

PUTNAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

SECRETARY'S REPORT

February 15, 2022

The Putnam Board of Education met in regular session on February 15, 2022 in the Joseph V Pempek Memorial Conference Room at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Tabetha Babcock, Kevin Davis, Jamie Heath, Laure LaBonte, Michael Morrill, Chad Neal, James Purdon (7:03), Christopher Steinbrick, and Jill Zangerl

Absent:

Others: Daniel P. Sullivan, III, Superintendent of Schools; Nancy T. Cole, Business Administrator

Jill Zangerl called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michael Morrill made a motion to approve the January 18, 2022 regular meeting minutes and the January 25, 2022 special meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tabetha Babcock and passed unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

The board received five emails.

3. PRESENTATIONS

There was a Pride of Putnam video presentation and the awards were presented to the recipients.

Putnam High School students Samantha Bennett, Rylee Houle, Kayla Morrison, Iasmin Neves, DeAnn Pringle, Ewa Sekula, Isabella Toni-Campion, and Bailey Touchette as well as staff members Emily Nadelgaft and Suzanne Sansoucy were recognized for **“Modeling our core values and for your outstanding leadership and dedication to making the inaugural year of our Certified Nursing Assistant program a success.”**

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments.

5. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee Reports

1) Policy Committee Report

The policies for revision were warned for adoption at the January meeting with possible action at the February meeting.

2) Facilities Committee Report

No report.

3) Curriculum Committee

The committee is recommending warning for adoption two new courses at Putnam High School.

- Principles of Manufacturing
- AP Computer Science Principles

4) Communications Committee

No report.

5) CABE Events Update

Nothing from CABE. Michael Morrill recommends the Board follow Senate Bill #1.

b. Financial Reports, Nancy T. Cole

Nancy Cole updated the Board on the year-end expenditure report for 2021-2022. An excess cost report and Family Resource Center report were also included.

c. Superintendent's Report, Daniel P. Sullivan, III

1) Board of Selectman Budget Workshop: February 19, 2022

The board members are invited to attend this workshop.

2) Board of Education Volunteers for Adopt a School

Superintendent Sullivan requested board members volunteer for the Adopt a School initiative. Board members will volunteer at the March board meeting.

3) Strategic Plan Update

Superintendent Sullivan shared the timeline for the strategic plan update and asked for board member representatives to participate in the process.

4) District update

Superintendent Sullivan shared that the number of COVID cases has slowed significantly.

5) Parent Connect Series

Superintendent Sullivan reported that area Superintendent's will set dates to continue this series.

6) Personnel Report

An updated personnel report was included in the packet.

7) School Monthly Board Reports

School monthly reports were included in the packet.

d. Board Chair Report, Jill Zangerl

6. **BUSINESS**

a. Policy Updates

Kevin Davis made a motion to accept the policies as presented in last month's board packet and rescind the previous policies. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

b. Superintendent's Proposed Budget FY 2022-2023

Chad Neal made a motion to add \$150,000.00 to Superintendent Sullivan's proposed budget for a 3.42% increase with a goal to bring two or more positions back. The motion was seconded by Michael Morrill. Kevin Davis, Jamie Heath, Michael Morrill, Chad Neal, and Jill Zangerl voted Aye. Tabettha Babcock, Laure LaBonte, James Purdon, and Christopher Steinbrick voted Nay. The motion passed.

c. Board of Education Handbook

Michael Morrill made a motion to table the vote to adopt the Board of Education Handbook until the March meeting. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

d. Expiration of Executive Order (re: Masks)

Michael Morrill made a motion to rescind the mask policies and that the Putnam Board of Education follows the guidance from the State of Connecticut to end mandatory mask wearing in schools starting on February 28th. The exception to this is that all students, while on school buses, will need to continue to wear masks indefinitely. Given the real health concerns that many of our staff, students, and their families have, given the level of COVID infection rates in our community, we urge all members of the Putnam community to remain masked voluntarily to help ensure the health of all school members and the health of their families until COVID infection rates in Putnam is below 15 in 100,000 case level. The motion was seconded by Christopher Steinbrick. The board discussed rescinding the mask policies.

Michael Morrill made a motion to suspend our current mask policies as of February 28th in following with guidance from the State of Connecticut to end mandatory mask wearing in schools starting that day. The exception to this is that all students, while on buses, will need to continue to wear masks indefinitely. Given the real health concerns that many of our staff, students, and their families have, given the level of COVID infection rates in our community, we urge all members of the Putnam community to remain masked voluntarily to help ensure the health of all school members and the health of their families until COVID infection rates in Putnam fall below 15 in 100,000 cases. The motion was seconded by Tabettha Babcock and passed unanimously.

e. Chromebook Insurance for Families

Kevin Davis made a motion to move forward this insurance program through Apex Technology Group. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

James Purdon made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. for the purpose of legal matters. The motion was seconded by Kevin Davis and passed unanimously. Superintendent Sullivan and Nancy Cole were invited to attend.

Jamie Heath made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Christopher Steinbrick and passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Christopher Steinbrick made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jamie Heath and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Davis
Board Secretary