

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee
Day/Date: Thursday, March 9th, 2017
Time of Meeting: 5:30PM
Location: Staff Room



Minutes

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

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

Members Absent: None

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

2. Public Hearing for School Choice- **Janice Coughlan moved that the Petersham School Committee will participate in the School Choice Program for the 2017-2018 school year for grades K-6. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: All in favor. Abstained: Angela Danielson.**

Janice Coughlan moved to adjourn the School Choice Hearing at 5:32. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: All in favor. Abstained: Angela Danielson.

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Petersham School Committee
Day/Date: Thursday, March 9th, 2017
Time of Meeting: 5:40PM
Location: Staff Room

Minutes

1. Call to Order- Lynn Peredina called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

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

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Tari Thomas, Director of Finance, Principal Joanne Menard, and Alyssa Roberts.

2. Public Comment
3. Glimpse Into the Classroom, After-School Programming- Principal Menard and staff will provide the committee a glimpse into the wonderful after-school enrichment programming being offered at the Petersham Center School.
4. Report of the Petersham Teachers' Union- No representatives.
5. March Items

a. School Calendar, first reading- Tari Thomas explained that a team comprised of all three districts' unions and admin proposed the calendar in your shared file; teachers begin on August 22 and students on August 24th; proposing a four day weekend for Labor Day as many individuals felt it was too much to start the year with a 5 day week. There will be an extra half day before the Christmas Vacation. The other unusual break is that they have placed a long three day weekend

in the month of March. March is a very intense March, so this gives them a little bit of a breather.

Tari explains this calendar gets us out on June 8th for Petersham Center School. Tari explains there were some concerns from other school committees on this calendar in regards to starting school earlier. Joanne explained that Director Cole did a great job with this calendar and getting

everyone together. This will be brought to the April meeting for a vote.

- b. Mid-Year Accomplishments- Tari stated that this is a check-in on our progress relative to the strategic plan as well as the responsibilities around wellness and safety as well as operations and community outreach.
- c. Choice In/Out Data- Tari explained there are 62 students choice in and seven choice out of Petersham Center School. Tari explained going forward we may want to find out a way to show public availability in the school.
- d. Blizzard Bag Update- Joanne Menard provided the committee with a brief update on the Blizzard Bag Pilot. A survey to families and staff will go out in April or May, the school committee will review the program for SY18 consideration in June. Joanne Menard wanted to read a few parents emails to the committee. Tari said there are efforts in all of the districts to keep refining and improving this plan.
- e. First Look at FY18 Budget- Dan and Tari gave a first look at the FY18 budget for the committee. With fixed costs rising particularly in salaries and health care reining things in has been a challenge, this is where the committee provides guidance to the administration. Dan explained big budget drivers to the school committee. Dan explained we do not have a spending problem have a revenue problem. Dan is trying to be innovate to lower costs, and if there are any suggestions from the committee he is welcome to them. Tari explained we have a month before our budget hearing in April. The committee agreed that \$10,000 is a reasonable amount to the budget prior to the April budget hearing. March 21st at 7pm meeting with FinCom.

6. Matters for Action/Vote

- a. Surplus Items- Tari explained that a list of items to be disposed are the number of phonographs or record players is six. If you couple please deem as surplus and turn over to the town of Petersham.

Janice Coughlan moved that the Petersham School Committee request the Selectboard to allow for the disposal of equipment that is either out of date or nonfunctional of a value of less than \$5,000. Lynn Peredina seconded: VOTED: All in favor. Abstained: Angela Danielson.

- b. Artists In Residence- Tari explained that our art, music, and physical education teachers (4) are

licensed by the state of Massachusetts; and given this information the committee needs to make one of the two choices:

1. Lay-off all four teachers and hire only certified educators; this option costs additional monies as the four educators would be required to be paid on the union salary schedule; there is also skepticism that the school will be able to attract licensed educators for 1-2 days of work; the town would also pay unemployment costs for each layoff.

2. Cite that the instruction from experts in the field falls under the DESE's definition of "structured learning time" and continue as we are; this option is less expensive and keeps us at status quo; under ESSA these classes are now considered core subjects.

Janice Coughlan moved to approve that the Petersham Center School approve instruction

in

art, music, and physical education by our artists in residence meets the definition of structured learning time. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: All in favor. Abstained: Angela Danielson.

7. Sub Committee/Liaison Updates

- a. Report of the Mahar Representative- Lynn explained they just met two nights ago. The student council presented a video giving us a glimpse into the school from World Languages. Lynn explained that they are also gearing up to go to Hyannis. The committee did vote for the AP exams to be cost free to the students. Tari explained there are mobile hotspots through Verizon Mobile.

- b. Report of the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee- Janice explained already was covered with the budget.
- c. Report of the Policy Subcommittee- This subcommittee hasn't met either due to illness or snow. The next meeting is March 20th at 5:30pm. Tari will be representing the Petersham School Committee on this subcommittee. Janice Coughlan moved to appoint Tari Thomas as our representative of the Policy Subcommittee. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: Unanimous.
- d. Report of the Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee- Lynn explained we have aligned the new representatives for this committee. They met on March 7th. Tari explained they elected a chair, that is Stephanie Conrad. Also Johanna Bartlett, Patricia Smith, and Janice Coughlan. Their role and responsibility is to evaluate the Superintendent and take a look at Central Office Budget and determine next steps.
- e. Report of the CAPS Collaborative Representative- Tari was unable to attend the meeting.
- f. Report of the Union 73 and R.C. Mahar Regional Joint Supervisory Committee- This subcommittee is morphing out of the Sup Eval Subcommittee which meets on March 7th and 21st; the group reviewed the Superintendent's goals and determined new joint supt committee composition this week; at their next meeting there will be a review of the central office budget and the superintendent's contract.

8. Superintendent's Report- Tari highlighted a few items from her report.

9. Minutes presented for approval: **Janice Coughlan moved to approve the Petersham Center School minutes from**

January 5th, 2017. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: All in favor. Abstained: Angela Danielson.

10. Date of Next Meeting: April 13th, 2017 at 6PM

11. Adjourn- **Janice Coughlan moved to adjourn at 7:05pm. Lynn Peredina seconded. VOTED: All in favor. Abstained: Angela Danielson.**

Minutes taken by: Alyssa Roberts

APPROVED: 4-13-17

School Committee Signatures _____
 Janice Coughlan 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.