

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee

Day/Date: Thursday, January 4th, 2017

Time of Meeting: 5:30PM

Location: Staff Room



Minutes

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

Members Present: Lynn Peredina and Angela Danielson.

Members Absent: None

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

2. Public Comment- The parents that were present at the meeting brought up concerns relative to the change in the Physical Education Department in regards to not doing as competitive activities anymore. Lynn Peredina explained that there are some misconceptions and perhaps some miscommunication as to why these changes need to be implemented. Lynn explained that the role of the school committee is to oversee the educational goals of this school and there are standards in place for every department and every curriculum that is set by the state of Massachusetts. Joanne Menard explained that there are standards set by the DESE and they are working on improving them in all departments and making sure they follow them. Joanne explained that she would love to have parent and community feedback on ideas within the standards moving forward. Tari also explained that they are going through a level of refinement on all departments including Physical Education. Joanne explained she will set up a time to meet with parents regarding this concern. Tari explained she wished they communicated this change differently to parents of Petersham students.

The next thing the parents wanted to address were still some concerns in regards to Flurry Folders where they are elongating summer and not receiving the same education they would be as they are sitting in the desks at school. Lynn stated that are all good suggestions, this is the 2nd year of the pilot program and they will take all of this into consideration next year. It was suggested that an open forum on Flurry Folders be set up with Principal Menard as well to address all of the concerns.

The third thing the parents wanted to address is the jurisdiction of the school building. The issue of the Frontier Girls being denied was brought up as an example. Tari explained this is a very complex issue that is something she will need to connect again with Joanne about. Lynn is planning on consulting with Tari, Joanne and the selectman in regards to the use of the building.

3. Glimpse Into the Classroom - Civic Engagement- Nichole Ruggles gave a brief presentation on Civic Engagement and how they have been working the history of Petersham into the curriculum.
4. Report of the Petersham Teachers' Union- No report from the school committee.
5. January Items
 - a. Special Education Update- Tari explained that Director Phillips has provided a report on the growth and changes in Special Education.
 - b. Technology Update- Tari explained that Adam Suzor, Suzor IT has provided all three committees with a mid-year update that can be found in the Superintendent Report. Petersham will be undergoing a website redesign this spring and the district should see an increase in internet speeds for July 1.

c. Grants Update- Tari explained there is a grants summary in the folder that shows your grant revenues.

d. District Calendar, first reading- Lynn explained there are two versions of this. Tari explained these are both in progress; there is a subcommittee of all three districts working together on this calendar. Tari explained it does include start dates, convocation, etc. and they are looking for feedback as to what is more amenable. Dianne explained she remembers getting a survey of dates. Tari explained it looks overwhelmingly it looks like people were in favor of the later start to the school year. Half days got brought up. Tari explained we are going to try to reduce early release and late starts for families.

6. Matters for Action/Vote

a. Inter-Municipal Agreement- Dan explained the end of the year report. Dan explained we need an inter-municipal agreement that explains how the town costs are derived; this is what the document he has drafted includes.

Angela Danielson moved to approve the intermunicipal agreement between the school district and the Town of Petersham. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

b. Annual Town Report- Dan explained we have talked about the numbers and looked at FY17 to FY16.

Angela Danielson moved to approve the 2017 town report. Lynn Peredina seconded: VOTED: Unanimous.

Lynn wanted to say that there is an opening for the School Committee. January 16th is the deadline to put these papers in.

7. Sub Committee/Liaison Updates

a. Report of the Mahar Representative- Lynn Peredina explained that we have not met since our last meeting. They have a meeting at Mahar in about 2 weeks.

b. Report of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee- Dan explained we are in the process of developing the budget. Dan explained we have a meeting with town officials on Tuesday to talk about the budget.

c. Report of the Policy Subcommittee- Tari explained they met in December and they finished all the policies. Tari stated that the MASC are going to be pulling everything together that the subcommittee has approved. One of the things that is outstanding is the building use for Petersham. Tari is hoping in March to have a first look at these policies.

d. Report of the CAPS Collaborative Representative- Tari explained that we were supposed to have a meeting at CAPS today but we do have their annual audit to share with you as well as the Director's report.

e. Report of the Union #73 Committee- Lynn explained that the Union 73 has not met on its own right Now.

f. Report of the Union #73 and RC Mahar Regional Joint Supervisory Committee- Lynn explained we met the week before Christmas and Tari included her goals and plans for the year.

g. Report of the Playground Committee- Lynn explained that we have not met since after the pancake breakfast. Melanson explained he just received an email for a \$50,000 grant for playground so she can forward that to Lynn Peredina. Lynn explained we had a student out from Umass who toured the property with us and she just reached out to Joanne as using this for her senior project. Lynn explained we told her to think big; not just a playground for the kids but would like to turn this into something bigger.

h. Report of the Regional Planning Committee- Lynn explained they have a meeting in a couple of weeks. Tari explained one thing that is in the file is just an opportunity to have a conversation with Pioneer Valley Regional School District. Tari explained they are struggling with their financial outlook and she was given the go ahead by the three chairs to just put out there a thought and look at maybe sharing

personnel. Tari explained they have a departing Superintendent of Schools, they do not have a business manager. Tari explained this is up to the School Committee chairs to start this conversation. Tari explained the committees will need to have a conversation on this; we need some short term solutions as well as long term solutions.

8. Superintendent's Report- Tari explained she has covered everything in her report earlier. Tari explained she saw the performance of the Christmas Carol here are Petersham.
9. Minutes presented for approval: **Angela Danielson moved to approve the minutes from November 9, 2017. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**
10. Executive Session: not necessary
11. Date of Next Meetings: March 8, 2018 at 5:30pm.
12. Adjourn- **Angela Danielson moved to adjourn at 6:43pm. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

Minutes taken by: Alyssa Magoffin

APPROVED: 3-20-2018

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.