that employee started in January – in January of the following year, or at the beginning of the following fiscal year. According to Instructional Assistant Practices 6.4 Non-exempt Employees, employees will move to a new column on the salary schedule at the beginning of the next academic year after completing one full year of employment.

**d. Business Manager's Report:** In financial reports, there is an anticipated surplus. By next month Louis will be able to present a better idea of the total fund balance for the end of the year. The outstanding teacher's contract will also impact the final balance. Louis met with a representative from the teacher's union to discuss the audit finding regarding dental/eye reimbursement. The audit found that reimbursements for dental/eye for teachers should be handled through central office and issued by the treasurer. The union representative agreed with the change, as long as some of the procedures in place remain the same, for instance, that money left over at the end of the year carries over to the following year. The union rep. also said that the union would like to switch to dental insurance, but Louis said that would be more expensive. Louis and Superintendent Paustian will consult with the district lawyer before a final decision is made. The district is also still waiting for answers from the DOE on school construction aid to see if they have received the money they applied for and to determine whether Poultney is liable for the CDC student.

1. Approve Warrants:
  - a. Warrant #79, in the amount of \$166,788.06, dated 1/15/10.
  - b. Warrant #80, in the amount of \$91,038.88, dated 1/29/10.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- a. Approve textbooks: PHS teacher Scott Holliman requested the *Art of Public Speaking*, which relates to 4 state standards. **Action:** \*Mike Nagar moved to approve the proposed textbooks. Al Jackson seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Approve Substitute List: **Action:** \*Al Jackson moved to approve the Substitute List. Mike Nagar seconded. Motion carried.
- c. Report of Facilities Committee Meeting: Locks for computers are backordered.
- d. Prepare for Town Meeting: Louis Milazzo prepared some budget points and proposed sending out a postcard to all Poultney residents. The board selected which bullet points should be included in the information sent out to all residents. Louis will edit the bullet points and send around a new draft for board approval.
- e. Preschool Contract FY11: Jaime Milazzo presented several options to the board for renewing the contract with Leap Frog Preschool. She said that they may need to change the number of hours that 4-year-olds spend at preschool

from 10 hours a week to 9 or 9.25 if there are more than 12 students, since they will need to add an afternoon class. Superintendent Paustian recommended spelling out contingencies for additional classes in contract, for instance, if there are enough students to add a second class of 4-year-olds, the classes will meet the following days and times. She also suggested it be noted that tuition amounts for 2011-2012 be clearly labeled as estimates to avoid any possible confusion. Board members preferred a two-year contract. **Action:** \*Mike Nagar moved to approve a 2-year contract with Leap Frog Preschool with amendments as discussed. Tracee Oakman Rupe seconded. Motion carried.

**Policies:**

- a. E-202 Animals in Schools (1<sup>st</sup> reading): Returned to Systems Management
  - b. E-9 AIDS/HIV (revised) (1<sup>st</sup> reading): Returned to Systems Management
  - c. E-201 FMLA (revised) (1<sup>st</sup> reading): Recommended for adoption
  - d. F-2 Bus Discipline (1<sup>st</sup> reading): Redundant - covered under student discipline and other procedures
  - e. F-9A Transportation of Students in Private Vehicles (1<sup>st</sup> reading): Recommended for adoption
  - f. H-3 Community Use of School Facilities (1<sup>st</sup> reading): Will continue working to integrate old and new policies
- Action:** \*Al Jackson moved to approve E-201 FMLA and F-9A Transportation of Students in Private Vehicles. Pat Davenport seconded. Motion carried.

**Action on Personnel:**

- a. New Hires:
    - i. Alphonso Howlett (IA)
    - ii. Maureen Dunham (1:1 special education substitute)
  - b. Resignations: None
  - c. Terminations: None
  - d. Leave of absence request: None
  - e. Request for Release from Contract: None
- Action:** \*Al Jackson moved to approve new hires. Mike Nagar seconded. Motion carried.

**General Public Comment:** None

Mary Jo Teetor adjourned the meeting to move to executive session at 8:44 pm.

**Next Regular Meeting:** March 16, 2010, 6:00 pm, PHS.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Colpitts, Recording Clerk