

BOARD OF EDUCATION
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF PORT JERVIS
PORT JERVIS, NEW YORK

MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2017 Meeting

The Regular Meeting/Budget Workshop of the Board of Education was held Thursday, April 20, 2017 in the High School Cafeteria.

Members Present: Judith Amato
Deborah Lasch
Valerie Maginsky
Tanya Parker-Hughes
Catherine Sadaghiani
Florence Santini
William Smith
Robert Witherow

Members Absent: Brian Dewey

Others Present: Thomas Bongiovi, Superintendent of Schools
Cynthia Benedict, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Lorelei Case, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Kristen Lopez, Clerk of the Board

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

President Lasch called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Regular Session – Agenda Item 2

Tanya Parker-Hughes led The Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Bill Smith to approve the Amended Agenda. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 (Dewey) vote.

Presentation – Agenda Item 3

High School Art Teacher Eleanor Horst gave a presentation on the Memory Project.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 4

Taxpayer Linda Van Horn spoke of her concerns regarding hiring an additional Administrator in the proposed budget for the 2017-2018 school year.

Administrative Reports – Agenda Item 5

Ms. Case reported that the revised 2017-2018 budget is on this agenda to be approved by the Board for presentation to the taxpayers. She stated that the district received approximately \$600,000 in additional aid and further discussion on the budget would occur at that point on the agenda.

The Sullivan Avenue demolition continues.

Board member building tours were conducted. For those members that were unable to attend and still wish to tour our buildings, Ms. Case asked that they contact her or Don Preiss and they would be happy to provide them with a personal tour.

On the evening of April 5th, Ms. Case attended the Town of Deerpark Emergency Preparedness Meeting hosted by Jack Flynn, where they reviewed the procedures that are in place for flood disasters or any other type of emergency where emergency housing is required.

Building and Grounds opened both the asphalt and security upgrade bids. The vendors are being qualified and award will be placed on the May 2nd agenda.

The Internal Audit will begin on April 24th and information that she will be sharing with the internal auditors was included in the Board's packet.

As in the past, school and community budget meetings have been scheduled with PTA's, district faculty and other local organizations. If an organization would like a presentation on the budget, they are asked to contact Ms. Case's office.

Mrs. Benedict was pleased to announce that there is a new way for the community to learn more about the great things happening at PJ Schools. Our district communication specialist has collaborated with the local media to present *Port Jervis Schools News and Notes*. There will be a weekly broadcast on Tuesday mornings between 6:30 and 8:00 am on both radio stations Country 107.7 and 1490 WDLC and additionally available online at country1077.com. The forum will be discussions about exciting PJ school news and events including meetings, dates, and highlights of activities and events our students are involved in. She encouraged everyone to tune in.

The Kuykendall award ceremony is scheduled for May 5th at the MS. The Kuykendall award is an annual community service award presented to a deserving student representing each of the district's buildings. The students honored must exhibit a commitment to community and good citizenship through his/her involvement with volunteer work and after school activities. Every year we learn more about the many remarkable students in our district. Mrs. Benedict opined that she has always found so many great PJ students to choose from that are deserving for this award. They have asked Board member Valarie Maginsky, because of her dedication to volunteerism, to address our students as the guest speaker this year. Mrs. Benedict states that this ceremony is one of many highlights of the school year and serves as the unofficial kick off the awards season.

ADAC (*Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council* of Orange County) has been hosting an annual substance abuse prevention poster contest for 30 years. This annual prevention initiative is designed to involve students and staff in schools throughout Orange County in positive anti-substance abuse messaging and to promote positive alternatives to substance abuse in our youth. Each year ADAC receives over 1,000 posters from approximately 12 school districts in the county. The winning posters, one in English and one in Spanish, are professionally replicated and distributed to schools, government offices and healthcare facilities throughout the county. Mrs. Benedict proudly announced that Port Jervis High School student Shannon Klotz is the Grand Prize Winner for the entire county. Shannon will be honored at a Special Awards Ceremony to be held on Friday, May 12th at SUNY Orange, Newburgh Campus. She spoke on everyone's behalf when she stated how proud everyone was of Shannon and congratulated her.

Mrs. Benedict expressed a big thank you to the PJHS Guidance Department for hosting the sophomore/junior information night on April 19. Information about career and college readiness and future planning was offered to parents and students. The work of our counselors and students are paying off in dividends in college acceptances. She stated that we are very proud of our seniors,

many of which have been accepted at very prestigious colleges; Notre Dame, Culinary Institute of America, Fordham, SUNY Stonybrook, Virginia Tech, Brown University, Cornell , Syracuse University, University of Iowa, Pratt, Vassar, and Colgate, just to name a few.

Mr. Bongiovi relayed that he had the pleasure of attending the OCIAA Scholar/Athlete breakfast at Kuhl's Highland House this morning. He congratulated two PJ athletes honored at the breakfast - Morgan Sicuro, who is ranked 4th in her graduating class, going to the University of Scranton for Biology, and Jake Stanzl, ranked 5th in his class, going to RIT to study Business.

Mr. Bongiovi explained the 180-day minimum instructional hour distinction in regards to the 2017-2018 school calendar, which would be voted on later in the evening's Agenda. He stated that moving forward, in order to safely make sure that the district meets the minimum daily instructional hours set forth from the state that instructional days would be increased from 176 days with 4 Superintendent conference and 8 emergency days to 178 days with 4 Superintendent conference days and 6 emergency days. In addition, in order to comply with the state's determination of instructional hours for the remaining half days in the month of June on the elementary level in this year's school calendar, he would be adjusting the dismissal time of the students on those half days. Mr. Bongiovi stated that he has been in contact with other Superintendents in the county, and they are also taking similar action for the remainder of their school year, and that he has a scheduled conference call with Commissioner of Education next week to discuss this topic and get more information that we can use going forward.

Agenda Item 6 - Consent Items

Valerie Maginsky moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to approve Agenda Item 6 Consent items as follows, with one change to the Minutes from the April 4 meeting (Board Member comments of Flo Santini, that the emcee name of the Crime Victim's Vigil be corrected to read David Hoovler. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote:

- a. **Minutes from the April 4, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Education (Section 1, Minutes)**
- b. **Committee on Special Education Minutes (Section 1, Minutes)**
 - **CPSE Meeting Dates:** **March:** 20 (2017-2018 Revised), 22, 22(2017-2018), 27(2017-2018), 28, 29, 29(2017-2018), 31
April: 3, 3(2017-2018), 4,5,5(2017-2018), 7
 - **CSE Meeting Dates:** **March:** 17(2017-2018), 22(2017-2018), 23,23(2017-2018), 24,27,28, 28(2017-2018), 29, 29(2017-2018), 30, 30(2017-2018), 31
April: 3,4,7, 7(2017-2018)
- c. **FMLA, Intermittent and Leave of Absences per Enclosures (Section 1, Personnel)**

Agenda Item 7 - Appointments (Section 1, Personnel)

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky to approve Agenda Item 7 as follows. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote:

A. Instructional Staff

Name:	Lisa Lombardo (Leave Replacement)
Position:	Elementary Teacher - Kindergarten
Assignment:	ASK
Reason:	Vacancy No. 1971

Probation: N/A
 Effective: May 1, 2017 – June 23, 2017
 Salary: \$54,201 – Step 1
 1,500 – Masters
 1,440 – Credits (30)
 \$57,141 (Pro-rated)

B. Extra-Curricular Positions for the 2016-2017 School Year - Memorandum of Agreement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Kyle Ross	National Jr. Honor Society Advisor	\$ 2,348 (shared stipend)
Bethany Harget	National Jr. Honor Society Advisor	\$ 2,348 (shared stipend)

C. Home Instructors for the 2016-2017 School Year – Vacancy No. 1975 – \$41.04/hr.

Donna Schutz Michelle Thiele-Conklin Lynn Felix

D. AIS Instructional Staff for the 2016-2017 School Year – Vacancy No. 1947 – \$41.04/hr.

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>
Nancy Northup	ASK

Agenda Item 8 – Tenure Appointment Recommendations

Judy Amato moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to approve Agenda Item 8 as follows. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tenure Area</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Anthony Lazzaro	Assistant Principal	August 21, 2017
Lauren Eckerson	Childhood Education 1-6	September 1, 2017
Cory Puopolo	Physical Education K-12	September 1, 2017
Rebecca Greene	Library Media Specialist	September 1, 2017
Megan Muller	Special Education K-6	September 1, 2017
Jennifer Grismer	School Social Worker	September 1, 2017
Nicole Vasti	Special Education	September 1, 2017
Jonathan Villegas	Art K-12	September 25, 2017

Agenda Item 9 - Approval of the PJCS D 2017-2018 Student Calendar (Enclosure No. 1)

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to approve and adopt Agenda Item 9. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote.

Agenda Item 10 - Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation and Board Self-Evaluation forms (Enclosure No. 2)

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to bring Agenda Item 10 to the floor for discussion. After much discussion of the alternatives, the Board agreed to use the evaluation forms provided by NYSSBA this year as a trial and will re-evaluate next year. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote.

Agenda Item 11 – Discussion of Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2017-2018 (Enclosure No. 3)

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Bill Smith to bring Agenda Item 11 to the floor for discussion. The Board collaboratively reviewed the dates and asked that the calendar be updated and put on the May 2 Agenda for adoption. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote.

**Agenda Item 12 - Resolution Calling for the Annual Meeting and Board of Education Election
(Enclosure No. 4)**

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Tanya Parker-Hughes to approve Agenda Item 12. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote.

Agenda Item 13 - Resolution to Approve the BOCES Administrative Budget for the 2017-2018 School Year in the Amount of \$6,460,529 (Enclosure No. 5a)

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to approve Agenda Item 13. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote.

Agenda Item 14 - Election of BOCES Board Members (Enclosure No. 5b)

There are two (2), three-year term vacancies on the BOCES Board to be filled. The School District may cast one vote for each vacancy to be filled, provided that no more than one vote be cast for any candidate. The Candidates are as follows:

Larry E. Berger, Cornwall CSD
Martha Bogart, Goshen CSD

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky to cast one vote for each candidate to the BOCES Board on Agenda Item 14. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote.

Agenda Item 15 - BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent be hereby authorized to execute the Consent to Change Counsel in Case Index Number EF007218-2016 (Enclosure No. 6)

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky to approve Agenda Item 15. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote.

Agenda Item 16a – Budget Change Discussion (Enclosure No. 7)

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky to bring Agenda Item 16a to the floor for discussion. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote. Much discussion ensued regarding the state aid the district will receive this year and the various types of proposed positions the budget would fund in the coming school year.

Agenda Item 16b - Vote to Adopt the Budget Proposal for the 2017-2018 School Year – Roll Call Vote

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education place on the ballot the 2017-2018 proposed budget in the amount of \$ 70,217,841 for voter approval.

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky to approve Agenda Item 16b. Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes: Lasch, Maginsky, Parker-Hughes, Sadaghiani, Smith, Witherow
Nays: Amato, Santini

Motion carried with an 8-2(Amato, Santini)-1 vote.

Agenda Item 17 - Board Member Comments

Member Debbie Lasch informed the public on an event that the Middle School had today. Service member Ed Reilly, the son of MS staff member Michelle Reilly, came home and surprised his Mom at the Middle School. The emotional reunion was caught on video. She wanted to thank Ed Reilly for

his service to our country and to the Middle School for welcoming him home. The video was posted to Facebook and Mrs. Lain, Principal of the Middle School, stated that the video went viral.

Member Valerie Maginsky reported to the public that Saturday, April 29 would be “Drug Take Back day”. The public could drop off any unused medication to the Port Jervis Police Department from 10 am- Noon at the Police Department and also on that date the PD will be rotating around to Senior areas to collect medications. Otherwise, at any other dates and times there is a drop-box at City Hall by the Police Department door that will accept unused medication any time. She stated that one of the mottos of Operation PJ Pride is “lock it up”. She stated that a good rule of thumb is to always keep medications, alcohol, cigarettes, and any other recreational issues locked up in order to keep our youth safe.

She stated that due to the widespread heroin epidemic gripping our city, another event, put together by Neighborhood Watch in conjunction with the PJ Police Department is a presentation at 7pm at the Drew Methodist Church entitled “Battling the Heroin Epidemic In our Community. She encouraged all citizens to attend.

Mrs. Maginsky also had the suggestion that any upcoming Civil Service tests be announced at the Board meetings to get the word out to the public in case they were interested.

Member Bill Smith stated that he was very impressed with PJHS Art teacher Eleanor Horst’s presentation this evening. He stated that district staff is always coming up with great ideas and something special and it was great to see how far reaching these projects are and to keep up the good work.

Member Bob Witherow reported that he attended the Education Committee meeting at the Middle School on April 6 where Ms. Sullivan gave a review of Special Education and a NYS Special Education Compliance and Review presentation. Also at that meeting, a representative of Model Schools, Jaclyn Ellefsen gave a report on the new programs the schools were using, and the meeting finished with a round table discussion on the presentations. He found the meeting very informative.

Member Judy Amato wished to clarify her vote of no to the budget that will be presented to the public at the May 5 meeting. She stated her vote was a result of two items included in the proposed budget, the Director of Data and the TASC program, and because they are included that she could not wholeheartedly accept and approve the budget.

Member Tanya Parker Hughes also thanked Mrs. Horst for her amazing presentation. She also added that she attended the Education Committee presentation with Mr. Witherow and when the presentation was finished, she commented to Mr. Bongiovi that she wished the Board could have seen the presentation from Jaclyn Ellefsen from Model Schools because they are doing amazing things in the classroom and she was enlightened. She stated she had to admit that she was one of the people who voted against the Model Schools position that was originally in the proposed budget, but changed her mind after the presentation. She was hopeful that a shortened version of the presentation could be presented to the Board because she could not imagine anyone not supporting the program after seeing the pictures and videos of what our kids were doing in the classroom.

Member Flo Santini reminded the public that the 42/97 bridge is still out and begged everyone to be careful. She stated that multiple people have hit the barriers due to speed.

Two weeks ago, Mrs. Santini attended flight 15 of the Honor Flight program for WWII veterans. She stated that two weeks from this Saturday, the inaugural flight from JFK, named the Big Apple Flight will take place. She encouraged the public to become involved in this worthy cause by donating and volunteering in the program.

On April 14, she attended the “Stand Up to Heroin” event, where they did a tribute to all the people we lost to the drug (there were four last week alone). She stated that we need to take back control and that this drug is running rampant in our community. She said it was a very moving ceremony. She also encouraged the public to attend the call to action against heroin presentation on May 11th at the Drew Methodist Church and thanked everyone for their support of this cause.

Member Cathy Sadaghiani congratulated Board President Debbie Lasch, who recently won this year’s BPW Woman of the Year award.

Agenda Item 18 - Dates to Remember

President Lasch read the dates to remember.

Agenda Item 19 - Adjournment

Judy Amato moved, seconded by Tanya Parker-Hughes to adjourn the Regular meeting at 8:27 pm. Motion carried with an 8-0-1 vote.

The Port Jervis City School District Board of Education will hold its next Meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria. The Purpose of this meeting is the Regular Meeting/Public Budget Hearing.

Transcribed by *Kristen M. Lopez*
Kristen M. Lopez, Clerk of the Board
Port Jervis Board of Education

04/20/2017