

PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL AGENDA

JUNE 4, 2015

LIBRARY

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER: Russell Fontaine, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members Present: Russell Fontaine, Lynn Peredina, and Janice Coughlan.

Members Absent: None.

Others: Superintendent Tari Thomas, Principal Christopher Dodge, and Alyssa Roberts.

II. HEARING FOR VISITORS:

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. April 30, 2015 Minutes- *Janice Coughlan moved to approve the minutes of April 30, 2015. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.*

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. General Medication Administering- (Second Vote)- *Lynn Peredina moved to approve the General Medication Administering Policy for the 2nd vote. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.*

B. Vehicle Idling Policy- (Second Vote)- *Lynn Peredina moved to approve the Vehicle Idling Policy for the 2nd vote. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.*

C. Electronic Communication Policy- (Second Vote)- *Lynn Peredina moved to approve the Electronic Communication Policy for the 2nd vote. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.*

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. School Improvement Plan- Tari explained that Mr. Dodge is required annually to work with his school council to look at ways to grow student growth. Tari explains that it is important to note that this is the first time you have had a school improvement plan. Chris explained to the committee that he included the appendices to go along with the plan. Chris stated that the school council was formed his first year and the goal was in the second year to get the school improvement plan. Chris explained that he surveyed parents, talked to staff, and used all of that data to construct this plan. Chris stated that essentially what he has done is they have made goals that are current and looking towards next year. Chris stated that it was really important to have this plan in place especially since he is leaving next year. Chris stated you will see curriculum enhancements that they are working towards next year, work with TAB, looking at best practices with teachers, and mapping math curriculum. Chris is really proud that this addresses our own needs.

Chris stated that if you have any questions feel free to email him. Chris wanted to thank the School Council for all their work on this.

- B. Milk Bid- (Vote Required)-** Tari explained that this is an annual requirement that we go out to bid for our milk purchases. Tari stated that as you can see Maines Produce and Gibbson came in with the lowest bid. Tari stated that it is their recommendation that you go with this lowest bid. Janice explained that she was pleased to see after she researched this company that they are organic and don't use any growth hormones.

Janice Coughlan moved to accept the Maines Produce and Gibbson bid for the milk for the 2015-2016 school year. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

- C. Wellness Policy-** Tari stated that this is identical to the original that was done by the 3 district committee. Tari explained the items in the test boxes have been adjusted with the Obama administration with their focus in health and wellness. Tari explained that she had a team of nurses, Mary Ramon, the Athletic Director, Food Service Director, and the Principal's help in reviewing this.

Lynn Peredina moved to accept the wellness policy for the first vote. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

- D. Summer Meeting Schedule-** Thursday, June 18th at 6:30. September 3, 2015 at 6:30.

- E. Standards Based Report Card-** Chris Dodge explained that we are looking at doing away with letter grades and report on students performance in relation to the standards in all of the subject areas. Chris stated that there is a lot of research explaining that grades are not a motivator for students. Chris stated we want to give students and their parents feedback on how they are performing in relation to the standards. Chris stated that in the fall you will expect to see a version of what an actual report card looks like for your approval. Tari stated that the real belief and research is they need to think of kids on a growth continuum and we can keep growing and learning. Tari explained districts across the commonwealth have already migrated to Standards Based Report Cards. Tari explained that we are moving towards this direction at the middle school level. Russ asked if this was required by the state. Tari stated we are required to show proof of the frameworks in ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science. Chris stated as a group they have decided to move to 2 reporting periods next year because if we are giving more detailed report cards we need more time to report on that. Chris explained that progress reports and conferences would be done in between.

- VI. REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL- (In Packet)** Chris stated that he sent letters today for School Choice in Kindergarten. Chris explained that it looks like they will have 6 Petersham students so he was able to offer 10 spots to school choice students. Chris stated that he has 2 students that would like to get into the 3rd grade class and there is only 1 spot available. Chris explained they are twins and he struggles with offering the sport to one and not the other. Chris would like approval from the School Committee to allow that class to be made 1 spot bigger. Tari would like to endorse that recommendation.

Lynn Peredina moved to approve 2 seats into the 2015-2016 3rd grade classroom. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

Chris also wanted to mention that they had a pre bid meeting for the specs on the new heating

project and are asking for all bids to be sent in by July 16th. Chris stated that this project probably wouldn't start until next summer.

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT- (In Packet) Tari explained that the PCS Principal Search is nearing it's end. Tari stated that they have identified a candidate and we will start contract negotiations with this person. Tari explained we had 37 applications, interviewed 6 and brought forward 2 for final interviews. Tari stated that she is looking for volunteers for that long range planning committee and she would like to start convening meetings for late August or early September. Tari explained she wants to do some outreach to the community. Tari stated if you have any suggestions or guidance please send them her way.

VIII. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE- (In Packet).

IX. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING- Wellness Policy 2nd vote, Summer Maint. Work Update, and New Principal Update.

X. DATE OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING- June 18th at 6:30pm. September 3, 2015 at 6:30pm.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION- *Russell Fontaine moved to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel for the purposes of not returning to regular meeting at 7:10pm. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous. Roll call done by Alyssa Roberts. All in favor.*

XII. ADJOURNMENT- See executive session above.

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Minutes record by: Alyssa Roberts

APPROVED: September 3, 2015