

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee
Day/Date: Wednesday, March 20th, 2018
Time of Meeting: 5:30PM
Location: Fisher Hill School Library



School Committee Minutes

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

Members present: Lynn Peredina, Angela Danielson, and Jen Dejackome.

Members Absent: None.

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

2. Public Hearing for School Choice- Lynn explained annually we need to vote to accept School Choice Students which is why there are two different meetings. The committee welcomed Jen Dejackome.

The Education Reform Act of 1993 requires an annual public hearing and vote on School Choice- Lynn explained we vote on this every year and it always seems like this gets brought up every year. Lynn explains does anyone have any questions. Tari explained we also need to vote the number of seats as well. Joanne explained these numbers are based on not receiving the census quite yet. Lynn talked about the Montessori group being big right now. Joanne explained we did hear that no students were coming here for next year. Jen asked if she thinks the school choice numbers are dropping due to the new school in Athol. Tari explained we did an analysis and were wondering if this was part of the drop. Joanne explained the Kindergarten class thought they had Tools of the Mind and people openly admitted to that. Tari explained what is great about having the number of seats in regards to advertising properly.

Angela Danielson moved that the Petersham Center School will participate in the School Choice Program for the 2018-2019 school year with the following seats available: Kindergarten -10, Grade 1- 8 ,Grade 2- 0, Grade 3- 4, Grade 4- 2, Grade 5- 3, and Grade 6- 4. Jen Dejackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee
Day/Date: Thursday, March 8th, 2018
Time of Meeting: 5:45PM
Location: Staff Room

School Committee Minutes

1. Call to Order- Lynn Peredina, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

Member Present: Lynn Peredina, Angela Danielson, and Jen Dejackome

Members Absent:

Others:

2. Public Comment- no need for public comment.
3. Glimpse Into the Classroom - Melissa Fournier put together a presentation on Mathematics. Tari asked about the partnership in growing the instructional program in Math with working with Maggie Lawless. Melissa explained they are working on collaborative learning and how they can dig deeper with the students and make the concepts clearer. Jen Dejackome asked if they think the looping in regards to math is effective as the MCAS scores have been falling over the years. Tari explained that the intention behind it was to allow educators to focus on a couple of different content areas and do this well and being able to take kids from one year to the next. Tari explained the data is not bearing this to be effective which is obviously a problem. Tari stated it is very important to see the same two tests two years in a row in order to gain better data. Joanne explained she was just at the DESE yesterday and they are totally changing the accountability standards yet again and the overall consensus is that people are in disbelief and frustration in regards to this.
4. Report of the Petersham Teachers' Union- no designee present to report.
5. March Items
 - a. Mid-Year Review- Tari explained that this is in the shared file. This is an annual document that demonstrates growth and progress relative to the Strategic Plan. PCS has been extraordinary in their PD and efforts in curriculum and instruction as well as their continued work to win competitive grants, work on behavior management, renovate and refine blizzard bag practices and more. Lynn asked about standard based report cards and if it is changing. Tari explained we are slow tracking that right now because we have learned from DESE that they are going to come up with grade level exit outcomes so they would hate to redesign the report card at middle school if they are just going to have to change it in the fall. They are waiting for the grade level exit outcomes to be published. Jen asked if it will be the same. Joanne explained probably for this year it will be. Tari explained it is a huge paradigm shift because it is no longer a 99 average is an A. There is a list of standards; what your child should be able to know in all of these areas which would be have exceeded the standards, mastered the standards, not yet, etc. Tari explained everyone is a growth in progress and can they show you that they understand surface area for example. Jen explained she thinks that the problem is we all understand it here but it might be confusing. Lynn asked about the PD/Curriculum. Angela explained her daughter is very happy with the way things have gone. Joanne explained the 6th graders are very respectful and come to her with any issues that they have.
 - b. Meal Charging Policy for Review/Revision- Lynn explained we have copy of this from MASC for a boilerplate policy. Tari explained this isn't quite the perfect match to the Petersham Center School. Tari explained it does make mention of a point of sale which we don't currently have right now so this would need to be adjusted. Dan explained he would like for Kris Wallace to take a look at this also. Lynn asked about Nutrikids. Dan explained he would love to see it here but the upfront cost is expensive so we have been working towards saving towards this each year in the school lunch program. Lynn thought this looked okay the way it was other than the stuff we don't have.
 - c. Coordinated Program Review- Lynn explained there are copies in the packet on this. Tari explained that the CPR is something we do every 3 years and this is looking at our timelines, paperwork, handbooks to make sure they

meet compliance standards especially in Special Education. Tari explained that for special education compliance oversight in Massachusetts, the DESE conducts regular CPRs or Coordinator Program Reviews. Petersham Center School have strong implementation with only a few items partially implemented and one finding. The one finding is they need to regularly conduct an institutional self-evaluation on all programming relative to protected classes; partial implementation citations referred to having clear documentation on bullying plans, disciplinary procedures and responses to student violence; all of these items are being addressed by the Principal and Director of Special Education this month with a follow up in April.

d. FY19 Budget Development- Dan explained this is a first look at the FY19 budget. Dan explained the educational budget in the general fund there is a 5.28% increase which is substantial for this town. Dan explained on the bottom shows the overall budget. Dan explained overall spending plan it is about a 3.77% in spending. Dan explained Chapter 70 funds are barely moving up which makes it hard to budget effectively. Dan explained 2018 is the first year we received Title I Funds so we have not yet built those into the budget because we are unsure of that. Dan went over the history of spending from 2014 to 2018 which looks like an overall increase of 21.04% and this also illustrates that Chapter 70 Aid has only changed by \$9,840 over that period of time. Dan went over School Choice funds and the history of that. Dan went over the drivers in the budget and talked about special education as well as the change of the cost share ratio. Tari and Dan explained the increase to the Town of Petersham will be problematic so we will need advice from this committee on where we could look at making reductions. Jen asked what is the difference between the counselor and assessment. Joanne explained with this budget cut the assessment position down by a little over \$3,000. Dan explained they made a change in Ms. Saven which has saved a lot of money and Dan projects that to save \$12,000. The Director of Special Education recommends cutting the counselor hours back to 15 per week. This would save \$11,000 in salary and \$20,000 in health insurance. These changes would drop the \$76,000 needed to cut to \$44,000. Jen asked about the shared secretary that is helping with sped reporting. Tari explained this is Sheri Whitcomb and she has been doing this for the Petersham Center School. Dan explained that from FY17 to FY18 they reduced by 1.5 staff members so in regards to staffing they are pretty lean. Lynn asked what would be a fair percentage to approach the Town of Petersham with. Dan explained if we could come in at 3.5% increase from FY18 to FY19 which would mean a \$40,000 decrease from the presented budget is what he would recommend. Lynn explained the enrichment programs and counselor position are things we need to take into consideration. Dan explained they are looking at offering incentives at Mahar to moving to a spouse's health insurance plan with an incentive. Dan explained he has seen towns have done anywhere from a \$2,500 to \$5,000 incentive. Joanne stated that if anyone knows a way to get enrichment programs paid for by using a grant please let us know. Tari explained they will receive more feedback from the FinCom and Selectboard meeting. The committee decided that Thursday, April 5th at 5:30pm will be a budget workshop for the committee.

6. Matters for Action/Vote

a. 2018-2019 District Calendar- Lynn explained this is the one that has the later start date that was voted Unanimous.

Angela Danielson moved to approve the 2018-2019 district calendar draft #2. Jen Dejackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

7. Sub Committee/Liaison Updates

a. Report of the Mahar Representative- Lynn explained they met last month and they did a lot of general housekeeping. They had a great video presentation from Mahar students on e-learning. Lynn explained they were asked to attend a budget workshop for Mahar and needed to come up with ideas to cut \$725,000. Lynn explained a lot of interesting ideas were brought together by school committee members, staff members, selectboard members, and the administration team.

b. Report of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee- Lynn explained Janice was on this committee. When they reorganize in the month of April they can re-appoint someone to this position.

c. Report of the Policy Subcommittee- Tari explained she got an email today and they are emailing us sections that were revised. She will furnish this to all of the committees and you will have some time to review this. The first vote should be in June and second vote in September.

d. Report of the CAPS Collaborative Representative- no updates.

e. Report of the Union #73 Committee- no updates.

f. Report of the Union #73 and RC Mahar Regional Joint Supervisory Committee- no updates.

g. Report of the Playground Committee- Joanne is hopeful that the student from Umass will have something to report at the Town Meeting.

h. Report of the Regional Planning Committee- Tari explained they are sending out a more formal invitation for their next meeting. There's a new regional agreement pend over in the Berkshires that has positive influence on maybe the three districts here regionalizing sooner rather than later. Our attorney will be at the regional planning meeting on April 3rd and the benefits of regionalization are transportation reimbursement and in the first four or five years their are incentives with the State. Tari explained this could be a way to grab some efficiencies as a single district in the short term. In the long term we will still need to think broader. Tari appreciates that it looks at the Petersham Center School as a different cost center and if you migrated one single school committee and if you migrated to one single school district there is a chance for the Petersham to still vote on Petersham.

8. Superintendent's Report - Tari reported a few highlights from her Superintendent's Report that is in the shared file. Tari explained that Chief Cooley has requested that we not let the building be used during the time that school is in session due to safety reasons.

9. Minutes presented for approval: **Angela Danielson moved to approve the minutes from January 11th, 2018. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: All in favor. ABSTAINED: Jen Dejackome.**

10. Executive Session: not necessary

11. Date of Next Meeting: April 5th, 2018 at 5:30PM budget workshop . April 25th at 5:30pm for the public budget hearing.

12. Adjourn- **Angela Danielson moved to adjourn at 7:22pm. Jen Dejackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

Minutes taken by: Alyssa Magoffin

APPROVED: 4-5-18

Signature of Secretary _____
Lynn Peredina

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.