

PUTNAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

SECRETARY'S REPORT

February 23, 2021

The Putnam Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 in the Joseph V. Pempek Memorial Conference Room at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Attendance: Carrie Blackmar, Kevin Davis, Margaret McHugh (7:47 PM), Michael Morrill, James Purdon, Christopher Steinbrick, Marieanne Viens, Jill Zangerl, Lauren Konicki

Absent:

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

Jill Zangerl called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Representative

No report.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Carrie Blackmar made a motion to approve the January 19, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the January 26, 2021 special meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Kevin Davis and passed unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

3. PRESENTATIONS

CAPSS Awards were presented to students at Putnam Elementary School, Putnam Middle School, and Putnam High School.

PES Students: Thomas Espinosa and Peyton Rodriguez

PMS Students: Sawyer Britt and Isabel Porter

PHS Students: Mackenzie Peloquin and Jamie Petre

Jeannie Dodd was also recognized for her years of service to the Putnam Board of Education.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No citizen's comments.

5. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee Reports

1) Policy Committee Report

Marianne Viens reported the committee met this evening and went over the policies sent by CABA.

2) Facilities Committee Report

James Purdon reported that the committee will be meeting next month.

3) Curriculum Committee

Carrie Blackmar reported the committee met this evening to review the Humanities Honors course at Putnam High School.

4) Communications Committee

Marianne Viens reported that the committee will be meeting next month.

5) CABA Events Update

Michael Morrill reported that the CABA Virtual Day on the Hill will be held on March 17, 2021. He also informed the Board that there are many education bills being introduced this legislative session.

b. Financial Reports, Nancy T. Cole

Nancy Cole updated the Board on the year-end expenditure report for 2020/2021. An excess cost report and Family Resource Center report were also presented.

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

1) CABA's Remote Day on the Hill

CABA's Remote Day on the Hill will be held on March 17, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

2) Presentation of the Budget to the Board of Finance

The Board of Finance meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 via Zoom.

3) Public Hearing

The date of the Public Hearing has not yet been set.

4) Annual Town Meeting

The date of the Annual Town Meeting has not yet been set.

5) Summer Program

Superintendent Sullivan explained his plan to offer an expanded summer school session. The administration will have more information at next month's meeting.

6) COVID-19/Stimulus Money

Superintendent Sullivan stated that COVID-19 cases in Connecticut have continued to decrease. He explained that district employees would be able to receive the vaccination as early as next week.

Superintendent Sullivan discussed the ESSER II grant and indicated that there are tight guidelines. Funds are expected to be used towards the impact that COVID-19 has had on schools.

Superintendent Sullivan talked about the possibility of merging hybrid cohorts and all students coming back to school in March. A Microsoft form went out to parents with a letter from the Superintendent with options for parents to choose if their child would remain an in-person learner, remain a distance learner, return to in-person learning, or request distance learning. He stated that with the form, there was a net gain of distance learners switching to in-person learning of about 8 students.

7) Personnel Report

A personnel report was included in the packet.

8) School Monthly Board Reports

The school monthly board reports were included in the packet.

d. Board Chair Report, Jill Zangerl

Jill Zangerl thanked the staff for their flexibility. She also informed the Board that committee assignments will be reviewed.

6. BUSINESS

a. Healthy Food Option (Goal 3)

James Purdon made the following motions:

1. Healthy Food Option

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Putnam Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

2. Combined Food and Beverage Exemptions

The Putnam Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met:

1. the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend;
2. the sale is at the location of the event; and
3. the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

The above motions were seconded by Lauren Konicki and passed unanimously.

b. Warn for Possible Adoption of the Following Policies/ Regulations

Marianne Viens made a motion to warn for adoption the following policies:

P4212.42 - Drug and Alcohol Testing for Bus Drivers
P6161.31 - Title IX Programs/Family Engagement and R6172.4
P6159 - Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program, and
P6171 - Special Education.

The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

c. Warn for Possible Adoption of the Following PHS Course

Carrie Blackmar made a motion to adopt the Humanities Honors course for Putnam High School. The motion was seconded by Marieanne Viens and passed unanimously.

Michael Morrill made a motion to add to the agenda the FY 2021-22 Board of Education budget with a possible vote. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously. The proposed budget is \$19,442,299 and represents a 3.45% increase over the current year. Michael Morrill made a motion to accept the budget as presented on January 26, 2021 for FY 2021-22. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

The Board took a brief recess

James Purdon made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:23 PM to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Lauren Konicki and passed unanimously. Superintendent Sullivan and Nancy Cole were invited to attend.

James Purdon made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Lauren Konicki and passed unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Lauren Konicki made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Carrie Blackmar and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Blackmar
Board Secretary