

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee

Day/Date: Monday, January 6, 2019

Time of Meeting: 6:15 P.M.

Location: Staff Room



School Committee Minutes

Members Present: Lynn Peredina, Angela Danielson and Jennifer DeJackome.

Members Absent: None.

Others: Superintendent Tari Thomas, Principal Eric Glazier, Director of Finance & Operations Michele Tontodonato, Wendie Leblanc, Aaron O'Connor, Nichole Ruggles, Tracy Smith, Melissa Clark and Alyssa Magoffin.

1. Call to Order- Lynn Peredina called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.
2. Public Comment- none needed.
3. Report of the Teachers' Union- Wendie Leblanc explained we have sent the intend to bargain letter with dates to start the process.
4. Public Hearing for the Student Opportunity Act- Tari explained that this new bill is providing an increase to education funding by 1.5 billion dollars. This will provide significant dollars to those districts with high poverty rates, this will be seen in an increase in Chapter 70 Aid over the next seven years. It recognizes that employee and retiree health insurance costs are rising, the increased costs of providing special education and EL (English Learner) needs and additional support for circuit breaking, charter tuition and guidance services. The district is expected to hold a public hearing to solicit input from the community on how and where the additional funding will be best allocated. Petersham will receive approximately \$2,000 in additional funding for FY21. Jen mentioned the STEM after school program as a thought. Eric explained parents have been mentioning the afterschool program recently so that would be a good idea.
5. January Items
 - a. Principal's Report- Eric Glazier wanted to let the committee know that Mr. Newton who was teaching STEM/STEAM at Petersham Center 1 day a week took a full time opportunity at OES. He is looking to have the committee consider hiring an artisan in residence. This would allow the school to hire someone with a science background that doesn't necessarily have to have a teaching license. Tari explained she will consult legal counsel to see what they recommend moving forward. Eric plans on presenting the draft of the School Improvement Plan at the next meeting. Eric went over the new first grade configuration. He explained that right now this class is struggling and we need to provide them with support and intervention. Jen asked who is going to take the literacy that Melissa Clark was doing. Eric explained that Missy has really been providing support to Grade 1 all year so there will now be more support staff coming and going through that room. Tari wanted to commend Principal Glazier and his staff for their risk taking.
 - b. Annual Achievement Review- Tari explained that Marie Cole put this together to give the committee an overview on the performance on the Petersham results. Tari explained the improvement that Petersham has seen in their cohorts is very impressive. Eric explained that he is trying to make parents aware of tardies and absences and how that affects the performance at the end of the school year. Tari explained if you really want to drill down into the details you can always call Director Cole.
 - c. Staff Recognition for MCAS- Eric Glazier wanted to recognize Aaron O'Connor, Nichole Ruggles and Tracy Smith their efforts in the long nights of lesson planning, setting up science labs on Sunday the growth in the MCAS improvement would not have been possible. Eric wanted to state that Petersham was one of 67 schools across the state to be recognized for their growth. Petersham had entire classrooms that were not in the underperforming category. They also had a student in the 6th grade that got a perfect score on the MCAS. He thought it was important to recognize these teachers for their efforts. Tari commended this group and thanked them all.
 - d. Grants Update- Tari explained these are all just for your information. This year Petersham are coming in just over \$56,545 which is approximately \$800 more than last year's grant total.

- e. Special Education Update- Tari explained this is a short narrative from Director Phillips.
- f. Playground Renovation Update- Eric explained he is hoping to have a joint meeting since there are 3 proposals for a playground. He would like to approach the town and have the town consider the playground project as a capital project which was a recommendation from a selectboard member. For us to continue to try to raise \$1,000 here and there it will take a long time to get there. In order to put in a quality playground that is ADA compliant and safe we are talking about \$50,000 project. Eric is hoping that the town is willing to help since we have close to \$15,000 towards the project already.
- g. District Calendar Review- Tari explained this is the committee's first look at the calendar. This calendar is generated by the three districts working together. Tari went over the review of the calendar with the committee. If there is any feedback just let us know and we can get it back to Marie. Nichole Ruggles asked about combining February and April break into one March break. Tari agreed that this is something to consider in the future. Melissa explained the reason we do it is due to high flu season and time to clean out the schools. Tari explained that the ability to meet special education needs is what is holding back the e learning at the state level. Tari explained the parents and staff that were apprehensive about this have shifted their perspective so it will be interesting to see if things change at the state levels. Jen explained she thinks that parents were confused at first that these were optional, which was part of the problem.
- h. FY20 Enrollment Report- Tari explained that there are two reports and one is NESDEC which is for all three districts combined. There are 14 more students in the district and there are more Petersham resident students than school choice students. The total in the building is right around 131.
- i. Review of Choice Program- Tari explained she has included the guide to school choice in Massachusetts as well as last year's planning and seat availability. She stated that Petersham has always been really on top of who is out there. She explained that the school has always been very good about knowing the healthy balance on class size and who will be moving in from Montessori. Eric explained we have to be conservative because where we set our school choice because people can move to town and influx class sizes. Eric explained parents have to fill out a school choice application; when it comes in it needs to be dated and stamped and we will go based on when they are received. Lynn explained we can always look at the 19 number to try to adjust that. Lynn explained she believes we went with 19 so that we were trying to fill this school. Tari explained increasing revenue with Petersham residents is the best case scenario. Wendie explained anything below 20 or under is the best number. Tari explained we can get through this budget cycle a little bit and then maybe this committee can revisit this policy and do some adjustments to it. Eric explained because we are cutting the 1st grade class in half for a number of reasons; he is not proposing to opening this up to school choice students. We are doing this for a specific purpose and reason but he wanted to make it clear that no more school choice will be added into that grade.
- j. Substitute Salary Rates- Michele explained that on January 1st minimum wage was increased to \$12.75. The daily substitute rate changed due to this. She explained this is the one thing we will have to look at to make sure Step 1 for the hourly employees move up according to the minimum wage requirements.

5. Matters for Action or Vote

- a. Rural Schools Coalition Membership- Tari explained that the Massachusetts Rural School Coalition has been ardently lobbying to address the needs of rural districts; membership for Petersham is \$150 and will be used to offset the costs of this non-profit. Their efforts brought \$15,000 to the district this year. Tari explained this will support travel any kinds of web design to get that message out there. Right now she is part of the small group that does the Facebook page.
Angela Danielson moved to approve \$250 for Massachusetts Rural Schools Coalition membership. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
- b. Annual Town Report- Principal Glazier explained this will be for the town meeting in the spring. Eric explained that he tried to use things from prior reports as well as new work. Includes is student data, curriculum, tech and safety news. Eric explained we did not get the grant for the cameras but we did get the grant for the protective window tinting. He will try to incorporate some building security cameras into the next budget cycle. Eric explained some of the quotes for the swipe tags were very expensive so he worked with Suzor IT and he thought the cameras along with the night vision is sufficient.
Angela Danielson moved to approve the 2019 Annual Report of the Petersham School Committee. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
- c. Lunch Price Increase and Participation Data- Eric explained that he believes this was discussed at the last school committee meeting to increase the school lunch from \$2.75 to \$3.00 to bring the standards into line with the rest of the state.
Angela Danielson moved to increase the price of school lunch from \$2.75 to \$3.00 beginning February 3, 2020.

- d. JBB Equal Opportunity Education. JFABD Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services. JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children. JFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
Angela Danielson moved to approve JBB, JFAB, JFABE and JFAVF as revised and/or new policies for the district. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
- h. Superintendent Search Committee Composition- Lynn explained that we have been meeting to establish the list for the Superintendent Search. They don't want the group being over 15 but they want all the voices heard.

The Superintendent Search committee be composed of a representative from: Ralph C. Mahar Regional School Committee, Orange Elementary School Committee, Petersham Center School Committee, Petersham Town Official, Orange Town Official, Administrator from one of the 3 Districts, Director of Finance and Operations, Director of Curriculum or Special Education, Ralph C. Mahar Faculty Member, Orange Elementary Faculty Member, Petersham Center School Faculty Member, Parent from one of the 3 Districts, Student Representative from Ralph C. Mahar, Representative from New Salem/Wendell.

Angela Danielson moved to vote the makeup of the committee as stated. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

Angela Danielson moved to vote that Lynn Peredina is the representative from the Petersham School Committee. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

Lynn Peredina went over the upcoming meeting dates:

Wednesday, January 15th at 6pm.

Wednesday, January 22nd at 6pm.

Interviews Monday 27, Tuesday the 28th and Wednesday the 29th at 6pm.

Finalists will be announced in a press release on February 3rd.

February 3rd-14th that's when the finalists can set up an appointment to come and visit our district.

Tuesday, February 25th and Thursday, February 27th all three school committee meetings to interview the candidates at 6pm.

- a. Report of Union #73 Committee- Lynn explained there has been no meeting.
- b. Report of the R.C. Mahar Representative- They are meeting on January 23rd.
- c. Report of the Leadership, Accountability & Measurement Subcommittee
 - i. Superintendent Search- Lynn Peredina provided this update earlier.
 - ii. Superintendent Summative Evaluation- Jennifer DeJackome explained we have just finished this.
Angela Danielson moved to approve the Superintendent's evaluation with an overall rating of proficient. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
- d. Report of the Resources & Capacity Subcommittee- Michele explained that a number of things were transfer requests. There is an audit from the cafeteria and Kris Wallace has been preparing for this all year. The minimum wage increase was discussed and the school lunch increase. They went over the expenses as of the month of December and that there is 25% of the budget remaining after all salaries are encumbered. Eric and Ann are very well aware of containing expenses. Michele explained we are looking for guidance on where to go from this committee. Lynn Peredina explained we would love to ask for this but she believes the town will ask that we level fund the budget. Michele explained we can look at the line items and see where cost savings can be and the Governor's budget is being announced on the 22nd and that will help us predict more with the revenues. Tari explained to keep the momentum around achievement this is important to move forward with.
- e. Report of the Communications & Policy Subcommittee- Tari explained this committee has not met.
- f. Report of the CAPS Representative- Tari explained this committee meets Wednesday but she does not think she will be able to attend.
- g. Regional Planning Committee- This committee is meeting this Thursday to gather in regards to see where this committee wants to move.

7. Superintendent's Report- Tari explained this is in the file.

8. Approval of the Minutes- **Angela Danielson moved to approve the November 18, 2019 minutes. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

9. Executive Session - not necessary.

10. Next Meeting - Monday March 2nd, 2020 at 6:15pm

11. Adjournment- **Angela Danielson moved to adjourn at 7:52pm. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous**

Minutes taken by: *Alyssa Magoffin*

APPROVED: 3-2-2020

Signature of Secretary _____

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.