

PUTNAM BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Joseph V. Pempek Memorial Conference Room/Via Zoom

The Putnam Board of Education met for a special meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. in the Joseph V. Pempek Memorial Conference Room and via Zoom.

Attendance: Carrie Blackmar, Jeannie Dodd, Michael Morrill, James Purdon, Christopher Steinbrick, Marieanne Viens, Jill Zangerl

Absent: Lauren Konicki

Others: Nancy Cole, Business Administrator; Daniel P. Sullivan, III, Superintendent

Jeannie Dodd, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Carrie Blackmar made a motion to add to the agenda discussion and action on the contract with Woodstock and Putnam Public Schools. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

1. Discussion and Endorsement of the Reopening Plan

Mr. Sullivan explained the reopening plan. Mr. Sullivan invited a few people on the reopening committee to give the Board a brief summary of the measures that they have taken to reopen offices and plans for the opening school: Kevin Lamothe, Facilities Director; Linda Roto, Nurse Coordinator; Marc Coderre, Special Projects Director; Jeanette LaPlume, Food Service Director; Kelly Gazolla, Parent; Pamela Cody, Teacher. The floor was opened for Board member questions. James Purdon made a motion to approve the Reopening Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Michael Morrill and passed unanimously. This final version will be posted to the district website.

2. A First Read of a Model Policy Regarding Masks

The Policy Committee met prior to this meeting to review a model policy regarding masks. The committee chose a modified policy version. James Purdon made a motion to warn for adoption this policy. The motion was seconded by Carrie Blackmar and passed unanimously.

3. Adjustment to the 2020/2021 Academic Calendar

Mr. Sullivan reviewed some changes he is recommending be made to the 2020/2021 academic calendar. Carrie Blackmar made a motion to approve the modifications as presented. The motion was seconded by Christopher Steinbrick and passed unanimously.

4. Board Goals

Mr. Sullivan recommended adding a goal to the district's 2020/2021 Board Goals. The Goal is:

Putnam Public Schools will

- (1) put plans and services in place to identify and support social and emotional needs, including ensuring equity among all students.
- (2) ensure that all classroom educators and support staff share responsibility of struggling learners;

Michael Morrill made a motion to approve the addition of this goal as presented. The motion was seconded by Carrie Blackmar and passed unanimously.

5. Discussion of Contract between Woodstock Public Schools and Putnam Public Schools

Christopher Steinbrick made a motion to approve the contract between Woodstock Public Schools and Putnam as presented. The motion was seconded by James Purdon and passed unanimously.

6. Citizens' Comments

- a) Jason Barber, of 118 Mechanics Street, inquired what metrics will be used to determine if the students return in person vs. a hybrid plan, etc.
- b) Alex Zegarra, of 24 Alpha Street, asked questions regarding no hands-on learning. The Board encouraged him to reach out to the Superintendent to further discuss his special situation and address his questions.
- c) Kris Allard, of 145 David Circle, spoke on behalf of the teachers and the impact that doing distance learning in the school vs. distance learning from home will have on at least 40% of teachers and urged the Board to consider a flexible schedule.
- d) Troy Mayo, of 11 Rowe Street, inquired if the hybrid-learning schedule would take into consideration keeping family members on the same rotating schedule.

The Board took a few minutes to honor and thank Laura Santos for her years of Service to Putnam Public Schools/Board of Education and congratulated her on her retirement.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:34 PM.


The Board entered executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:50 PM and Mr. Sullivan was invited to attend.

7. Personnel Matter (Executive Session)

At 8:58, James Purdon made a motion to exit Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Marianne Viens and passed unanimously.

James Purdon made a motion to adjourn at 8:59 PM. The motion was seconded by Carrie Blackmar and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Jill Zanger
Board Secretary