

**PORT JERVIS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2016**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on September 20, 2016, in the High School Cafeteria.

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

Members Absent: Robert Witherow

Others Present: Thomas Bongiovi, Superintendent
Cynthia Benedict, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Lorelei Case, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Kristen Lopez, Clerk of the Board
Sally Kurtzman, Montague School Board Liaison
Jean Pavek, BOCES School Board Liaison

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

The meeting was called to order by President Lasch.

Motion to Enter into Executive Session – Agenda Item 2

Tanya Parker Hughes moved, seconded by Flo Santini, to enter into executive session at 6:31 pm. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 (Witherow) vote.

Valerie Maginsky moved, seconded by William Smith, to close executive session at 7:02 pm. Motion unanimously passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

Regular Session Resumes – Agenda Item 3

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani, to return to regular session at 7:07 pm. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote. Flo Santini moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani, to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

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

Presentation – Agenda Item 4

1. **PJCSD Goals Update** – Mr. Bongiovi recounted last year's goals, with much discussion on the district scorecards. He introduced Mr. Eric Hipsman, the district attendance coordinator, who explained that

attendance directly correlates with graduation, and outlined some of the strategies he and his counselors were utilizing to increase attendance rates. Mr. Bongiovi finished with a direct plea to parents to help their children by making sure they come to school every day.

2. **Logo v. Mascot** – Mr. Marotta discussed the need for the district to move forward to choose a mascot that would embody our Port Pride. He would like to hold open forums and work with the students, faculty and community to come up with ideas for the mascot, maybe through a contest. He will update the Board at a later meeting.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 5

Ms. Noeleen Casey-Tomasi voiced her support of Mr. Marotta's presentation, saying that it gives support to our community if people know who we are, and a mascot will help to that end. She also expressed her views on the TASC program that the Board discussed at the last meeting. Mrs. Lasch thanked Ms. Tomasi for coming to the meeting and speaking to the Board.

Administrative Reports – Agenda Item 6

Ms. Case stated that the summer 2016 project work was coming to completion. The auxiliary gym roofing is completed. The playground resurfacing and equipment installation at both elementary schools is complete. The following projects are complete less miscellaneous finishes: refrigeration project, HBE cafeteria door control upgrades and instructional space change-out of cabinets and finishes.

Although the HBE electronic sign is up and operating, there is a problem with an upper quadrant. The cause is undetermined – Mr. Preiss and the vendor are working on a solution. The high school auditorium rigging is scheduled to be replaced on October 12, 2016. The Chase Field track will be resurfaced in the spring.

The Governor has approved a law that requires all water faucets in grades K-12 be tested for lead. K-5 schools must be tested by September 30th and 6-12 schools must be tested by October 31st. The elementary testing has been completed and we are awaiting results. Secondary school testing has begun. Results will be posted on the website when available.

The 2015-2016 audit report will be presented at the October 4, 2016 meeting. Ms. Case asked the Board to consider having a short executive audit session at 6:30 pm so they could ask specific questions of the auditor, with a public presentation given at 6:45 pm, before the regular meeting.

Mrs. Benedict reported that the first two weeks of the new school year have been very busy with students and teachers settling into the school routine. At PJMS our 8th graders experienced *Breaking the Cycle*, a very inspiring assembly promoting hope through forgiveness. This is the fourth year the program has been brought to the MS and each year something new is added. At HBE the students were presented with the kick off of their Character Education Program. At PJHS, students were offered daily class assemblies through the Raider Readiness program.

In addition to the special events during the school hours, Open House nights were held at our elementary schools last week, where parents were given the opportunity to meet their child's teachers, learn about the curriculum and to participate in the district's online Parent Engagement survey. Mrs. Benedict thanked everyone who has participated so far and encouraged parents who have not yet taken the surveys to participate. She reports that the surveys will be open until the end of October. She wanted to remind everyone that Open House for secondary schools is this coming week; PJMS on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 and PJHS on Thursday, September 22, 2016.

Mr. Bongiovi experienced the assemblies around the district this past week, and reported that Port Pride is all around us. He congratulated HS Math teacher Carolyn Dorritie, who was one of five finalists for New York State Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Bongiovi expressed his disappointment in the Small Cities lawsuit in that the Court dismissed the case. He said the districts involved were disappointed with this news, but knows that the fight will continue on in the Court of Appeals.

On a lighter note, Mr. Bongiovi read a letter from former Port Jervis resident Lowell Joerg who mailed him a postcard that he found in a shop in California, where he now resides. The postcard had the current Port Jervis Middle School (formerly the PJHS) on the front of it. Mr. Joerg wanted to send the card back "home" to our district for us to enjoy. Mr. Bongiovi wrote him a letter of thanks for showing such Port Pride.

Mrs. Lasch took a moment to welcome our two visiting Liaisons, Sally Kurtzman (Montague School Board) and Jean Pavcek (BOCES Board) to our meeting and thanked them for coming.

Consent Agenda Items – Agenda Item 7

William Smith moved, seconded by Brian Dewey, to approve the consent agenda items. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote:

- a. Minutes from the September 6, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Education (Section I)**
- b. CSE/CPSE Minutes (enclosure 1)**
CSE: 8/29/16, 8/31/16, 9/1/16, 9/2/16, 9/3/16, 9/7/16, 9/8/16, 9/9/16
- d. FMLA, Intermittent and Leave of Absences per Enclosures (Section III, Personnel)**
- e. Resignation(s) (Section III, Personnel)**

Name: Adam Kean
Position: Special Education Teacher
Assignment: High School
Effective: September 13, 2016

Appointment(s) – Agenda Item 8

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky, to approve appointments A through E as follows. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote:

A. Support Staff

Name: Lefberg, Denise
Position: Clerk Typist – PT – change in status from Temporary to Probationary
Assignment: District Wide
Reason: Vacancy No. 1938
Probation: 8-26 Weeks
Effective: September 21, 2016
Salary: No Change

B. ACES Instructional Staff for the 2016-2017 School Year – Vacancy No. 1905

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Salary</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|---------|
| Donna Schutz | Substitute | \$50.58 |
| Joseph Becker | Substitute | \$50.58 |
| Christine Piscitelli | Substitute | \$50.58 |

C. ARCH Instructional Staff for the 2016-2017 School Year – Vacancy No. 1906

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Salary</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Taylor Hartey | Science | \$50.58 |

D. Substitute Teachers

**Denotes College Students*

Bold=Home Tutor

B=Bachelors

Ryan Ward
Taylor Sanok

C= 48 Credits

Lauren Kalantgis*

E. Co-Curricular Positons for the 2016-2017 School Year – Vacancy No. 1895

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Salary</u> |
|------------------|--|----------------|
| Amy Hoverstock | Senior Class Advisor | \$1,399 |
| Amanda Davis | Freshman Class Co-Advisor | \$1,399 shared |
| Ryan Schupp | Freshman Class Co-Advisor | \$1,399 shared |
| Tammy Lara | Sophomore Co-Advisor | \$1,399 shared |
| Eleanor Horst | Art Club | \$ 701 |
| Laurel Kronimus | Middle School Student Council Co-Advisor | \$1,399 shared |
| Megan Wieboldt | Middle School Student Council Co-Advisor | \$1,399 shared |
| Jennifer Curreri | OM Advisor | \$1,399 |
| Marc Koenig | Science Olympiad Advisor | \$1,399 |

Approval of Lead Evaluator of Teachers Re-Certification for the 2016-2017 School Year – Agenda Item 9

William Smith moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to approve the Lead Evaluator of Teachers Recertification for the 2016-2017 School Year. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

Approval to Accept donations from the Marian Cooper Community Foundation (PJEF) – Agenda Item 10

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani, to accept donations from the Marian Cooper Community Foundation in the amount of \$200 to PJHS; \$200 to PJMS, \$200 to ASK and \$450 to HBE. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

Approval to Accept Donation of Assorted Vegetable and Flower Seeds from Walmart 2064 – Agenda Item 11

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani, to accept donations of assorted vegetable and flower seeds from Walmart. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

Approval to Declare Furniture and Equipment as Surplus – Agenda Item 12

William Smith moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to declare furniture and equipment as surplus. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

Appointment of Chief Emergency Officer - Thomas M. Bongiovi – Agenda Item 13

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by William Smith, to appoint Thomas M. Bongiovi as Chief Emergency Officer. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

Approval of Agreement Concerning Tenure Transfer – Agenda Item 14

Judy Amato moved, seconded by Tanya Parker-Hughes to approve agreement concerning tenure transfer. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

Approval of Employment Agreement for Ron Semerano as Part-Time Athletic Director – Agenda Item 15

William Smith moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky, to approve the Employee Agreement for Ron Semerano as part-time Athletic Director. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote. Mr. Bongiovi wanted to remind the Board that we would have to put monies in the budget next year for this position, as Mr. Semerano will not be returning next school year.

Approval of Settlement Agreement and General Release – Agenda Item 16

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Brian Dewey, to approve the Settlement Agreement and General Release. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

Approval of Side Letter of Agreement between the Board of Education of the Port Jervis City School District and the Port Jervis Teachers Association Concerning a Sick Leave Bank Request – Agenda Item 17

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by William Smith, to approve the Side Letter of Agreement between the Board of Education of the PJCS and the PJTA concerning a sick leave bank request. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

Discussion on TASC Program – Agenda Item 18

A lengthy discussion ensued on this program, with topics such as transportation, the type of diploma the students participating in this program would receive versus completion of online programs and job corps, and the possibility of future collaborative efforts of all Districts if this pilot program were successful.

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by William Smith, to continue moving forward with the TASC program. Motion passed with a 7-1(Amato)-1 vote.

Board Member Comments – Agenda Item 19

Member Valerie Maginsky reminded everyone that the Port Jervis Fall Foliage Festival would be held on September 25, 2016 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Scarecrow contest applications are due by September 23, 2016. She also stated that the Farmer's Market breakfast fundraiser would be held October 8, 2016 from 8:00 – 11:00 am, suggested donation is \$10.00. There will be a tent and entertainment provided.

Member Tanya Parker-Hughes addressed the attendance initiative, speaking as a parent, and stated that she is concerned that the automated phone call that was generated from her student's absence came in at 6:00 pm. She felt this could be a safety issue for younger students, and suggested that perhaps a call earlier in the day, when a parent could be proactive in locating an absent student and

another in the evening may be a better solution. After much discussion, Mr. Bongiovi agreed to look into the situation.

Member Flo Santini asked everyone to mark their calendars for the next Health/Wellness Committee meeting, which will be held in the PJHS Library on October 13, 2016. She thanked everyone for coming to the September 11 remembrance ceremony, and paid special tribute to the PJHS Choir and their teachers for a beautiful performance. She stated that the children are our future, and it was special that they gave of their time to attend. She reminded everyone of the importance of remembering that day, not only for those that lost their lives, but for the brave souls who went into those buildings. She reported that it was a beautiful day to fly the two flags at the service – the American flag, and an original flag that was flown at the site of the attack.

Mrs. Santini let all in attendance know that Route 42 would be open soon until next spring, when they will begin working on the other bridge.

Member Cathy Sadaghiani thanked Mrs. Santini for a beautiful September 11 ceremony. She also thanked the PJMS and Mrs. Lehn for their efforts in bringing the Breaking the Cycle assembly to the Middle School.

Mrs. Sadaghiani related that she was looking through the latest New York State Insurance Reciprocal (NYSIR) packet that she received, and came across a volunteer application that she thought would be of use for parents, chaperones or anyone who volunteers in the classroom. She encouraged the other members to look at it and thought that we could possibly use it in district. She also stated that she read the Safety Plan and noted that a new law goes into effect July 1, 2016, mandating that the Safety Plan needs to be reviewed annually by the Board of Education, and furthermore that the Plan needed to be available 30 days before Board review and prior to the end of the school year. Mrs. Sadaghiani also related that the district-wide Safety Team must be Board appointed. The Emergency Response Team must include fire officials, and all needed annual training in the Plan. The Commissioner requests written proof of annual training.

Dates to Remember – Agenda Item 20

President Lasch read the dates to remember.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 21

Tanya Parker-Hughes moved, seconded by Brian Dewey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Motion passed with an 8-0-1 vote.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria. There will be a public Audit presentation at 6:45 pm in the High School Cafeteria before the regular meeting.

Transcribed by ***Kristen M. Lopez***

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

09/20/2016