

PUTNAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

SECRETARY'S REPORT

December 12, 2023

The Putnam Board of Education met in regular session on December 12, 2023, 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, Christopher Steinbrick, and Chris Stewart

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

Superintendent Rioux called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Superintendent Rioux welcomed the new Board members.

There was moment of silence in memory of Al Cormier and Kayla Morey.

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Representatives

Student representatives Brady Devlin and Kaya Pernini reported on events happening in the schools.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

James Purdon made a motion to approve the November 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Laure LaBonte and passed unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

There were several SPAM emails. There were two emails of substance that were forwarded.

3. PRESENTATIONS

a. Pride of Putnam: Helping Hands Program

The Pride of Putnam Award was presented by the board. Helping Hands program students David DePari, Grant Hart, Devan Keenan, Cody Keene, Ethan Latendresse, Nathaniel Lazarou, Emerald Perry, and Milo Torman were recognized for their ongoing commitment to acquiring transition and independent living skills while giving back to the community. Staff members Robin Coderre and Elisabeth Edouard were also recognized for their work with the Helping Hands program.

4. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen's comments.

The Board took a brief recess.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a. Election of Chair

Carolyn Riendeau nominated James Purdon for Board Chair.

Laure LaBonte nominated Christopher Steinbrick for Board Chair.

After discussion the nominations were closed.

James Purdon received five (5) votes from Kelly Gazzola, Michael Morrill, Chad Neal, James Purdon, and Carolyn Riendeau.

Christopher Steinbrick received four (4) votes from Julie Blouin, Laure LaBonte, Christopher Steinbrick, and Chris Stewart.

James Purdon was elected as the Board Chair.

b. Election of Secretary

Chad Neal nominated Carolyn Riendeau for Board Secretary. Christopher Steinbrick seconded the nomination.

Hearing no discussion the nominations were closed.

Carolyn Riendeau was elected as the Board Secretary by unanimous vote.

6. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Committee Reports

1) Policy Committee Report

No report

2) Facilities Committee Report

The Building Committee for the Putnam Elementary School Roof Project met to approve the RFP for architect services.

3) Curriculum Committee Report

No report

4) CAFE Events Update

Superintendent Rioux, Julie Blouin, Kelly Gazzola, Carolyn Riendeau, and Chris Stewart attended the CAFE new Board member conference.

Michael Morrill gave an overview of the services EASTCONN provides.

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 the Family Resource Center Report were also included.

c. Superintendent's Report, Steven R. Rioux

1) District Update

A district update was included in the packet. Superintendent Rioux highlighted the counseling support received by area school districts and organizations.

2) Facilities Update

a) FRC Water Damage Update

The district is working on the insurance claim and the damaged items are being replaced.

b) Putnam Elementary School Roof Project Update

c) HVAC Project Update

The Board of Selectman approved funding for the Putnam Elementary School Roof Project, the Putnam Elementary School HVAC Project, and the Putnam Middle School HVAC Project. There will be a referendum on December 19, 2023.

3) Holiday Giving Campaign

Superintendent Rioux and Patricia Bryant-Beausoleil shared about the outpouring of community support for the annual Holiday Giving Campaign in response to the damaged gifts.

4) Enrollment Update

a) NESDEC Report

A copy of the NESDEC report was included in the packet.

5) Personnel Report

An updated personnel report was included in the packet.

6) Quarterly Department Reports

Quarterly Department Reports were included in the packet.

7) School Monthly Board Reports

School Monthly Reports were included in the packet.

d. Board Chair Report

1) Discussion regarding standing committees

A description of the standing committees and liaison positions were included in the packet. Board members will be assigned to committees at the January meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session for the Purposes of Negotiations

1) Transportation Contracted Service

Michael Morrill made a motion to enter executive session at 8:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Laure LaBonte and passed unanimously. Superintendent Rioux and Nancy Cole were invited to attend.

Executive Session ended at 8:35 PM

8. ADJOURNMENT

Michael Morrill made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Julie Blouin and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Riendeau
Board Secretary