

Petersham Center School Committee Minutes
June 26, 2013

In Attendance: Chuck Berube, Lynn Peredina, Tari Thomas, Ann Degnan and Paul Koulouris

Not In Attendance: Rebecca Phillips, Pat Martin, Russell Fontaine

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chuck.

Minutes: May 14th minutes were revised as follows: Paragraph 5 the word budget should be changed to appropriation. Paragraph 7 – Strike the last two sentences. On the second page, third sentence change -make it difficult to keep track- to- be difficult to answer to the extent that Marianne asked. Second page second paragraph add IEP before anniversaries.

Tari explained to the Committee that she could track which students can get reimbursement and if it is actual for each student.

A motion was made by Chuck to approve the minutes with the changes made, seconded and approved with All in Favor.

Calendar: The calendar was voted previously with 1 day omitted for Petersham Center School. The ending date was originally the same as Ralph C. Mahar but needs to be revised to add one more day for Petersham because of a Professional Development day.

A motion was made by Chuck to approve the calendar with change, seconded and approved with All in Favor.

Budget: Chuck has visited with Tari regarding the Budget and feels that things are going well. Tari informed the Committee that Stacey from Mahar has been visiting with Ann regarding the new Budget Sense program and that this will allow for better and more frequent monitoring of the expenditures. There will be two layers of check with the Principal and then the Superintendent. Tari also explained that there will be a clearer accounting of the School Choice Budget with this new accounting system.

Chuck brought up the questions from the Public that needed to be addressed and would like to invite the Finance Committee members to help with the Finances and to be at the meetings. He feels that there will be a connection with them.

Tari informed the Committee about the Entry Plan that she is crafting which she hopes to use to build relationships with the officials in the Town. She will touch base with them on the finances of the school and feels that she should be the one responsible for sitting with these officials and sharing with them. Chuck feels that politically the Finance Committee has a say in the School Choice money.

Chuck informed the Committee that there will be three Finance members leaving and new ones coming in. He would really like to see Marianne on the Committee and working with the school. Chuck brought up the long range planning and would like for a long range planning committee to be formed.

A member of the audience suggested that maybe a strategic plan should be put into place. Chuck said that this is being looked into. Chuck would like the committee to consist of Marianne Reynolds, Kevin Shortis, School Committee members, Paul Koulouris, and then asked Lynn what her thoughts were. Tari asked if Chuck envisioned this happening in September, as we are starting with a new Principal and a new year and thought that maybe it should wait awhile. Maybe this could be placed on the agenda for the September meeting. This would allow Tari to make connections with Town officials.

Chuck thought that a demographic of incoming Petersham students should be done. He noted that the Quabbin District's demographics showed a drop in the number of students. Maybe we could check with Maureen Marshall regarding this. Tari asked if the Committee wanted to look at having a facilitator run this new Long Range Plan Committee. Chuck mentioned our moderator and Tari mentioned that it might be better for someone outside the community to be the facilitator.

Chuck mentioned that a comment was made at the meeting with the teachers after negotiations regarding computers in the school. Chuck wondered what has happened regarding this and why are the computers at the school not in working order? Tari told the Committee that she would develop a capital plan on this and would speak with Gary Bunker about inventory and our infrastructure, as well as hardware and software needs.

Collective Bargaining/Contract and Evaluation – Tari brought forth two copies of the Settlement Agreement between the Petersham School Committee and the Petersham Educational Association for signature. After briefly going over the agreement, Chairman Berube signed both copies and gave to the Secretary for signature by the President of the Association, Wendie LeBlanc. A letter addressed to Mr. Baldassarre regarding the ratification of the agreement was noted.

Summer schedule for School Committee was agreed upon: July 24, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. and August 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent's Report: Tari informed the Committee that Chris will start on July 1st and will be shadowed by Principal Phillips a few times. He will have an entry plan for July. Tari informed the Committee that her entry plan will be ready soon. She asked that Lynn and Russell give Chuck feedback on the plan. She will start mid-July working on the plan.

Tari informed the Committee that they needed to take a Vote of Assurance to authorize the Superintendent to sign the State and Federal Grants.

A motion was made to –vote that the Petersham Center School Committee authorizes the Superintendent to sign the statement of Assurances/Master Agreement for State and Federal Grants effective July 1, 2013 certifying that the Petersham Center School and/or its agents will comply with all Federal and State regulations, conditions, statutes and provision pertaining to the application for and receipt of expenditure of grants by Chuck. Seconded and voted All in Favor to pass.

Motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. made by Chuck and seconded by Lynn with an All in Favor passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.