

PUTNAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

SECRETARY'S REPORT

February 28, 2023

The Putnam Board of Education met in regular session on February 28, 2023, in the Joseph V. Pempek Memorial Conference Room and via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Tabetha Babcock, Kevin Davis, Laure LaBonte, Michael Morrill, Chad Neal, James Purdon, and Christopher Steinbrick, and Jill Zangerl

Absent: Jamie Heath

Others: Kenneth R. DiPietro, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Nancy T. Cole, Business Administrator

Jill Zangerl called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Representatives

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

James Purdon made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023 regular meeting minutes, the January 18, 2023 special meeting minutes, the January 24, 2023 special meeting minutes, and the February 11, 2023 special meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Chad Neal and passed unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

There were three emails to the board.

3. PRESENTATIONS

The Pride of Putnam Award presentation was postponed to the March regular meeting.

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizens comments.

5. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee Reports

i. Policy Committee Report

No report

ii. Facilities Committee Report

No meeting to report, the damage to the middle school gymnasium floor will be fixed at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

iii. Curriculum Committee Report

1. February 28, 2023 Meeting

The curriculum committee discussed the Science of Reading and are recommending new PHS math curriculum be warned for adoption.

iv. Communications Committee Report

No report

v. CABA Events Update

The 2023 CABA Lobbying Day will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 8:45 AM in the Legislative Office Building, Room 1A, 300 Capital Avenue, Hartford, CT

b. Financial Report

Nancy Cole updated the board on the projected year-end expenditure report for FY 2022-2023. An Excess Cost Report and Family Resource Center Report were also included.

c. Superintendent's Report, Kenneth R. DiPietro

i. District Update

The Interim Superintendent reported that chronic absenteeism is just below 25% and state testing is showing good recovery from the COVID pandemic.

ii. Superintendent's Proposed Budget FY 2023-2024

The Interim Superintendent reported that he presented the budget to the Putnam Board of Finance on February 27, 2023 and it was well received.

iii. Public Hearing (Awaiting date from town)

iv. Annual Town Meeting (Awaiting date from town)

v. Personnel Report

An updated personnel report was included in the packet.

vi. School Monthly Board Reports

School monthly reports were included in the packet.

d. Board Chair Report, Jill Zangerl

6. BUSINESS

a. Superintendent's Proposed Budget FY 2023-2024

James Purdon made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Proposed Budget FY 2023-2024 of \$20,358,407 as presented. The motion was seconded by Tabetha Babcock and passed unanimously.

b. Food Service Lunch Aide Positions

Michael Morrill made a motion to approve the addition of lunch aide employees in the food services department as presented. The motion was seconded by Kevin Davis and passed unanimously.

c. Warn for Adoption: PHS Math Curriculum

The curriculum committee recommended to warn for adoption the CPM Educational Program curriculum for the new PHS math curriculum. The curriculum will be available for review in the Board of Education office.

d. Propose Putnam High School Graduation Date (Wednesday, June 7, 2023)

The Interim Superintendent recommended the new date of Thursday, June 8, 2023 due to the addition of a school cancellation day.

Tabetha Babcock made a motion to approve Thursday, June 8, 2023 as the graduation date for Putnam High School. The motion was seconded by Christopher Steinbrick and passed unanimously.

e. No Tolerance for Doors Left or Propped Open

The Interim Superintendent issued a directive to staff regarding no tolerance for doors left or propped open during school hours. The board and the safety committee will discuss increasing security outside of school hours while allowing public usage of the facilities.

f. Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant Program

James Purdon made a motion to authorize the Interim Superintendent to submit an application for the PEGPETIA Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Christopher Steinbrick and passed unanimously.

g. Para Educator Professional Development MOU

Michael Morrill made a motion to accept the Para Educator Professional Development MOU as presented. The motion was seconded by Tabetha Babcock. Tabetha Babcock, Kevin Davis, Laure LaBonte, Michael Morrill, Chad Neal, James Purdon, and Jill Zangerl voted Aye. The motion passed.

h. 2023-2024 District Calendar Revision

The Interim Superintendent submitted a revised 2023-2024 District Calendar. The revisions were made to increase student learning opportunities and align Putnam's calendar with the other area school districts.

Kevin Davis made a motion to accept the revised 2023-2024 District Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Chad Neal and passed unanimously.

The Interim Superintendent relayed a request from the Putnam Chief of Police that the board approve a 30 minute lunch during the eight hour day for the safety officers. The board tabled that discussion to the March regular meeting.

On behalf of the board, Chair Jill Zangerl thanked Kevin Davis for his time with the Board of Education and wished him well following his resignation from the Putnam Board of Education.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chad Neal made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Christopher Steinbrick and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Zangerl
Board Chair