

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee
Day/Date: Thursday, November 17th, 2016
Time of Meeting: 5:30PM
Location: Teacher's Room



Minutes

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

Members Present: Lynn Peredina, Angela Danielson, and Janice Coughlan.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Principal Joanne Menard, Superintendent Tari Thomas, Director of Finance Daniel Haynes, Alyssa Roberts.

2. Public Comment- Chip from the broadband committee is here to present. They are in the process of trying to bring high speed broadband into the town of Petersham. Chip did a internet test when he was here last Friday it was 9mb down and about 2.5 mb up. Chip explained he knows you get your IT services out of Orange; but he wants to make sure you have access to everything that everyone else in town will have. \$560,000 they are going to be asking the town for in order to fund this process. Chip is here just to say that he hopes you support the decision. Lynn Peredina asked their is a buy in for individuals is that the same for the school also. The buy in is \$500. Once they reach the 270 subscriber crew.

Janice Coughlan moved to formally endorse the work of the broadband committee and publicly support it. Angela Danielson seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

Bridgette Koetsch wanted to mention that we lost Kay Simms. Bridgette explained she was a wonderful member of the school.

3. Glimpse Into the Classroom, STEAM programming- Kate Arsenault did a presentation on Glimpse into Makerspace.
4. Report of the Petersham Teachers' Union- Wendie Leblanc explained everything is going well, the school year is flying by.
5. November Items
 - a. Budget Timeline- Tari explained the the FY18 Budget Timeline is in your shared file. Now that Chapter 70 information comes so late in the season, the timeline shifts for budget adoption and hearing to March And April makes much more sense. Dan explained this is the third budget cycle for him; this needs to tell our story of what we are doing here at the school.
 - b. Annual Review of Safety Policies/Procedures- Tari explained that in your shared file you can see the slide presentation. This year there is a simple fact sheet. The district is purchasing COPsync, an emergency software system to improve responsiveness by police and fire departments in case of a threat. We are currently installing and will start our training on the service soon. Tari wanted to thank Chief Cooley for bringing the system to all three districts and a report will be linked to this document and in your shared file by early next week.

Safety Update:

- c. October 1 Enrollment Report- Tari explained this is in your shared file that indicates what was submitted for October 1 enrollment. This enrollment informs your Chapter 70 for the next fiscal year and you came in at 125 students.

- d. Assessment Plan/Presentation of Student Achievement Data- Principal Menard will provide the Committee with an update on the district's MCAS and PARCC performance and accountability status. A copy of this presentation will be placed in the shared file.
- e. E-Learning Pilot/Blizzard Bag Pilot- Tari explained that this is an opportunity to pilot student learning time during a snow day cancellation. Since structured learning time needs to be approved by the local school committee she is hoping that you will support up to five E-Learning or Blizzard Bag days in a pilot for the 2016-2017 school year. Tari explained that students will have up to a week to complete assignments, teachers and paras will be available via email, and Google Hangouts to work with students. In the spring students, staff and parents will be surveyed relative to its effectiveness and this information will be furnished to the school committee in order to determine whether or not to use Blizzard Bags for the subsequent years. Joanne explained we had a PD day on Wednesday and part of this was to talk about how to make blizzard games. Joanne explained we are looking to go buy 2.5 gallon bags and specialist like Kate would be contributing. Wendie explained when she first started thinking about it because she wanted to be mindful of the standards. Wendie explained once she came up with a format which would list the activities that she would like them done. Janice likes the idea that its projects that are fun to do. Janice asked what would do if a child did not complete anything. Tari explained they have 7 days to do it and on a case by case basis they can decide whether it was not done because they were struggling or because of another reason. There was a lively discussion in regards to them.

Janice Coughlan moved to pilot a Blizzard Bag Program for all snow days will permit students to participate in structured learning time via directed study, independent study and/or technology-assisted learning for school cancellation days during the 2016-2017 school year. Angela Danielson seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

- f. MA Rural Schools Initiative- Tari explained that the MA Rural School's Initiative was held at Mahar on October 26th. Tari explained that Senator Rosenberg visited with the group prior to meeting with four sections from the history department. This group is seeking sparsity aid due to a variety of challenges that range from transportation to special education costs due to the distance and in addition the group penned a document on the Importance of Schools in Rural Communities and a Resolution for Support of the Initiative. If so desired you can vote in support of the resolution using the language below. Janice asked what would it mean if we voted this. Tari explained we would put our names on the list to support this initiative and keeping the schools viable for the communities.

Angela Danielson moved to approve Resolution In Support of MA Rural Schools Strong local communities are the best habitat for excellence in education and education is the responsibility of the whole community. WHEREAS, All children should have access to equitable and equal educational opportunities, regardless of where they live. WHEREAS, All students should be engaged in excellent academic programs that guide them to understand the place where they live and help to build stronger and better communities. WHEREAS, Schools should be accessible to students' homes, governed by people they serve with leadership that reflects the composition of the community, financed to ensure excellent outcomes, maintained, and designed for full community participation. WHEREAS, Teachers should be prepared to instruct and lead in a rural setting, content and culturally competent, able to connect learning with place, and compensated fairly. WHEREAS, Assessment should be designed to inform and influence learning and instruction, measuring student progress and teacher performance using multiple methods. WHEREAS, Technology should be used to increase interaction between and among local places, with universal access to telecommunications services. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Petersham School Committee commits support of the MA Rural Schools Initiative. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

- 6. Matters for Action/Vote-Tari explained that these are boilerplate policies and are a requirement by the State in response to the opioid crisis and are expected to be posted on our website as soon as possible. The Policy Review Subcommittee can make refinements/additions once they reach sections G, I, and J.
 - a. GBEC Drug-Free Workplace
 - b. IHAMB - Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs
 - c. JICH - Alcohol Tobacco and Drug Use by Students
 - d. JLCD - Administering Medication to Students

Janice Coughlan moved to approve a first vote of the following policies- GBEC Drug-Free Workplace, IHAMB Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs, JICH Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students and JLCD Administering Medication to Students. Angela Danielson seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

7. Sub Committee/Liaison Updates

- a. Report of the Mahar Representative- Lynn explained we voted policies, we reviewed student achievement data, there was a pilot program of 8th grade algebra and the assessment that those students took 100% of the students that took this exam came as advanced. They approved 6 new curriculum which Lynn explains. Mahar is now 1:1 with chromebooks.
- b. Report of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee- Janice explained that Dan is doing a wonderful job in regards to the budget. Dan explained we did a wrapup of FY16 which helps in planning in the next year's budget.
 - i. Playground- Janice explained they started a subcommittee to see if we could start working towards a new playground. Joanne explained there are 6 volunteers so far. They are having an organizational meeting on Thursday, December 1st to talk about how to raise money to do this.
 - ii. Storage for Town- Joanne explained that the town is seeking space to store files for the Town. Joanne explained we are going to need to have everyone clear this out.

Angela Danielson moved to approve to allow the Town Hall to utilize a portion of the upstairs in the old section of the building to store the files. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
 - iii. Telephone System- Tari explained that the telephone system for the school experienced a breakdown in September, since the system and its components were obsolete, a new, cloud-based telephone system has been installed. The cost for 26 telephones totaled \$4,268.60. Dan explained that was imperative due to the safety issue. Dan wanted to give a shoutout to Jay and Justin the building is looking great.
 - iv. Superintendency Union- Tari explained the homework from last meeting was to review the Superintendency Union with Orange Elementary. Tari explains this is to give a name and a number to our arrangement. Tari explained that Orange unanimously organized to vote in favor of this. Janice asked if we would still keep our own budget. Tari said yes. Tari explained this would make what is happening official. Tari explained this should have happened shortly after the regionalization failed and the first step would simply be a vote to be a union with orange elementary.

Angela Danielson moved to approve to formalize as a Superintendency Union with the Orange Elementary School District. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
 - v. Regionalization Planning Grant- Tari explained there is a grant program through Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, in her role as chair of the Community Compact Cabinet, recently announced that the cabinet has \$2 million available in a new Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Program open to entities including municipalities, regional school districts, and school districts considering forming a region or regionalizing services. There will be two competitive application rounds for the grant, one from October 15-November 15, 2016, and the second from January 1-February 1, 2017. Tari would like to apply on behalf of the Consolidated Districts for Regionalization and this would support legal counsel, regionalization counsel, meeting facilitation and public relations. Tari explained to have the funds through a grant in order to do it well and right is important and she is willing to write that for you.

Angela Danielson moved to endorse the Superintendent of Schools in applying for Efficiency and Regionalization grant. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
- c. Report of the Policy Subcommittee- Janice explained we are on g now and going along very well.
- d. Report of the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee- Lynn explained we did meet as a committee and Tari presented us with her goals which are included in the shared file. Lynn explained we all accepted and we are excited to have her.

i. Superintendent's Goals for 2016-2017- Tari explained that her goals for 2016-2017 are around focus Aligned and Consistently Delivered Curriculum, Effective Instruction, Supports & Interventions, Implementation of the Strategic Plan and formalizing as a Superintendency Union.

Angela Danielson moved to approve the superintendent's goals for 2016-2017. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

8. Superintendent's Report- Tari highlighted a couple of items that are included in the shared file.

9. Minutes presented for approval: Angela Danielson moved to approve the September 8th, 2016 minutes. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

10. Executive Session: not necessary

11. Date of Next Meeting: January 5th, 2017

Lynn Peredina wanted to ask Joanne when notices go out does that go out to the parents as well. Lynn asks is there a way to send it out via email. Lynn asks if there is a way to email the blast. Joanne explained we had the same concern shared at Mahar. Tari explained there is a way to easily send the newsletter via email. Joanne explained she will put the step back in.

12. Adjourn- Angela Danielson moved to adjourn at 7:30pm. Janice Coughlan seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

Minutes Taken By: Alyssa Roberts

APPROVED: January 5, 2017

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.