

Poultney Town School District
Board of School Directors Meeting
Official Minutes
December 16, 2008

Attending: Board Members Mike Nagar, Mary Jo Teetor, and Al Jackson; PTA Representatives Christi Gloss, Jima VanGuilder, Susan Linher, and Gary Journak; and Superintendent Thomas Gallagher.

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

The purpose of the early start is to meet with the PTA Representatives to schedule dates, times and ground rules for Poultney Town School District teacher contract negotiations.

It was agreed to begin meetings in January on the following dates: January 8, January 22, February 12, and February 26, 2009. The meetings will begin at 5:00 pm in the PHS library. Ground rules will be signed off on and initial proposals will be exchanged at the first meeting. PTA noted that David Gardine will also be joining their team.

The PTSD board will meet on January 5, 2009, at 5:00pm at central office to prepare for negotiations.

Meeting was recessed at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Teetor, Chair

Meeting back to order at 6:30pm for regular monthly agenda.

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, Louis Milazzo, Business Manager, Anne Colpitts, Recording Clerk, Bonnie Lenihan, and Melissa Kristiansen.

Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes: Action: *Al Jackson moved to approve Unofficial Minutes from November 11, 2008 (Special), November 18, 2008 (Regular and Continuation) and December 2, 2008 (Special). Mike Nagar seconded. Motion carried with amendments.

b. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Gallagher asked the principals to attend the meeting on Jan. 5th to discuss priorities for negotiations.

c. Principals' Reports: PHS: None

PES: The nutrition audit was rescheduled for Jan. 8th due to weather.

d. Business Manager's Report:

1. Approve Warrants:
 - a. #44, in the amount of \$184,785.02, dated 11/21/08
2. Financial Reports: Louis Milazzo presented a proposal to extend the Betcha bus transportation contract for 3 years, with yearly increases based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). **Action:** *Mary Jo Teetor moved to accept the Betcha transportation contract extension for 3 years with an increase based on the CPI for each year. Al Jackson seconded. Motion carried.

Louis reported that the auditors are still working on the audit and will probably have it complete at the beginning of January. They should be able to provide fund balances for the district by the last week of December.

Old Business:

- a. FY10 Budget: Louis Milazzo provided an update on the FY10 budget. He reported that the total assessment will go down by \$55,000. He is still waiting for some information to finalize the revenues, including information from the auditor's office. On the expense side, he has added expected cuts in personnel into the preliminary budget, using actual compensation when available, and the lowest compensation for the category in cases where the actual individuals have not been determined. He included a step increase for teachers and an additional 2% increase (an estimate, since negotiations have not yet taken place). Aside from personnel, there were a few small changes to SPED and a \$22,000 decrease in the maintenance budget, since Jerry Keezer removed the \$35,000 listed for security system upgrades, assuming that the system could be purchased with surplus funds, and added several smaller items totalling approximately \$13,000. Regarding the security system upgrades, Mary Jo Teetor pointed out that any purchase needs to be put out to bid, and Pat Davenport suggested talking with Chris Cole in the Fair Haven school district, since the Fair Haven system was much less expensive than the current estimated cost of the new system in Poultney. The board would like to include a line item for security, but wants to consider all possible options. Superintendent Gallagher asked the building principals to come up with a prioritized list of security upgrades they would like to see at their schools as a starting point.

New Business:

- a. Donation received by PHS: The Poultney Women's Club donated \$75 to the PHS music department. **Action:** *Al Jackson moved to accept the donation. Mike Nagar seconded. Motion carried.
- b. SAP Counselor: Principal Oakman reported that Kelly Wilson Young is working out very well as SAP counselor. They are working on developing a job description for her, but she is already working well with kids and families. SAP

funding is released in March, so Superintendent Gallagher and Principal Oakman will apply for funding to make Wilson Young full-time next year.
c. School Informational Meeting: The annual School Informational Meeting will be held on March 5th at 7:30pm, the Thursday before Town Meeting Day.

Action on Personnel:

- a. New Hires
 - i. Eric Dickson - IA PHS
 - b. Resignations
 - i. Laura Morganti - IA PHS
 - c. Terminations - None
 - d. Request for release from co-curricular contract
 - i. Clarena Renfrow (2010 class advisor)
- Action:** *Mike Nagar moved to approve action on personnel. Al Jackson seconded. Motion carried.

General Public Comment: None

Next Regular Meeting: January 20th, 2009, 6:30pm, PHS.

Mary Jo Teetor adjourned the meeting to move to executive session at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Colpitts, Recording Clerk