

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

MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2017 Meeting

The Board of Education held its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 in the High School Cafeteria.

Members Present: Judith Amato
Brian Dewey
Deborah Lasch
Valerie Maginsky
Joan McBride
Tanya Parker-Hughes
Catherine Sadaghiani
Florence Santini
Robert Witherow

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ruth Anne Zuclich, *Interim Superintendent of Schools*
Lorelei Case, *Assistant Superintendent for Business*
Mike Rydell, *Assistant Superintendent for Instruction*
Kristen Lopez, *District Board Clerk*
Shannon Klotz, *Senior Student Representative*
Mark Levy, PC, *Nugent & Haeussler*
Bill Hecht, *OU BOCES District Superintendent*

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

President Judy Amato called the Meeting to Order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda Item 2 - Motion to Enter into Executive Session

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to enter into Executive Session at 6:30 pm. Motion carried with a 7-0-2(Dewey and Lasch in Audit Committee meeting) vote.

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Tanya Parker-Hughes to close Executive Session at 7:08 pm. Motion carried with a 9-0-0 vote.

Agenda Item 3 - Regular Session Resumes

Debbie Lasch moved, seconded by Flo Santini to resume the Regular Meeting at 7:10 pm. Motion carried with a 9-0-0 vote.

Tanya Parker-Hughes led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence dedicated to the victims of Las Vegas and their families.

Agenda Item 4 – Presentations

Shannon Klotz, Senior Student Representative reported on upcoming dates for events at the High School.

Bill Hecht, District Superintendent from OU BOCES, and Interim Superintendent Ruth Zulich reported on the new Superintendent Hiring Timeline and had the Board discuss and agree to dates for items on the timeline. More reports will be forthcoming.

Mark Levy from Nugent and Haeussler and Lorelei Case, Assistant Superintendent for Business gave to the Board and public in attendance a summary of the Independent Audit Report that was presented to the Audit Committee earlier in the evening.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment

Taxpayer/Resident/Employee Nancy Dunn voiced her disappointment with the suspension (hopefully temporary) of the daily radio broadcast at the High School. She said that she believes that being involved in the broadcasts gives students confidence. She feels that this broadcast reaches the parents who do not get on our website and gives them valuable information and important dates of things that are happening at the High School. She encouraged the Board to keep the broadcast in the forefront and not let it go by the wayside.

Parent/Resident/Taxpayer Luanna Sauschuck addressed her comments to the entire Board. She said that she was excited about all the things going on in Port Jervis and was thankful that so much is being done to make the city flourish and she speaks for many people when she says everyone is excited about the growth of our city – Port is a terrific place to live and raise our children. She said that she is upset with the way the Board Members have been treating each other over the past few Board meetings. She said in the past all Members of the Board worked together and were respectful of each other for the good of the children and said she speaks for many when she urged all of the current Members to “get on the same page”. She thanked the Board for volunteering their time to the community by being on the Board. She said that in viewing the last Board meeting she was very upset that Cathy Sadaghiani was spoken to the way she was and really hoped that the Board stops all of their bickering and works together in the future.

Taxpayer/Resident Bud Williamson thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He states that he owns WDLC, the radio station that broadcasts the HS radio show. He states he will work with the FCC and hopes that we can get all the paperwork required quickly so they can start re-broadcasting the HS segments. He explained how the show evolved and how he wanted to add interviews of students moving on from high school to college and how they worked their way through school to where they are today. He believes that the public needs positive information in life because there is too much tragedy in the world today and believes shows like this teach our youth to be respectful. He is hopeful that the Board will continue with the program and he is willing to do anything it takes to make it work.

Agenda Item 6 – Administrative Reports

Ms. Case reported that at the last Board Meeting, Mrs. Sadaghiani asked several questions regarding informational memorandums. The questions and answers are as follows:

Question 1: How does the district pay for EAP services? *Answer: The district pays for EAP services on an annual fee of \$12 per member.*

Question 2: Did Ms. Case call the manufacturer to determine the age group that the play sets are built for? *Answer: The Facilities Director did not contact the manufacturer. He referenced the manufacturer's book. Several district playsets are designed for ages 2 to 12, and others are designed for ages 5 to 12. The insurance carrier said that all signs should read ages 5 to 12.*

Question 3: Did the district replace the links on the ladder as directed in the NYSIR inspection report? *Answer: The report did not recommend that the links be replaced. The report suggested that the links be inspected. The links on the ladder were inspected and deemed safe. New links were ordered and will be replaced as part of the district's ongoing maintenance program.*

Ms. Case stated that she was thrilled to report that the Back Pack Snack Attack program will be offered at both elementary schools and the middle school. She met with the four building coordinators last week. They are prepared to accept the delivery of food on Oct 12. The first distribution of food will be on Oct 13. She publicly thanked Kari, Erin, Lisa and Dawn for serving as the coordinators of this much needed initiative.

Lastly, Ms. Case issued a special thank you to her staff. She stated that their work product is always accurate and thorough, and the result of their daily efforts showed in the excellent audit report we received.

Mr. Rydell said that he had the pleasure of attending the "Chopped" competition at the high school. He said that he was very impressed with Ms. Accardi passion for teaching and her knowledge of subject incorporated into this innovative competition, however, the most impressive part was the teamwork and cooperative nature of the project. He felt it was an impressive display of motivating and engaging students.

Mr. Rydell shared that the MS would be hosting two assemblies on October 5 featuring honored guest Alan Moskin, who is a World War II Army Veteran and Holocaust Liberator. Mr. Rydell said Mr. Moskin had a tremendous story to tell, literally providing a first-hand account of history that he believes will be of value to the students on multiple levels; bringing home to them the power of compassion, peace, and forgiveness, while also providing insight to the unimaginable events that took place. Mr. Moskin collaborates with the Holocaust Museum, and Mr. Rydell has had the pleasure of hearing him speak, and he is incredible. He encouraged everyone to attend the assemblies if they were available to do so.

Mr. Rydell wanted to brief the board on another committee that will be commencing. We previously had the Education Committee, which met approximately four times per year and was comprised of BOE members, central administrators, and building administrators. While the focus of this committee included the reporting of the events from each of the buildings, touring the buildings, etc., in reviewing the scope and use of this committee, he believe we can increase the return on investment and the benefits of this committee by making a few changes:

First, he believes it is essential to have representation from those that are directly providing the instruction and implementing the initiatives this committee will be steering – the faculty. Having teachers involved in the shared-decision making process is a top priority.

Additionally, he believes that students should also be involved. As a former high school Principal, Mr. Rydell would rely heavily on the insight and input from students, and he knows that the Board shares the same sentiment – the students are why we are all here and doing what we do, so it is imperative that we bring them into the decision-making process. His vision of this committee is that it will be the overall steering committee that will take the information from the professional development committee and make decisions on the direction of curriculum and purchases, the use of data to determine areas that need to be addressed or celebrated; decisions on textbooks, software, programmatic changes, etc. These avenues would be presented and researched through this committee, and that which is approved through the Curriculum and Education Committee will then be presented to the BOE as a whole for the ultimate adoption, if applicable, or as means of informing the Board of such decisions.

Mr. Rydell states that there are many great things happening in this district that gives continuity and consistency in reviewing the programs. Board Members that were or are on the Education Committee, you are now on the revised Curriculum and Education Committee, and all board members are invited to attend the meetings as their schedule allows. Student reps are also welcome to be a part of this committee – and, it's a great college application builder. He shared that we will be developing a calendar for these meetings in the near future and will get the dates to committee members as soon as possible.

Mrs. Zulich declined to give a report this meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Consent Items

Brian Dewey moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to approve Agenda Items 7a-7d as follows. Motion carried with a 9-0-0 vote:

- a. Minutes from the October 3, 2017 Meeting of the Board of Education (Section 1, Minutes)**
- b. Committee on Special Education Minutes (Section 1, Minutes)**
 - **CSE Meeting Dates:** September: 8,11,12,13,14,15,18,19,20,21,22
 - **CPSE Meeting Dates:** September: 18,21
- c. FMLA, Intermittent and Leave of Absences per Enclosures (Section 1, Personnel)**
- d. Disposal of Surplus Textbooks (Section 1, Other Consent):**

Agenda Item 8 - Appointments (Section 1, Personnel)

Debbie Lasch moved, seconded by Cathy Sadaghiani to approve Agenda Item 8 as follows. Motion carried with a 9-0-0 vote.

A. Instructional Staff:

Name:	Mary Eberling
Position:	School Psychologist - Probationary
Assignment:	District Wide – Middle School
Reason:	Vacancy No. 2012

Effective: October 25, 2017
 Tenure Track: October 25, 2017 – October 25, 2021
 Salary: \$59,028 – Step 1 (Pro-rated)

B. Change of Dates to Previously Approved Leave Replacement

Name: Jennifer Scannell
Position: Guidance Counselor (Leave Replacement)
Assignment: HBE
Reason: Vacancy No. 1945
Effective: October 31, 2017 – October 31, 2018
Salary: \$57,580 – Step 1 (Pro-rated)
 1,500 – Masters
2,208 – Credits
 \$61,288 (Pro-rated)

(Previous effective dates 10/26/16-10/31/17 approved at 11/15/16 meeting)

C. Support Staff:

Name: Michelle Culleney
Position: School Monitor - Probationary
Assignment: District Wide - ASK
Reason: Vacancy No. 2011
Probation: 8-26 weeks
Effective: October 4, 2017 (pending fingerprint clearance)
Salary: \$14.42 – Step 1 (2016-2017)

D. Substitute Teachers/RN's:

Denotes College Students* **Bold=Home Tutor

<i>A = Certified</i>	<i>B=Bachelor's Degree</i>	<i>C = 48 or More College Credits</i>	<i>Nurse ** Denotes RN</i>
Samantha McCourt		Mitchell Nelson	
Anna Maria Peacock			

E. AIS Teaching Positions for the 2017-2018 School Year – Vacancy No. 1989 - \$41.55/hr.

ASK: Carol Brown(Substitute), Christine Fini, Tony Goff, Jenny McElroy
HBE: Heather Gass
MS: Ashley Sparke

F. Instructional Sixth Period Teaching Assignments for the 2017-2018 School Year

HS: Barbara Hess
MS: Joseph Johnson, Donna Schutz, Scott Spears

G. Home Instructors for the 2017-2018 School Year – Vacancy No. 1983 - \$41.55/hr.

Ryan Doyle

H. Co-Curricular Positions for the 2017-2018 School Year – Vacancy No. 1976

Sherry Wagner: OM Team Co-Advisor w/Kim Wragge (*already approved*) – shared stipend

Tracy West-Barnes: Mock Trial Co-Advisor w/Mike Dunleavy (*already approved*) – shared Stipend

Austin Wilson: Odyssey of the Mind (Middle School) – non-paid volunteer

Agenda Item 9 - Approval to Reconsider and Approve Severed Minutes of the August 15, 2017 Board Meeting (Enclosure no. 1)

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Brian Dewey to approve Agenda Item 9. Motion to approve unanimously carried with a 9-0 vote.

Agenda Item 10 - Approval of Construction Change Orders for the following Jobs (Enclosure no. 2):

- 5096.17 GC1
- 5096.17 EC1
- 5096.18 CC1

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Flo Santini to approve Agenda Item 10. Motion to approve carried with an 8-1(Sadaghiani) vote.

Agenda Item 11 - Approval to Appoint Board Member Valerie Maginsky as Alternate Delegate to OCSBA

Brian Dewey moved, seconded by Flo Santini to approve Agenda Item 11. Motion to approve carried with an 8-0-1(Maginsky Abstained) vote.

Agenda Item 12 - Approval of Independent Audit Report (Enclosure no. 3)

Cathy Sadaghiani moved, seconded by Debbie Lasch to approve Agenda Item 12. Motion to approve unanimously carried with a 9-0 vote.

Agenda Item 13 - Approval of Corrective Action Plan of Response (Enclosure no. 4)

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Joan McBride to approve Agenda Item 13. Motion to approve unanimously carried with a 9-0 vote.

Agenda Item 14 - Approval of Agreement between the Port Jervis City School District and Donald Preiss, Director of Facilities III (Enclosure no. 5)

Debbie Lasch moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky to approve Agenda Item 14. Motion to approve unanimously carried with a 9-0 vote.

Agenda Item 15 - Approval of District Goals for the 2017-2018 School Year (Enclosure no. 6)

Joan McBride moved, seconded by Tanya Parker-Hughes, to approve Agenda Item 15. Much discussion ensued. Motion to approve carried with an 8-1(Sadaghiani) vote.

Agenda Item 16 – Discussion – High School Radio Broadcast

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Brian Dewey to bring Agenda Item 16 to the floor for discussion. This issue is ongoing and Interim Superintendent Zuclich assured the public that she would share further updates with everyone as they occur.

Agenda Item 17 – Discussion – TASC/C-Tech

Tanya Parker-Hughes moved, seconded by Valerie Maginsky to bring Agenda Item 17 to the floor for discussion. Much discussion ensued regarding how the TASC program was set up and run, and Valerie Maginsky asked where the funds allocated for that program will go if TASC is not offered this year. President Amato stated that she received information that the program was used inappropriately last year and students who were on our rolls were transferred into the program and were considered a continuing student. When the program was set up, it was to be used to help students who had dropped out of school gain a completion certificate and in order to qualify for TASC, students had to be off the district rolls for at least one year. This was not the case in several incidents. Therefore, the money that was set aside to use for the TASC program will now go to fund additional in-district students attending the C-Tech programs held at BOCES.

Agenda Item 18 - Committee and Liaison Reports (as available)

Policy Committee Chairperson Cathy Sadaghiani informed everyone that there will be a Policy Committee meeting on October 4 at 11am at District Office.

Port Jervis Liaison Valerie Maginsky reported that although the afternoon was very hot, the Fall Foliage Festival was a huge success, with an excellent turnout of people. She said the vendors were smiling, and people had a chance to see Port Jervis in progress: the new sidewalks under construction, the promenade and the new brewery that was open. She said it was a very good day.

Ms. Maginsky also reported that the 2017 Halloween Lighting contest will be accepting entries until October 25. There are two categories: traditional fall or scary category. There will be three prize certificates from local vendors for the winners.

Deerpark Liaison Flo Santini informed every one of the flier that she had sent out and posted on Facebook, Orange County Aid for Puerto Rico. She said that Orange County took over the project recently because the movement became so huge in a very short period, spreading even farther to include Middletown, Valley Central, Ulster County and Plattekill. The Orange County Sheriff's office donated their jail 24/7 for donation drop-off. She stated that we are very fortunate that we have connections behind this movement; Emergency Management Services has agreed to shrink-wrap and send the pallets of supplies to Puerto Rico when the logistics of delivery sites are confirmed. She heartily thanked the public for their generous support and let all know that the last date to drop off donations will be October 13.

OCSBA Delegate Debbie Lasch reported that OCSBA will hold its next meeting on October 4 and she will report back to the Board.

NYSSBA Delegate Valerie Maginsky thanked Board Clerk Kristen Lopez for making the arrangements and her packet for the upcoming NYSSBA Convention in Lake Placid October 12-14.

Agenda Item 19 – Board Member Comments

Member Brian Dewey stated that he was enthusiastic that Port Jervis is looking up, the expansion and projects around town are phenomenal, and we will soon be “back on the map” again. He also directed the Port Jervis football team to “Go get the Bell” at this weekend’s Bell Game against Middletown.

Member Cathy Sadaghiani stated she was looking forward to the Hall of Fame dinner this weekend. She also thanked public comment speaker Luanna Sauschuck for her kind words of support this evening.

Member Flo Santini echoed Mr. Dewey’s comment and challenged the football team to bring the Bell home this weekend.

Member Valerie Maginsky added that she was looking forward to seeing the Bell in our hallway again.

Member Debbie Lasch agreed with Ms. Maginsky, and wanted to thank the speakers who spoke in public comment publicly this evening. She said she values the speakers’ opinions and what everyone has to say, including her fellow Board Members, even when not everyone agrees. She does think it is a good thing that not everyone always agrees. Mrs. Lasch said that all nine Members of the Board come from different backgrounds and she is one of nine sitting at the table. She told the public that when she votes, she votes the way she believes, but in the end she supports the board decision as a whole even if it differs from her personal vote. She hopes that her fellow Board Members do the same down the road. She says that the Board votes as a whole and we must support the Board’s direction, as well as supporting our Administration or we are never going to move forward and do what is right for our kids. She went on to say she is on the Board because she feels our kids deserve better and she will continue to say it and to fight for our children – we need to invest in our future. Mrs. Lasch stated that she had three kids go through Port Jervis schools, and one of her children came back here to teach and is in her 14th year and that her daughter absolutely loves this district. She believes we should be tooting our horn when we do something right, and encourage our kids to come back to this community and teach like other districts do, because who knows better the challenges our district is facing than someone who went to school here.

Agenda Item 20 – Dates to Remember

President Amato read the Dates to Remember

Agenda Item 21 – Adjournment

Debbie Lasch moved, seconded by Brian Dewey to adjourn the Regular meeting at 9:17 pm. Motion unanimously carried with a 9-0 vote.

The Port Jervis City School District Board of Education will hold its next meeting on *Tuesday, October 17, 2017* 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