

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee
Day/Date: Tuesday, April 9th, 2019
Time of Meeting: 6:30 PM
Location: Staff Room



School Committee Minutes

Members Present: Lynn Peredina, Angela Danielson

Members Absent: Jennifer DeJackome.

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

1. Call to Order- Lynn Peredina moved to call to order at 6:30pm.
2. Public Comment
3. Report of the Teachers' Union- no report from the teachers union.
4. April Items
 - a. Food Service Report- Lynn explained this is an update from Kris Wallace.
5. Matters for Action
 - a. FY20 Petersham School Budget Public Hearing- Dan Haynes explained that this is a lean budget with reductions made in special education due to the departure of an employee who has high on the salary schedule, elimination of the enrichment program (becoming cost prohibitive due to nursing requirement) and shifts in technology. The budget increase to the town is 1.43%. Dan explained we are going to use \$30,000 more from our school choice funds and the reason for that is some of the costs are due to the special education students. Dan explained we reduced by one health insurance plan since we reduced. Dan explained proposed that we bid out our regular transportation out as a district. Dan explained our major budget stressors are teachers salaries, sped transportation, regular transportation, and building costs. Dan explained some of the reductions are the counselor shift in FY19, the special education teacher that left, our telephone negotiation of a new contract and one less person in the health insurance. Lynn Peredina explained she didn't feel pressure to level fund the budget but with that being said she wanted to be sensitive to the Town's needs also. Ann Degnan wanted to let you know that there is a teacher that is talking about coming onto health insurance. Ann Degnan asked if this budget includes all new staff.
Angela Danielson moved to approve the 2019- 2020 Petersham Town Budget at \$1,530,689 and a School Choice Budget at \$380,467. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
 - b. Retainer for Legal Counsel- Lynn Peredina explained that we have our legal counsel through Dupere Law Services. Lynn explained the retainer is going from \$450 to \$600 per month. Tari explained that their team's guidance has been invaluable when it comes to student as well as staff discipline, collective bargaining and more.
Angela Danielson moved to approve the retainer for the Dupere Law Offices to \$600 per month for fiscal year 2020. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

6. Subcommittees and Board Liaison Reports
 - a. Report of Union #73 Committee- no meeting.
 - b. Report of the R.C. Mahar Representative- Tari explained the one difference was in regards to the smoking and vaping policy. Tari explained that the committee advised an educational component to this.
 - c. Report of the Leadership, Accountability & Measurement Subcommittee- Tari explained Jennifer DeJackome was here on this meeting and Marie Cole went over the achievement rates for all three districts. Tari explained Petersham's really stood out especially in regards to the STAR testing.
 - d. Report of the Resources & Capacity Subcommittee- Lynn explained her and Dan had met and everything has been covered in going over the budget.
 - e. Report of the Communications & Policy Subcommittee- No meeting.
 - f. Report of the CAPS Representative- Tari explained they meet tomorrow to talk about the budget.
 - g. Regional Amendment Committee- Lynn Peredina explained they met 2 weeks ago. The meeting was originally intended to be a public forum for selectboards, finance committee members. Lynn explained since there had been meetings that needed to be rescheduled it was decided that it might not be best to have all of those boards there but there was a communication issue so Orange was there. Questions really revolved from their Orange Finance Committee. Lynn explained the committee has not yet done the work to get this done in time for the Town Meetings. She explained there are too many questions that still need to be answered. Lynn explained the next meeting is at 6:30pm at the Mahar Library.
7. Superintendent's Report- Tari explained there is no report due to budget preparations. Tari explained she was asked to provide testimony to legislatures at the subcommittee hearings today and was part of the Rural School Piece. Joanne explained she is on the board of MSAA (MA School Administrators Association) and they have presented on this as well. The legislative advisor and the ed policy advisor presented because they feel the same way. Tari explained Senator Comerford was very positive expecting thinking that a change will expect this Spring.
8. Approval of the Minutes- **Angela Danielson moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2019. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**
9. Executive Session - **Angela Danielson moved to go into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Teachers and/or Support Personnel. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous. Roll call done by Alyssa Magoffin. All in favor.**
10. Next Meeting - June 11th, 2019 at 6pm.

Jennifer DeJackome moved to appoint Superintendent Thomas to conduct the business of the School committee for July & August. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

11. Adjournment- **Angela Danielson moved to adjourn at 7:25pm. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

Minutes taken by: Alyssa Magoffin

APPROVED: June 24, 2019

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.