

PETERSHAM CENTER SCHOOL AGENDA

OCTOBER 23, 2013

LIBRARY

6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chuck Berube, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Members Present: Chuck Berube, Russell Fontaine, and Lynn Peredina.

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Tari Thomas, Principal Christopher Dodge, Alyssa Roberts,

II. HEARING FOR VISITORS

- a. **Well Domes-** Paul Varney who is a landowner and a resident of Petersham for over 50 years and has been certified by the state as a certified water operator. Paul passed out a picture book to show the Committee what these well domes look like. Paul stated that these devices prevent the well from getting a bacteria hit or any large critter getting into the well as well as any intentional damage being done to the well. Chuck Berube asked in his experience is there ever a need to access the well head and with the dome could we be making that a problem for ourselves? Paul stated that he has not seen this because the only reason you would ever need to access the well head would be if the pump were to break and to take this device off it would only take about 10 minutes with town equipment. Chuck asked if this has gone through any approval with the DEP? Paul stated that he does deal with the DEP a lot and about 6 months after he put one on his well they called him to do a sanitary survey and ended up publishing an article stating that they are in favor of these and see no problem. Chuck Berube stated that this is something that should be run by the Director of Building and Grounds and needs to be looked at all aspects of safety. Paul stated that this would be something he is interested in donating and are normally a \$2,500 project and in return he would just like to publicly say that he has installed a well dome for the Petersham Center School. Chuck stated that this is a generous donation and they will look into the next steps regarding this.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES & WARRANTS:

Russell moved approval of the September 26, 2013 School Committee minutes. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **2013-2014 Budget/Financial Report-** Tari Thomas wanted to give a few updates to the committee. Tari gave the Committee her Financial Update stating that Christopher Dodge has been working thoroughly on the FY13 End of Year Report which is almost complete and will be submitted by the October 31st deadline. Chuck asked if this was something relatively new because he doesn't remember hearing about this in the past? Tari stated no, Rebecca Phillips did this before Christopher Dodge was working on this and since this is Chris's first time doing this report he

has been receiving step by step training to help him get through this process. Chuck asked if there were any anticipated issues? Mr. Dodge stated no and this is almost complete. Tari went on to state that the School Choice is now being sent monthly and the town has received its first three payments totaling \$99,792. Chuck asked if this is in line with earlier projections. Tari answered yes.

Tari stated that as recommended by the Committee they are going through the process of the Franklin County Group Bus bid and it's actually a 5 year bid for FY15 through FY19 as well as bidding with just themselves and bidding with Orange Elementary and Mahar in a collaborative bid. Lynn Peredina wanted to ask one thing regarding this. Lynn stated that since she had just sat through a Mahar meeting and they discussed Bus Bids and they did not decide to go through with the Franklin Country Group Bid would it be worth it for such a small school to do this if this has a cost along with it? Tari stated that it will be a smaller cost because it's based on the size of the school but they have not given me a definite figure yet. Chuck Berube stated that if the cost is \$100 in order to get a lower bid he thinks it's worth it.

Tari moved onto the next stating that Petersham Center School has locked in a rate of \$3.26 per gallon for oil. Chuck stated that in the future if they were to ever need to replace the boiler system he thinks it would be cost efficient to look into switching over to gas because that is a lot cheaper. Chuck asked Russ if he could keep his eye out for the pricing of this? Russ asked if Jay could provide him with the boiler and burner tag this is something he could look into. Tari stated that the new financial software is being utilized to its full capability and is able to provide accurate reports. The next thing Tari wanted to bring up was that she investigated the Homeless Transportation reimbursement and would out that this was an expense made in FY12 in the amount of \$7,269 and the amount that was reimbursed to the town was \$7,727 which is remarkable because this is an unfunded mandate and normally districts do not get reimbursed for this.

- b. Proposed Budget Timeline-** Tari Thomas handed out the timeline showing from October 2013 through June 2014 regarding the budget explaining that the soonest step will be meeting with Administrative Teams to Reflect on FY14 Budgets and Review Program Priorities/ District Goals for FY15.
- c. Transportation Bids-** Tari Thomas wanted to state in addition to what was mentioned earlier that they will be holding a bidder conference on Tuesday, October 29th at 11 am at the GCC Downtown Campus. There will also be two bid openings, one for individual awards and one for a single collective award will be on Thursday, November 12th at 11 and 11:30 am which will be held at Franklin County Technical School.
- d. Population Data-** Tari Thomas stated that she wanted to report back on the findings from researching the library data. Tari stated that the library data is out of date. Tari went on to discuss that the NESDEC (New England School Development Council) enrollment projection would be the best resource to inform us on the future. This study is free with the cost of new membership. The cost to become an affiliate would be \$523 or 50% for the first year, 75% for the second year, and 100% in year 3. Tari did stated that you do not need to become a member in the second year once they receive the date the Committee can decide if they want to move forward with NESDEC or not longer be an affiliate. Chuck stated that this would be great if there is nowhere else that they are going to get this type of evaluation for a better price. Ann Townsend asked what else comes along with the membership of NESDEC? Tari stated that she has not yet looked into the other features relative to membership. Chuck asked if Ann could look into this? Ann stated that yes she could do that. Chuck asked if they should talk about what line this comes out of. Tari stated that

this could be something pulled from School Choice. Chuck stated that he wants to be able to look at the budget and identify all expenditures, that way there is never a casual expense not identified by a line item. Tari stated the only reason she recommended School Choice was because with 0 based budgeting when we spend this \$523 from a line that already had ways to use those funds they are going to eliminate something else by doing this. Russ stated that he does think it needs to be put into a correct line item and it was decided on line 2243. Tari stated that she will proceed with this.

Russell Fontaine moved approval to allow the Superintendent to expend \$523 for joining NESDEC. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Budget Timeline-** Spoken under old business.
- b. **Report of Meeting with AFC-** Chuck Berube stated that there was one bottom line request which is to figure out how much it would cost to run this school with no School Choice Students and what is the School Choice money coming in.
 - i. **MSBA Loan impact if building is utilized differently.**
 - ii. **Free/ Reduced lunch figures of town students vs. choice students.**
 - iii. **Total operation costs of running school without any program changes and students of choice.**
 - iv. **Determine marginal cost of adding 60 more students.**
 - v. **Determine the cost per pupil.**

Tari stated that the next meeting will be December 10th at 7pm at Petersham Center School and the goal is to share the info in the items presented and provide a first look at the FY15 budget.

VI. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-

- a. **Superintendent Evaluation Update-** Tari Thomas wanted to share an update relevant to the Superintendents Evaluation and the Superintendents Hiring Timeline. She gave the committee a Timeline for both of these subcommittees. Tari stated that yesterday she met with all 3 chairs to take a look at this timeline for the Superintendents Evaluation as well as the hiring for the Superintendent position. Their thoughts were that each of the 3 committees needs to determine who from those committees wants to be a part of either the Search Committee or the Superintendents Evaluation Committee. For the Superintendents Evaluation subcommittee she has requested that each of the 3 chairs be on this committee as well as 1 or 2 members from each committee. Russell decided that he is going to be on the Search Subcommittee and Lynn will be on the Superintendent Evaluation Committee. Bridget Koetsch asked if there will be teacher representation for the hiring committee? Tari stated yes there will but this will go through the beginning steps before they ask for teacher representation.

VII. REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL

- a. **2013 MCAS Report-** Christopher Dodge wanted to give an overview of the MCAS data results. As you know Petersham Center School has been designated as a Level 2 school. Chris stated that they are making steady progress in achievement goals and the teachers are heavily involved in this. Chris is happy to report that our Language Arts has been steady for years and they had a drop in the proficient category only because those students have moved to the advanced category. They have 35% advanced in ELA and 0% failures. The state average is 19% for advanced and 8% for failures. Chris stated that where they do fall a little short is in the Math area

because the standards have changed and all schools around the state are looking at filling those gaps. Chris stated that in Math advanced went from 5% to 10% and they were below the state average in failures at 6%. Chris stated that a lot of the ones that are in the category of needs improvement are very close to being in the proficient category. Chris stated that this has been a challenge but the teachers are ready and willing to make sure that the students are getting what they need. Chris stated that the new curriculum is now aligned with the standards and they are hoping that this will show a lot of improvement in years to come. Chuck asked if Math was his area of specialty when he was at Mahar? Chris stated that yes and he has really enjoyed that piece at Petersham and he has taught a couple math lessons in the 4th and 5th grade.

Ann Townsend asked what is the new curriculum that they are using? Chris stated that it's called Envisions Math from Pearson Educators. Ann asked if this is relatively new? Tari stated that yes this is relatively new and is relevant to the common core standards and is a really powerful resource for students and teachers. Ann asked if there are teacher workshops regarding this? Tari stated that the Orange teachers had a workshop at the end of last year in Envisions and this is something that Orange and Petersham want to take a look at because every time a school is taking on a new program it should be looked at. Chris stated that a great thing about this program is that they offer a lot of Webinars that are available to teachers because there is an online component for teachers and parents as well. With this program parents can view how their children have done with assignments. Ann Townsend thinks that it is very exciting and knows that across the country Math is an area that needs work and it would be wonderful to see Math right up with English Language Arts. Chris stated that it really gets to the heart of what math is and is more about getting the students to talk about the math and how does it apply to them which he thinks is very important and he is really excited about the new standards.

VIII. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING- Bus Bid update, Budget process for FY15, walkthrough of building with Jay at 4:30pm.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

X. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS- November 20th

XI. ADJOURNMENT- *Russell Fontaine motioned to adjourn. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: unanimous.*

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.