

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

**Meeting Minutes  
October 4, 2016**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 4, 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  
                              Robert Witherow

Members Absent:

Others Present:       Thomas Bongiovi, Superintendent  
                              Cynthia Benedict, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
                              Lorelei Case, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
                              Kristen Lopez, Clerk of the Board  
                              Abigail Ilizirov & Shannon Klotz, Student Representatives  
                              Mark Levy of Levy, Nugent & Haeussler, PC  
                              Dr. Stevenson, PLC Associates

**Motion to Enter into Executive Session**

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Florence Santini, to enter into executive session at 6:32 pm. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote.

Florence Santini moved, seconded by Brian Dewey, to end executive session at 6:44 pm. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote.

**Call to Order – Agenda Item 1**

President Lasch called the meeting to order.

**Regular Session Resumes – Agenda Item 2**

William Smith moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky, to return to regular session at 6:45 pm. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Representative Abigail Ilizirov, followed by a moment of silence.

At this time, Mark Levy, Certified Public Accountant with Levy, Nugent & Haeussler, PC and Ms. Lorelei Case, Assistant Superintendent for Business presented the Independent Audit Report to the public.

### **Presentation(s) – Agenda Item 3**

PJHS Senior Abigail Ilizirov and Junior Shannon Klotz, Student Representatives, reported the upcoming event dates in October for the High School.

After the Student Representative report, Tom Faggione, district webmaster, took the official photograph of the 2016-2017 Board of Education.

Mrs. Benedict, PJCS D Building Administrators and Dr. Stevenson from PLC Associates presented on School Accountability. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mrs. Benedict proudly announced that due to our positive results and hard work since our Middle School was declared a FOCUS school, Port Jervis is one of three Districts invited to present at the upcoming New York State Education Department conference. She also encouraged parents who have not yet done so to go on the district website to take the Parent Survey.

### **Public Comment – Agenda Item 4**

Rebecca Hulse, President of Friends of Rachel Events outlined the special assemblies and community events coming to the High School through the Friends of Rachel club. She explained that the Friends of Rachel is a group spreading a message of kindness and compassion to all.

### **Administrative Reports – Agenda Item 5**

**Mr. Bongiovi** addressed the results of the recent State mandated Water Testing that was performed at both ASK and HBE. Letters outlining the results of this testing were mailed home to each elementary student from their respective schools. Mr. Bongiovi said that both the High School and Middle School will have their testing completed by October 30, 2016 and a letter will be mailed home when the results come back. All letters will be posted to the district website as they become available.

### **Consent Agenda Items – Agenda Item 6**

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Bill Smith, to approve the consent agenda items as follows. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote:

- a. Minutes from the September 20, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Education (Section I)**
- b. CPSE Minutes (enclosure no. 1a)**  
CSE: September (2016): September 8, 12,13,14,15,16,19,20,21,22,23,26  
CPSE: September (2016): September 13,20,21,22
- c. Financial Reports:**
  - Appropriation Status Detail, July 1, 2016 – August 31, 2016 (**enclosure nos. 1b, 1c,1d**)
  - Budget Transfer Report for August, 2016 (**enclosure no. 1e**)
  - Treasurer’s Report for August, 2016 (**enclosure no. 1f**)
- d. FMLA, Intermittent and Leave of Absences per Enclosures (Section III Personnel)**

### **Appointment(s) – Agenda Item 7**

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Brian Dewey to approve appointments A through H as follows. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote:

**A. Instructional Staff (All salaries based on 2015-2016 contract)**

**Name:** Lisa Lombardo  
**Position:** Elementary Teacher (Leave Replacement)  
**Assignment:** ASK  
**Reason:** Vacancy No. 1943  
**Effective:** September 19, 2016 – February 16, 2017  
**Salary:** \$53,532 – Step 1  
1,500 – Masters  
1,380 – Credits (30)  
\$56,412 (Pro-rated)

**Name:** Jennifer Scannell  
**Position:** Guidance Counselor (Leave Replacement)  
**Assignment:** HBE  
**Reason:** Vacancy No. 1945  
**Effective:** November 7, 2016 – October 31, 2017  
**Salary:** \$57,580 – Step 1  
1,500 – Masters  
2,208 – Credits (48)  
\$61,288 (Pro-rated)

**Name:** Katrina Knight  
**Position:** Elementary Teacher (Leave Replacement)  
**Assignment:** ASK  
**Reason:** Vacancy No. 1946  
**Effective:** September 23, 2016 – December 15, 2016  
**Salary:** \$53,532 – Step 1 (Pro-rated)

**B. Support Staff**

**Name:** Tanya Prespare  
**Position:** School Monitor - Probationary  
**Assignment:** District Wide  
**Reason:** Vacancy No. 1930  
**Probation:** 8-26 weeks  
**Effective:** October 5, 2016 (pending fingerprint clearance)  
**Salary:** \$14.42 – Step 1

**Name:** Janine Shearer  
**Position:** Teacher Aide – Temporary  
**Assignment:** District Wide  
**Reason:** Vacancy No. 1944  
**Probation:** N/A (Temporary with possibility of becoming Probationary)  
**Effective:** October 5, 2016  
**Salary:** \$14.54 – Step 1

**C. Substitutes: Teachers and RN's**

*\*Denotes College Students*

**Bold= Home Tutor**

A=Certified

**Lisa Cunningham**

**D. Co-Curricular Instructional Staff for the 2016-2017 School Year – Vacancy No. 1895**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Richard Graham	PJMS Mentor	\$1,500 stipend
Theresa Kahmar	Co-Advisor, Odyssey of the Mind	Volunteer, Non-paid

**E. AIS Instructional Staff for the 2016-2017 School Year – Vacancy No. 1947  
\$40.53 per hour (salary based on 2015-2016 contract)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>
Heather Robinson	PJMS	Michele Grabiec	HBE
Elke O’Connell	PJMS	Michelle Thiele	HBE
Megan Wieboldt	PJMS	Nicole Dennison	HBE
Joseph Becker	PJMS	Joyce Babcock	HBE
Cristina McCaw	PJMS	Scott Reichert	ASK
Laurel Kronimus	PJMS		
Terence McGuire	PJMS		
Walter Kaufmann	PJMS		

**F. AIS Instructional Staff Substitutes for the 2016-2017 School Year – Vacancy No. 1947  
\$40.53 per hour (salary based on 2015-2016 contract)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>
Jennifer Elston	PJMS	Ashley Sparke	PJMS
Scott Reed	PJMS	Heather Gass	HBE

**G. Approval of Committee on Special Education Vendor as Follows:**

Assistive Technology for Education, LLC  
PO Box 1174  
Wolfeboro Falls, NJ 03896  
Phone: (603) 998-4980

**H. Correction to the Previously Approved (08/01/2016 Meeting) Stipend for Curriculum Coordinator Positions for the 2016-2017 School Year – Vacancy No. 1895 (enclosure no. 2)**

**Approval of Independent Audit Report – Agenda Item 8**

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani, to approve the Audit Report and the Management Letter of Response. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote.

**Approval of Resolution to Appoint Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle, LLP as General Counsel and Labor Relations Counsel – Agenda Item 9**

Florence Santini moved, seconded by Tanya Parker-Hughes, to move this agenda item to Executive Session at the end of the meeting, and also stipulated that it be for Board Members only and would not include Administrators. Motion carried by a 6-3(Sadaghiani, Smith, Witherow) vote.

**Approval of Senior Class Trip to Disney World April 20-24, 2017 - Agenda Item 10**

Judy Amato moved, seconded by Brian Dewey, to approve the senior class trip to Disney World from April 20-24, 2017. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote.

## **Approval of Food Service Agreement between the Port Jervis City School District and Easter Seals/Project Discovery - Agenda Item 11**

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Brian Dewey, to table this Agenda Item. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote.

## **Approval to Appoint Conrad, Close and Ewald, PC to prepare a survey of the Route 209 Complex for use in the Sanitary Line Renovation Project – Agenda Item 12**

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Florence Santini, to appoint Conrad, Close and Ewald, PC to prepare a survey of the Route 209 Complex for use in the Sanitary Line Renovation Project. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote.

## **Policies – Agenda Item 13**

Florence Santini moved, seconded by Bill Smith, to approve the following policies as stated below. Cathy Sadaghiani clarified the reasons for the amendments to the policies. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote:

### **First Reading**

Policy No. 5673	Student Grading Information Systems
Policy No. 5674	Data Networks and Security Access

### **Third and Final Reading**

Policy No. 5730	Transportation of Students
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### **Removal from Policy Manual**

Policy No. 7221	Early Graduation
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## **Committee/Liaison Reports (as available) – Agenda Item 14**

**Policy Committee Liaison** Cathy Sadaghiani reminded all that the Committee will meet on Monday October 17, 2016 at 11:00 am, and will update the Board at a later date.

**Safety Committee Liaison** Flo Santini stated she would be looking into scheduling a meeting soon.

**Health & Wellness Committee Liaison** Flo Santini reported that the meeting of this Committee would be held on October 20 at 10:00 am at the PJHS Library.

**Port Jervis Liaison** Valerie Maginsky wanted the public to know that the PJ Free Library is asking the public to take a survey. The survey will be available online or via paper available at the Library. She reported that Operation Port Pride would be holding a “sticker shock” campaign this coming Thursday (10/6/2016). They will be putting stickers on larger cases of beer, wine, etc. Look for them!

The Halloween lighting contest entries are due on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The two categories will be traditional and scary. Please go to the website for details. She also reminded all that the Farmer’s Market Fundraiser that she previously spoke of at the last meeting is this Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 am. Suggested donation is \$10.00.

**Deerpark Liaison** Flo Santini exclaimed that Route 42 is finally open – that is, until they start a new bridge project in the spring. She also asked that any senior citizens that would like to take advantage of a free Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19, 2016 call Deerpark Town Hall.

Mrs. Santini also informed the public that the speed limit on Neversink Drive has been lowered from 55 to 45 mph. She stated that Police would give warnings for a short time before issuing tickets to violators.

**Education Committee Liaison** Robert Witherow announced that the Education Committee would meet on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the High School Guidance Suite. Report to follow.

**OCSBA** delegate Bill Smith stated that there would be a meeting tomorrow night at BOCES in the Administrative Conference Room regarding new equipment to detect vision problems. Updates will follow. He also reported that the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) sent him a Delegates Guide for navigating the Convention Experience for the upcoming conference that he will be attending in Buffalo on October 29, 2016. He asked the Board Clerk to make copies of these guide booklets and distribute to the Board members for review. He asked that discussion of the booklet be placed on the next Board Agenda for October 18.

Mr. Smith commented that the New York State Education Department just released a new draft concerning P-12 ELA and Math Standards. He encouraged all to look at the new standards on the website and leave public comments and feedback.

### **Board Member Comments – Agenda Item 15**

Members Judy Amato and Tanya Parker-Hughes stated that they would like to save comments that they may have until after the Executive Session.

Member Florence Santini asked all to keep everyone who will be affected by Hurricane Matthew in their thoughts.

Member Brian Dewey sent the public a general message that they should stop dressing up as clowns and terrorizing people!

Member Cathy Sadaghiani thanked HBE for their wonderful newsletter that was included in the informational packet of the Agenda. She also voiced that the district was having difficulty with the sound at the live feed of the Board meetings. She stated that Time Warner Cable was monitoring tonight's meeting and trying to troubleshoot the problems. She was hopeful that all issues would be resolved soon.

### **Dates to Remember – Agenda Item 16**

President Lasch read the dates to remember.

### **Motion to Enter into Executive Session – Agenda Item 17**

Florence Santini moved, seconded by Tanya Parker-Hughes, to move to Executive Session. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:50 pm with a motion from Bill Smith, seconded by Valerie Maginsky. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote.

President Lasch requested a motion to remove from table Agenda Item 9. Brian Dewey, seconded by Judith Amato, made a motion to table Agenda Item 9. Motion to table was defeated by a 4-5 (*Lasch, Maginsky, Sadaghiani, Smith, Witherow*) vote.

A motion was made by William Smith, seconded by Valerie Maginsky, to bring Agenda Item 9 to the floor for a vote. Agenda Item 9 passed by a 5-4 (*Amato, Dewey, Parker-Hughes, Santini*) vote.

Tanya Parker-Hughes voiced her concern over the vote on Agenda Item 9 and the fact that the Board hired a law firm she clearly voted against. She stated this firm has been fired from the Town of Deerpark, the City of Port Jervis, and our very own school Board a few years ago, and she believes it is not in the best interest of the district to hire them.

Judy Amato stated that she agreed with Tanya Parker-Hughes, and added that to ask this firm to come in and represent us is not good for this school Board. She says there is a legal document that is pending, signed and executed by Waxman that didn't protect the Board in doing so and she wanted that stated publicly.

### **Adjournment – Agenda Item 18**

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Florence Santini, to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 pm. Motion carried by a 9-0-0 vote.

The next meeting/workshop of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria.

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

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

10/04/2016