

# PUTNAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

April 9, 2024

The Putnam Board of Education met in regular session on April 9, 2024, in the Joseph V. Pempek Memorial Conference Room at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Julie Blouin, Kelly Gazzola, Laure LaBonte, Michael Morrill, Chad Neal, James Purdon, Carolyn Riendeau, and Chris Stewart

Absent: Christopher Steinbrick

Others: Steven R. Rioux, Superintendent of Schools and Nancy T. Cole, Business Administrator

James Purdon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Student Representatives**

Student representatives Savannah Loiselle, and Kaya Pernini reported on events happening in the schools.

### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chad Neal made a motion to approve the March 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Michael Morrill and passed unanimously.

### **2. CORRESPONDENCE**

There were four emails of substance that were forwarded.

### **3. PRESENTATIONS**

#### **a. Pride of Putnam: Putnam Elementary School**

The PES Pride of Putnam Award was presented by the board. Staff member Kathy Dunton was recognized for her commitment and dedication to the PES library by fostering the love of reading, creating opportunities for students and staff to engage in fun activities to support learning, and building a welcoming environment where people can collaborate and connect with each other.

#### **b. Pride of Putnam: Putnam Middle School**

The PMS Pride of Putnam Awards were presented by the board. PMS student Laura Coderre was recognized for the winning entry in the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. PMS student Brooklyn Belleville was recognized for the winning entry in the Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest. PMS staff members Derek Coderre, Steve Crosby, Roger Martel, Pam Moriarty, and Janice Pettersson were recognized for their continual efforts to support the students, families, and staff of Putnam Middle School.

### **4. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

There were no citizen's comments.

## **5. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **a. Committee Reports**

#### **1) Policy Committee Report**

The committee will meet on May 2, 2024 and June 13, 2024.

#### **2) Facilities Committee Report**

No report

#### **3) Curriculum Committee Report**

No report

#### **4) Liaison and Adopt a School Updates**

No reports

### **b. Financial Report**

Nancy Cole updated the board on the year-end expenditure report for FY 2023-2024. A Budget Overview, Excess Cost Report, and Family Resource Center Report were also included. The final reimbursement rate for Excess Cost from the state is 71.42%.

### **c. Superintendent's Report, Steven R. Rioux**

#### **1) District Update**

A district update was included in the packet. Superintendent Rioux stressed the importance of supporting the proposed budget and shared grant opportunities that can be used for transition services.

#### **2) PHS Spotlight**

Heather Taylor, Principal of Putnam High School, presented the collaborative work culture of the PHS staff members' Professional Learning Communities (PLC). The primary purpose of the high-functioning PLC's is to enhance student learning outcomes.

#### **3) Budget Update FY 2024-2025**

The Board of Finance voted to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$100,000. Superintendent Rioux shared the revisions made to the proposed budget to meet this reduction.

#### **4) Putnam Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving-up Ceremony (6/17)**

Superintendent Rioux reported that the Putnam Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving-up Ceremony will be held on June 17, 2024 at 12:00 PM in the Putnam Middle School auditorium.

#### **5) Students at Risk of Retention**

Superintendent Rioux shared information with the board listing the number of students at risk of retention.

#### **6) Monthly Enrollment Report**

An updated enrollment report was included in the packet.

#### **7) Personnel Report**

An updated personnel report was included in the packet.

#### **8) School Monthly Board Reports**

School Monthly Reports were included in the packet.

### **d. Board Chair Report**

#### **1) NEASC Visit – BOE Representatives for October 23, 2024**

Heather Taylor, Principal of Putnam High School, provided details about the NEASC process and outlined the expectations for board members' participation in the process.

## 6. BUSINESS

### a. Approval of the Kayla Morey Memorial

The facilities committee recommended for the BOE to approve the request from Putnam Elementary School for the Kayla Morey Memorial. Chris Stewart made a motion to approve the Kayla Morey Memorial as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Blouin and passed unanimously.

### b. Approval of the FY 25 Budget Revision

Chris Stewart made a motion to approve the FY 25 Budget Revision as presented in the amount of \$20,957,907. The motion was seconded by Kelly Gazzola and passed unanimously.

### c. Approval to raise the FSA maximum to the 2024 IRS maximum of \$3,200 with a rollover of \$640

Carolyn Riendeau made a motion to approve raising the FSA maximum to the 2024 IRS maximum of \$3,200 with a rollover of \$640. The motion was seconded by Julie Blouin and passed unanimously.

### d. Adoption of New Courses

#### 1) Putnam High School Internship Course

#### 2) Putnam Middle School Intervention Resource – SPIRE

Michael Morrill made a motion to adopt the Putnam High School Internship Course and the Putnam Middle School Intervention resource, SPIRE. The motion was seconded by Kelly Gazzola and passed unanimously.

### e. ABM Contract Amendment (possible Executive Session)

Michael Morrill made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of negotiations after a brief recess. The motion was seconded by Chad Neal and passed unanimously. Superintendent Rioux and Nancy Cole were invited to attend.

Executive session began at 8:41 PM.

Executive session ended at 8:55 PM.

Michael Morrill made a motion to authorize Superintendent Rioux to enter into a separation agreement with ABM effective July 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Laure LaBonte and passed unanimously.

Chad Neal made a motion to authorize Superintendent Rioux to execute the MOU with AFSCME effective July 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Laure LaBonte and passed unanimously.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Michael Morrill made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Julie Blouin and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Riendeau  
Board Secretary