

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee

Day/Date: Monday, March 2nd, 2020

Time of Meeting: 6:15 P.M.

Location: Staff Room



School Committee Minutes

1. Call to Order- Lynn Peredina called the meeting to order at 6:17pm.

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

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Tari Thomas, Director of Finance & Operations Michele Tonotodonato, Principal Eric Glazier and Alyssa Magoffin.

2. Public Comment- no public comment
3. Report of the Teachers' Union- Wendie Leblanc reported that hopefully we are coordinating a date for negotiations.
4. Public Hearing for the FY21 School Budget- Lynn Peredina explained we are not voting these until the next meeting in April to give us more time to think about things. Tari gave the budget presentation and explained this is an opportunity for the committee and stakeholders to review the proposed budget and provide Michele and herself with more direction. Michele explained that there are still some unknowns which are transportation, health insurance and salary increases. Michele explained that the Student Opportunity Act is not positively affecting our three districts. She stated we are getting the word out on talking about our types of districts.

Tina Leslie asked when you show the pie chart on how much we spend for Special Education are we able to break apart the cost as far as School Choice. Michele explained we get a report of School Choice In and it does say what town they are from and what grade they are in. Michele explained if a school choice student is on an IEP we get reimbursed for all of those funds. Tari explained that a child depending on their IEP a town might send an additional \$2,500 or \$12,000 for them depending on their IEP; there is a formula where it is all weighted. Eric shared that there are 63 school choice students then 31 students of the entire population at Petersham Center School. 12 of those students are from Petersham and 19 are choice and based on our total number of students 30% of the students overall on choice and 17% are choice. Michele explained a lot of it is increased costs in out of placement. Michele explained the one addition we have is when we separated the Grade 1 we did bring in an extra paraprofessional.

Nancy Allen wanted to thank the administration for their work. Nancy explained we got to see them last week at a meeting. She wanted to point out that this is not an increase that the town can sustain. Michele clarified that the gutters are split into a 5 year plan starting in the FY21 budget. Nancy explained we let stuff go at the town level because of the budgets and this is a tough balancing act on the Petersham Center School. Eric wanted to recognize the importance of Jay Burke and how much of a wealth of knowledge he is and the money he saves us being able to do projects. Nancy wanted to look at the full budget. Jen asked if the police or fire department need anything big within the next year. Nancy had conversations with these departments. The police chief has nothing, the highway department has nothing and the fire department is just looking to paint his building. Michele is looking to see a percentage increase that the town is looking for. Nancy will get back to Michele in regards to this. Eric explained the selectboard is in support of helping with the playground budget. They are going to request \$23,000 to bring our total project budget to \$51,000 but that would give us a modern playground that is not only safe and fun.

Tina asked about building technology breakdown. A way to try to alleviate some of the cost is it potentially a way to offset some of the costs purchasing. Tina brought up charging for transportation also. Tari explained when you look at fees who are going to maintain them, collect them, etc. We would probably have to hire someone in order to make this happen. Michele explained we would need to come up with a plan that can't afford it still from school choice.

Lynn explained she did ask it last week about the Special Education increase last week. Lynn explained it is a shocking figure to see. Lynn explained a big chunk of this is that close to a 1/3 of the increase is due to an outplacement. Of the \$137,000 over \$40,000 is for that one student out placement. Eric explained that the new 1:1 Paraprofessional is built into that also. The committee talked about the guidance counselor. Wendie explained it was a part time position then it moved to full time then back down to part time. Eric has been in contact with the counselor about her adding a day and we have also been exploring

the opportunity with Orange to share resources with an Orange position.

5. Public Hearing for FY21 School Choice- Lynn Peredina explained this is something we take a vote on annually at the school committee. She stated that in the past school choice has been offered to provide additional income to keep our school sustainable. Eric wanted to point out that there are currently 17 students on the waiting list for Kindergarten next year. Michele explained we have about \$70,000 income from school choice so if Petersham decided to do away with it we would need to focus on where those funds would come from. Lynn stated she thinks this should be a more thoughtful discussion on this. Eric suggested that the committee could talk about lowering the number of Kindergarten accepted school choice as a way to keep it on the lower side to prepare for any families that may move into town or students coming in from Montessori. Lynn explained this will be voted on at the next school committee meeting.

6. March Items

- a. Principal's Report- Eric went over his report which was MCAS and the Playground Project. Eric explained he wants to survey all different areas of the school day and get feedback, analyze it and plan for the future. Tari explained it may e- Lynn explained the meetings are on hold.
- b. be important to survey staff and put all of that data together as well. He is also looking to do a school choice out survey and he would just like to know why (not a mandatory survey). Eric explained that our school council has been meeting on the School Improvement Plan. Eric can meet with the School Council prior to April 6th to try to get another group and their review on this.
- c. Superintendent Search- Lynn explained we offered the position Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski who has been at Oxford Public Schools for the past year and a half and we still need to negotiate her contract.
- d. Technology Report- Tari explained this is very brief and is in the packet. They are sharing their goals for next year.
- e. Director of Special Services Retirement- Michele Tontodonato explained she is meeting with the school committee chairs this week to see what the best steps are for this position. She is hopeful that this will be a sub-committee.

5. Matters for Action or Vote

- a. 2020-2021 District Calendar- Tari explained that this calendar is for the committee approval. The district has not received any concerns on this version.

Jennifer DeJackome moved to approve the 2020-2021 District Calendar for Union #73 and Ralph C. Mahar Regional. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.

6. Subcommittees and Board Liaison Reports

- a. Report of the R.C. Mahar Representative- Lynn explained she did not pull her notes.
- b. Report of the Leadership, Accountability & Measurement Subcommittee- no meeting
- c. Report of the Resources & Capacity Subcommittee- all reported above
- d. Report of the Communications & Policy Subcommittee- no meeting
- e. Report of the CAPS Representative- no meeting
- f. Regional Planning Committe

7. Superintendent's Report- Tari briefly reported on her Supt. report.

8. Approval of the Minutes- **Jennifer Dejackome moved to approve the January 6, 2020 February 25, 2020 and February 27, 2020. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

9. Executive Session -*M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.*

Lynn Peredina moved to adjourn regular session and to enter into executive session and to not return to public session (use motion above).

Tari explained the Teachers are looking to negotiate and are we looking for a 2 year contract a 3 year contract and things like that. Michele explained we have been trying to stick with 1.5% and doesn't believe we should go above that. Michele explained that Ann is retiring and we are hopeful to hire a secretary that is not as experienced and have Ann work part time on bills and HR/Payroll so that the secretary can become acclimated.

10. Next Meeting - Monday, April 6, 2020 at 6:15pm.

11. Adjournment- **Lynn Peredina moved to adjourn at 8:14pm. Jennifer DeJackome seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.**

Minutes taken by: Alyssa Magoffin

APPROVED: 4/6/20

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.