

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee
Day/Date: Thursday, November 9th, 2017
Time of Meeting: 5:30PM
Location: Staff Room



Minutes

1. Call to Order- Lynn Peredina, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

Members Present: Lynn Peredina and Janice Coughlan.

Members Absent: Angela Danielson

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

2. Public Comment- No Public Comment.
3. Glimpse Into the Classroom- Early Literacy - Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Roy, and Mrs. Leblanc presented on the PCS K-2 Collaborative Reading Block. They explained how this model has changed by using three teachers. Tari commended this group of teachers for their efforts and hard work with this new model.
4. Report of the Petersham Teachers' Union- Wendie has nothing to report.
5. November Items
 - a. Annual Review of Safety Policies- Joanne briefly went through annual review of safety policies. Joanne explained that the building continues to lead the three districts in refining their practices. Joanne explained she is so lucky to have the community support she has here at Petersham Center School. Parent asked about door being locked on the outside. Joanne explained yes the doors automatically lock when they shut. Parent asked about the CORI check. Joanne explained every year she does them every year.
 - b. October 1 Enrollment- Tari explained how these numbers are crucial for estimating our Chapter 70 aid for 2018-2019. Tari explained she will be furnishing the finance committees with these numbers as well. Dan explained what can we take away from this; we have had an increase in enrollment. Our choice numbers have been higher than our foundation students. Joanne wanted to explain that we got a lot of feedback and k-2 screening that parents thought we were still using tools of the mind and families were not in favor of that. Dark brown hair parent; asked a quick question about choice students dollar amount. Dan explained we receive a \$5,000 for every choice and if there is a special education student more funds are received.
 - c. Review of Achievement Data- Tari explained the achievement data has been furnished to you by Director Cole and this is rather lengthy and rather dense. What is important to note that we have had three different tests over the past four years so it is very hard to compare this year's results to last year's results. Tari explained the state will not give us an accountability rating this year because this is the baseline. Next year we will then learn what level we will be in. Tari explained there is a lot of data and encourages you to get ahold of Marie Cole if you have questions or would like to review this in more detail. Wendie asked about the test last year was this more rigorous. Tari explained she did not think it was more rigorous just dramatically different.

d. School Improvement Plan- Tari explained that Joanne and her school council have developed the school improvement plan. The committee is no longer required to approve this but this is there for you to see.

e. District Calendar for 2018-2019 Request- Tari explained that last year the committee had some wonderings/reservation relative to the current year's district calendar. The committee wanted to formalize their request this year and ask the group, comprised of all three districts and union leaders to meet earlier and include parents in the deliberations. The committees had hoped to receive a draft calendar in January instead of March or April. Wendie explained in working in the group we had to take into consideration all three districts which is a challenge. Nailil Matnelli explained making summer vacation even longer to her seems absolutely ridiculous.

f. Blizzard Bag Update- Tari explained Director Cole has been working with the Petersham Center School has been doing some updates and revisions to the blizzard bags as an alternative for making up days in June. Petersham has been the lead in this work and she does know we had 72% of parent survey supportive of this. Tari is excited about this work and likes to think about the opportunity to call this a blizzard bag day or a snow day. Tari explained she would like to be able to reserve the option to make it an actual snow day sometimes. Joanne explained she thought it was a great process and there was a good dialogue and great suggestions. Janice asked what is the flurry folder. Joanne explained that it was suggested that the bags were to cumbersome and this was just a better way to organize it. Nailil Martnelli asked if it was a snow day and she didn't know what we would do if there were consecutive days. Tari explained this was one of the things they realized from last year that didn't work. Dylan Adams and Nailil Martnelli whom are parents of Petersham Center School students explained many concerns about blizzard bags explaining that they do not feel there is any supporting data to prove that the work in place of instruction with teachers is better, the survey that went out to parents to give feedback about blizzard bags had several glitches, no outreach to try to get parents involved on the committee, they do not believe there should be an unlimited amount of days, and concerns about the summer slide being even worse with extending summer break.

Tari explained that one of the greatest opportunities with blizzard bags and e-learning is to be resourceful, teaching the children independence, and self reliance. Lynn appreciates the comments and feedback and explained that on behalf of all the work that went into this initiative it is groundbreaking and we also don't have a guide on how to do this. The committee decided to revisit this at the January school committee meeting.

6. Matters for Action/Vote

a. Lunch Price Increase- Tari explained they are going up a quarter for breakfast and lunch and reduced prices and milk have not changed. Tari is hoping that you take a vote to increase breakfast to \$1.75 and lunch to \$2.75.

Janice Coughlan moved to vote to raise the breakfast .25 cents and the breakfast .25 cents for 2017-2018 school year. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

b. Budget Timeline- Tari explained not much has changed since last year; she will be sharing this with the finance committee also. Tari explained this will be a challenging year yet again. Dan explained that Janice has done a great job with communicating inclusion to our town leaders.

Janice Coughlan moved to approve the 2017-2018 Budget Timeline with the slight revision. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

7. Sub Committee/Liaison Updates

a. Report of the Mahar Representative- Lynn explained at Mahar two nights ago a big discussion was e-learning. Lynn explained they are shifting everything to google classroom; two of the teachers gave a presentation. They approved 13 new program of studies and Lynn ran through those quickly.

- b. Report of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee- Janice explained that her and Dan met and went over what the budget spend so far has looked like. Janice explained he is doing a great job of keeping track of it all. They discussed a couple alternatives for the FY19 budget. Dan explained he drafted an agreement for the end of the year pupil and financial report.
- c. Report of the Policy Subcommittee- Tari explained they have not met yet. They are meeting next Thursday at 5:30 and they are almost towards the end.
- d. Report of the CAPS Collaborative Representative- Tari explained she did go to the last meeting. They have done some new hiring, tuition rates are stable again, really some nice enrollments, and everything is going well.
- e. Report of the Union #73 Committee- Lynn explained they met briefly and they approved Dan's contract.
- f. Report of the Union #73 and RC Mahar Regional Joint Supervisory Committee -Tari explained we need to have a meeting within the next 4-5 weeks. Tari explained it is time for her to goal set for the next cycle.
- g. Report of the Playground Committee- Joanne explained they had \$800 raised prior to the pancake breakfast. After the pancake breakfast they had \$3,317. They had 136 people attend. They had 25 silent auction items. They are up to \$4,000 in total. Lynn explained they had a graduate student from Umass Amherst and they toured around the property; they chatted with her and they are hoping that she takes this on as her senior project since she is majoring in outdoor space.
- h. Report of the Regional Planning Committee- Lynn explained they are meeting Monday. Tari explained they reviewed the key data points for each school district and started a conversation on what makes sense for next steps. The next meeting will be a quick review of the data sets and talking about what are some options to start considering.

8. Superintendent's Report- Tari shared a few brief items from her Superintendent's report.

9. Minutes presented for approval: **Janice Coughlan moved to approve the minutes of September 7th, 2017. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

10. Executive Session: **Janice Coughlan moved to go into executive session in order to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

11. Date of Next Meetings: January 4th, 2018 at 5:30PM

12. Adjourn- **Janice Coughlan moved to adjourn at 7:25. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

Minutes taken by: Alyssa Magoffin

APPROVED: 1-11-2018

Signature of Secretary _____

DATE: _____

The agenda reflects topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed.

Public Comment Protocols

The School Committee welcomes public comment on items that are within the scope of the School Committee's responsibilities. The Public Comment agenda item is reserved for this purpose. Members of the public wishing to address the Committee should be aware of the following guidelines:

- The Chair will recognize those wishing to speak and give them the floor. Only persons recognized by the Chair may speak. For purposes of the minutes, speakers should identify themselves at the beginning of their remarks.
- The purpose of Public Comment is to receive input from the community, not to engage in prolonged conversation with the Committee. The Chair will ensure that any comment or question that requires a response from the committee or the School Department will be addressed in a timely manner.
- All comments should be addressed through the Chair, not any individual committee member or to others in attendance.
- Speakers are expected to respect confidentiality. This includes the confidentiality of the speaker's own child/ren as well as that of school staff and personnel.