

# PUTNAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

May 19, 2020

The Putnam Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 in the Joseph V. Pempek Memorial Conference Room at Putnam High School and Via Zoom.

Attendance: Carrie Blackmar, Jeannie Dodd, Lauren Konicki (not present from 9:18 PM and beyond), Michael Morrill, Edward Perron, James Purdon, Jill Zangerl

Absent: Christopher Steinbrick, Marianne Viens

Others: Daniel P. Sullivan, III, Superintendent of Schools; Nancy T. Cole, Business Administrator; Laura L. Santos, Recording Secretary

Jeannie Dodd called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Student Representative, Molly McKeon was joined by Noah Tomkins and they gave a monthly district update to the Board.

### **Nominations of Board Officers**

Mr. Sullivan called for nominations for **Chairperson of the Board**.

Edward Perron made a motion to appoint Jeannie Dodd as Board Chair. The motion was seconded by Jill Zangerl and passed unanimously.

Edward Perron moved to close the nomination and was seconded by Jill Zangerl and passed unanimously. Jeannie Dodd was elected as Board Chairperson with six affirmative and one abstention. The motion passed.

Jeannie Dodd called for nominations for **Board Secretary**.

Edward Perron made a motion to appoint Marianne Viens as Board Secretary. There was no second.

Michael Morrill made a motion to appoint Jill Zangerl as Board Secretary. The motion was seconded by Lauren Konicki and passed unanimously.

Michael Morrill moved to close the nomination and was seconded by Edward Perron and passed unanimously. Jill Zangerl was elected as Board Secretary with a vote of six affirmative and one abstention. The motion passed.

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

James Purdon made a motion to approve the April 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes and the April 27, 2020 emergency meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jill Zangerl and passed unanimously.

### **2. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. A letter from Carrie Blackmar thanking the Board and Administration for their sympathy acknowledgment in the loss of her father.
- b. A letter from Barbara Laudon, PHS teacher, in support of the world language department in the education budget.

- c. A letter from Chad Neal, of 20 Pleasant Street, in support of all departments in the education budget.
- d. A letter from Cecile Lee, of 37 Quinebaug Avenue, in support of secretaries in the education budget.
- e. A letter from Edward Artiaco, of 271 East Putnam Road, town budget.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

Pride of Putnam Awards were presented to the following students/staff of Putnam High School and Putnam Middle School:

PHS: Molly McKeon, Brooke Peloquin, Noah Tomkins

PMS Staff: Angeline Kwasny, Odena LaFreniere, Pamela Moriarty, Stacie Ristau, Meaghan Wakely

**4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/Shared Via Zoom**

- 1. JoAnn Joslin, of 82 Grove Street, spoke promoting the hiring of a middle school dean of students as well as supporting the current employees.
- 2. Troy Mayo, of 11 Rowe Street, spoke in regards to not outsourcing the school facilities department.
- 3. Tony Consentino, of 384 Sabin Street, parent of district students, does not want outsourcing of facilities and/or transportation services.
- 4. Elizabeth Bates, of 8 Pleasant Street, parent of district students, does not want outsourcing of facilities and/or transportation services.
- 5. Chad Neal, of 20 Pleasant Street, parent of district students, praised the school and teachers for the work they are doing during this difficult time and does not want outsourcing of transportation and/or school facilities.

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

a. Committee Reports

1) Policy Committee Report

Jeannie Dodd updated the Board on the committee meeting that was held prior to this meeting. Policies will be warned for adoption under New Business.

2) Facilities Committee Report

No report.

3) Curriculum Committee

No report.

4) Communications Committee

No report.

5) Outsourcing of Transportation and School Facilities Services Committee

This Sub Committee has reviewed proposals. The committee is not ready to make a decision at this time. James Purdon suggested tabling this topic until the committee has reviewed this further. A special meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

6) CABE Events Update  
No report.

b. Financial Reports, Nancy T. Cole

Nancy Cole updated the Board on the year-end expenditure report for 2019/2020. An excess cost report and Family Resource Center report were also presented.

c. Superintendent's Report, Daniel P. Sullivan, III

- 1) Mr. Sullivan gave a solar project update.
- 2) Town Meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM.
- 3) Mr. Sullivan explained that July 6 is the earliest date, set by the state, that summer school can begin, FRC will begin on June 29 but there are no solid plans for the method in which this will occur. There are no solid plans for the method in which schools will open in the Fall; many models have been discussed and will be explored.
- 4) Middle School Moving Up Ceremony – Principal has a virtual ceremony planned
- 5) High School Graduation Ceremony – A drive-in style graduation has been requested but has not yet been approved or scheduled.
- 6) School Monthly Reports were included in the Board packet.

d. Board Chairperson Report, Jeannie Dodd

No report.

6. **BUSINESS**

a. DEVOS Grant

Jill Zangerl made a motion to approve the DEVOS Grant as presented. The motion was seconded by Carrie Blackmar and passed unanimously.

b. Special Education Audit

The Board discussed a special education audit. Michael Morrill made a motion to authorize the superintendent to solicit a proposal from SERC for a special education audit. The motion was seconded by Carrie Blackmar. Michael Morrill amended his motion to authorize the superintendent to solicit a proposal from SERC, not to exceed \$7,500, for a special education audit. The motion was seconded by Carrie Blackmar and passed unanimously.

c. Community Eligibility Provision for Putnam High School

James Purdon made a motion to approve the community eligibility provision for Putnam High School as presented. The motion was seconded by Jill Zangerl and passed unanimously.

d. Warn for Adoption of the following Policies/Regulations

Lauren Konicki made a motion to warn for adoption the following policies/regulations. The motion was seconded by Edward Perron and passed unanimously:

- P5111 – Admission/Placement
- P5112 – Ages of Attendance
- P5131.6/R5131.6 – Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco
- P5141.4/R5141.4 – Reporting Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault
- P3171.1 – Non lapsing Education Fund

e. Flexible Spending Account Annual Limit - \$2,750

Edward Perron made a motion to approve the flexible spending account annual limit of \$2,750 as presented. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

f. Budget Discussion

Jeannie Dodd gave an update on the town budget. The town meeting will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The education budget was set at \$18,794,000. Daniel Sullivan thanked all participants' comments regarding the budget. Mr. Sullivan discussed some possible areas of savings: Health Insurance \$100,000 reduction, keep three paraprofessional positions unfilled, fill the dean of student position with a current staff member holding an 092 (administrative) certificate with a savings of \$64,000, level fund substitutes, fewer professional development conference fees, level fund landscaping and bus maintenance, limit purchasing of instruments and some athletics, reductions in technology funds.

g. Outsourcing of Transportation Services

Tabled until the June 2, 2020, Special Meeting.

h. Outsourcing of Custodial and/or Maintenance Services

Tabled until the June 2, 2020, Special Meeting.

i. Approval of Priority List

James Purdon made a motion to approve the priority list as presented. The motion was seconded by Michael Morrill and passed unanimously.

James Purdon made a motion to move item 6j and 6k to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Lauren Konicki and passed unanimously.

j. Approval of Tentative Agreement for Nurses' Union

k. Approval of Tentative Agreement for Administrators' Union

l. Citizens' Comments

- 1) Deborah Lefebvre, of 29 Addison Street, spoke in support of no paraprofessional reductions and possible additions.
- 2) Kris Allard, of 145 David Circle, spoke in support of no paraprofessional reductions and possible additions.
- 3) Robert Garceau, of 10 Breault Street, questioned the budget request for four security officers.
- 4) Gloria Marion, of 27 Cloran Street, questioned the projected general budget balance and savings due to distance learning.

The Board took a 5-minute recess at 9:13 PM.

At 9:18 PM, Jill Zangerl made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Approval of Tentative Agreement for Nurses' Union and Administrators' Union as well as the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract. Ms. Cole and Mr. Sullivan were invited to attend for the tentative agreement topics; Ms. Cole will leave for the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract topic. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

Michael Morrill made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 10:26 PM. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

j. Approval of Tentative Agreement for Nurses' Union

James Purdon made a motion to approve the tentative agreement for Nurses' Union as presented. The motion was seconded by Carrie Blackmar and passed unanimously.

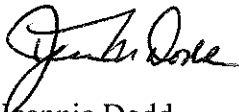
k. Approval of Tentative Agreement for Administrators' Union

Jill Zangerl made a motion to approve the tentative agreement for Administrator's Union as presented. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT

James Purdon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Michael Morrill and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeannie Dodd  
Board Chair

