

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee
Day/Date: Thursday, September 8, 2016
Time of Meeting: 5:30PM
Location: Library



Minutes

1. Call to Order- Lynn Peredina called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Members Present: Lynn Peredina, Janice Coughlan, and Angela Danielson.

Members Absent: None

Others present: Superintendent Tari Thomas, Principal Joanne Menard, Director of Finance Daniel Haynes, and Alyssa Roberts.

2. Public Comment
3. Report of the Petersham Teachers' Union- Wendie Leblanc explained we have had a great 8 days of school, staff and students are back in the routine.
4. September Items
 - a. Opening of Schools Report- Tari provided a brief overview of summer workings, enrollment and new staff. Joanne briefly remarked on the opening days complete with a red carpet and photo booth event.
 - b. School Improvement Plan for 2016-2017- These plans are in draft awaiting final feedback from returning staff; the committee is only charged with checking for alignment with district goals/plans.
 - c. School Committee Meeting Schedule for Next Year and Annual Agenda- Tari explained a *new meeting schedule (for all three districts) is available in your shared drive and includes the CES & CAPS meeting dates as well; at the supt eval meeting in June, the three district committee agreed to six meetings annually- Sept, Nov, Jan, March, April and June meeting the needs of the districts as well as the demands of our annual budget development (see annual agenda).*
Janice Coughlan moved to approve the slate of meeting dates for the 2016-2017 School year for the Petersham School Committee. Angela Danielson seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
 - d. MA Rural Schools Aid Proposal- Tari explained that this draft proposal is available in your shared folder and I am seeking any input the committee might have for Supt Buoniconti and the board of MA Rurals Schools on which I serve.
6. Matters for Action/Vote
 - a. Attorney retainer- Tari explained that in your shared file you will see a retainer contract for Dupere Law Offices; the monthly fee is rising from \$250 per month to \$500 per month effective July 1, 2016; I highly endorse this increase; the Dupere Law Offices have been invaluable/indispensable to us in contract negotiations, various grievances, employee discharges, employee discipline, prof development for administration and more.
Janice Coughlan moved to engage the services of the Dupere Law Offices at a rate of \$500 per month for the 2016-2017 school year. Angela Danielson seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

- b. GBEC - Drug-Free Workplace
- c. IHAMB - Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs
- d. JICH - Alcohol Tobacco and Drug Use by Students

Tari explained that four policies are a requirement for 2016 -2017; due to the policy project with MASC, I neglected to have the committee deliberate and approve them; MASC stated during our policy project meeting that the DESE shows leniency to districts working with them on a policy project, but nevertheless, I'd feel more comfortable if the committee approved these boiler-plate policies (except JLCD which was a three district effort made by the school nurses) in September and November; adjustments may be made during the course of the policy project with recommendations made to Janice Coughlin. The committee is going to table these votes until the policy subcommittee gets to the approval point.

- e. PCS Educational Support Personnel Contract Settlement 2016-2019- Lynn Peredina partnered with Dan Haynes, Adam Dupere and myself to reach a settlement agreement with the Educational Support Personnel Group (see shared file); highlights of the agreement is removal of the nurse from this group, an updating of leave language under FMLA, MPLA, SNLA and DVLA, improved language on longevity, agency/payroll deductions and a new consolidated district salary schedule

Janice Coughlan moved to approve the Petersham Educational Support Personnel Contract Settlement for 2016-2019. Angela Danielson seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

- f. Adoption of District Goals/Strategic Plan for 2016-2017- Tari explained that the Strategic Plan for 2016-2017 complements & improves upon the plan for Year I; a multitude of accomplishments were made in Year I so Year II aims to refine and concretize the efforts already underway with a critical eye to 21st century skills in:

Critical thinking and problem solving
 Collaboration across networks and leading by example
 Agility and adaptability
 Initiative and entrepreneurship
 Effective oral, written, and multimedia communication
 Accessing and analysing information
 Curiosity and imagination

The executive leadership worked on this document during the summer retreat; they did an After Action Review on last year's work, documented what they could stop, keep doing and start doing and made a cohesive plan for Year II; even the theory of action has been adjusted to meet the research and thinking for the future of our children; I recommend that the committee vote in support of the plan for Year II

Angela Danielson moved to approve the Strategic Plan for the 2016-2017 School Year for the Petersham Center School. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

- g. Appoint Delegate and Alternate to MASC Annual Business Meeting- Tari explained that the annual joint conference of MASC and MASS will be held the first week of November 2nd - 5th in Hyannis.

Workshops range from budget development, small rural school districts, emergency preparedness, innovations in STEM programming and more; if someone would like to attend, the district will secure hotel and conference registration

Angela Danielson moved to approve 1 member of the committee to attend the annual MASC business meeting in November as representative of the Petersham School Committee. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

- h. The Case Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools- Lynn Peredina explained that their is a document in your shared file including a copy of the resolution;

Orange Elementary voted this through in June and RC Mahar did the same earlier this week. Tari referenced the documents in the shared file to further discuss this matter. The committee discussed the pros and cons along with adding their name to the list. **Angela Danielson moved that the Petersham School Committee support the resolution against lifting the cap on the Commonwealth's' Charter Schools. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

- i. Land Gift to Town of Petersham/Petersham Center School- Dan explained that according to our attorney, the town must vote to accept the land. Petersham's Town Counsel should provide advice to the Town about how to do so. He also recommend that the School Committee discuss and vote on whether they want the land. This parcel is located just east of the Center School or to the left of the main parking lot; is approximately 102,546 square feet in size or 2.35 +/- acres; it was recorded on July 28th, 2016 as a gift of the Simes Estate; the names of Michael Arnold, Henry Arnold, Jesse Arnold, Emily Arnold and Sally Rench; I believe it will make a wonderful addition to the property and provide for an additional buffer zone to the east.
Janice Coughlan moved to gratefully support the acceptance of such generous donation by the Simes Estate of 2.35 acres of land to Town of Petersham on behalf of the Petersham Center School. Angela Danielson seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

7. Sub Committee/Liaison Updates

- a. Report of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee- Lynn Peredina explained that the group wrapped up what they needed to do. Lynn explains they have not heard anything further from FlNCom on what the next step would be. Lynn thinks for now this committee should stay at rest.
- b. Report of the Mahar Representative- Lynn explained 2 nights ago we did the same thing we are doing tonight at Mahar. Tari explained they approved the ESP and the Teachers Contracts. They also received word that they are community eligibly meaning free breakfast for lunch for all students. Lynn talked briefly about the shifts with staffing.
- c. Report of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee- Dan explained they will be scheduling a meeting later this month. Dan explained that him and Janice will be focusing on safety in regards to the playground at the next Finance and Facilities meeting.
- d. Report of the Policy Subcommittee- Tari explained there will be a meeting later this month.
- e. Report of the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee- Lynn explained she does not believe anything has happened since the last time this committee met. Lynn explained we do need to appoint 1 more person to this committee, it should be 2 from Mahar, 2 from OES, and 2 from PSC.

Angela Danielson moved to approve Janice Coughlan as a representative for the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

8. Superintendent's Report - Tari hit a number of highlights including a request for the committee to review some of the information in the shared file relative to forming a superintendency union; it's time to formalize this arrangement, especially around the governance and finances of the central office; with everything organized and 4 of the six personnel contracts aligned, we are inching forward toward reconsidering regionalization; if all the nuts and bolts are set, then energetic and committed folks from the member towns can focus regionalization efforts on the agreement/finances.

9. Minutes presented for approval: **Janice Coughlan moved to approve the minutes of June 2, 2016. Angela Danielson seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

Angela Danielson moved to approve the minutes from June 16, 2016. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

10. Executive Session:

Angela Danielson moved to go into executive session and to not return back pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Teachers and/or Support Personnel. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

11. Date of Next Meeting: November 17th, 2016, 5:30PM

12. Adjourn- **Janice Coughlan moved to leave executive session at 7:18pm. Angela Danielson seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

Minutes taken by: Alyssa Roberts

APPROVED: 11-17-16