

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

October 21, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on October 21, 2014 in the High School Cafeteria.

Members Present: Judith Amato
Michael Bello
Noeleen Casey-Tomasi
William Onofry
Florence Santini
William Smith
Reyes Torres Jr.
Robert Witherow

Members Absent: Tammy Myers

Others Present: Thomas Bongiovi, Superintendent
Cynthia Benedict, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Lorelei Case, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Dawn Lasch, Clerk of the Board

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

The meeting was called to order by President William Onofry.

Motion to Enter into Executive Session – Agenda Item 2

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Flo Santini to enter into executive session at 6:31 p.m. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 absent (Myers) vote.

Motion to Enter into Regular Session – Agenda Item 3

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Flo Santini to return to regular session at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 absent (Myers) vote. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Judy Amato followed by a Moment of Silence.

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Flo Santini to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

Mr. Bongiovi said next week, October 27th – October 31st, is NYS School Board Recognition Week. Each Board member received a small gift from the district and a citation that says “for dedicated leadership in public education and continuing service to the children of the community during the 2014-2015 school year”. Mr. Bongiovi said being a Board member is very time consuming, at times quite stressful, but in the end the hope is that it is an extremely rewarding experience for those that choose to serve. We want to thank not only the Board members but also their families because it is a huge sacrifice to them as well.

Presentations – Agenda Item 4

Strategic Plan Scorecard – Mr. Bongiovi said earlier this year I presented this year’s goals and touched upon the strategic plan scorecard. We said we would follow up with another presentation in October and that’s what we are doing today.

Mr. Bongiovi presented the strategic plan scorecard from each building with highlights on their 2015 goals and whether the schools met those goals or exceeded them. Attendance and the new Common Core Standards were also calculated in these statics.

Mrs. Benedict presented on the accountability determinations which are based on the 2012-13 NYS accountability report from the districts assessment scores. This is the districts report card from the NYSED. We are currently identified as a district in good standing with newly identified LAP (Local Assistance Plan) schools. This means we have subgroups that need improvement compared with our non-subgroups in a particular school. The requirement with LAP schools is to complete a diagnostic self-review document and report template. This is a self-reflection tool. It is 25 pages long and was a great collaborative experience as a Professional Learning Community. This self-reflective process gave us an opportunity to look at our schools subgroups as well as all our students. Three principals completed these reports and a copy was given to the Board for review. Moving forward the Commissioners regulations require that the Board of Education approve the reports which will be at the November 18th BOE meeting for the Board to sign off on those plans. Each school would have the report on file in their building as well as central office. November 21st is the due date to post it on our website.

There was a question and answer period by the Board that followed the presentations. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 5

James Marion – is a Montague resident and parent of a 7th and 10th grader that attend Port Jervis schools. Mr. Marion said the Montague Board came to a decision last week to enter into the process of returning their 7th and 8th graders back to the Montague district next year. My 7th grader now runs the risk of having to leave PJ for 8th grade, and having to return to Montague and, then go on to High Point for HS. I want to know where you as a Board are in terms of the sibling rule with Montague. They are saying that they still are waiting to hear from you to discuss. There are still Montague families that would like their children to continue here in Port Jervis under the sibling rule and I am wondering where this Board is with that decision.

Mr. Onofry answered that the news of them taking back the 7th and 8th graders was as much a surprise to us as it was to you. We read about it in the papers. Our district is still committed to the point that we welcome every Montague student. That has been our position before and still remains our position. Unfortunately as Mr. Bongiovi has said time and time before that the issue is with your school Board and the direction they choose to take.

Mr. Bongiovi confirmed that our last communication was that we were open to the sibling rule and we have not heard back from Montague.

Consent Agenda Items – Agenda Item 6

Bill Smith moved, seconded by Flo Santini to approve the following:

a. Minutes from the October 7, 2014 Meeting of the Board of Education (Section I)

b. CSE/CPSE Minutes (enclosure no. 1)

CSE Minutes: 09/29/14; 09/30/14; 10/02/14; 10/06/14; 10/07/14; 10/08/14; 10/09/14; 10/10/14

CPSE Minutes: 10/01/14; 10/02/14; 10/03/14; 10/08/14; 10/09/14; 10/10/14; 10/14/14; 10/15/14

c. FMLA, Intermittent and Leave of Absences per Enclosures (Section III Personnel)

d. Declare 1978 Clark Forklift as Surplus at Buildings and Grounds (enclosure no. 2)

Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

Appointment (s) – Agenda Item 7

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Mike Bello to approve the following appointments:

A. Instructional Staff

Name: Victoria Guaragno
Position: English Teacher (Leave replacement)
Assignment: High School
Reason: Vacancy No. 1811
Effective: November 10, 2014 – January 23, 2015
Salary: \$52,871 – Step 1 (Pro-rated)

B. Substitute Teachers/RNS *Denotes College Students Bold=Home Tutor

<u>A=Certified</u>	<u>B=Bachelor’s Degree</u>	<u>LPN</u>
Jonathan Foley	Justin Ward	Kathryn Pierce
Richard Kenny	Robert DeMono	
Victoria Guaragno		

**C. ARCH Instructional Staff for the 2014-2015 School Year – Vacancy No. 1788
\$49.96 per hour**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Michael Lucas	Social Studies

D. ARCH Administrative Staff Substitutes for the 2014-2015 School Year – Vacancy No. 1788

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Raymond Holyk	Principal
Heidi Nyland	Principal

E. Extra-Curricular Positions for the 2014-2015 School Year – Vacancy No. 1784

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Megan Schmitz	HBE-OM Co-Advisor	\$691
Rhea Luhrs	HBE-OM Co-Advisor	\$691

No discussion. Motion carried with 8-0-1 vote.

Approval of Biennial Plan for Participation – Agenda Item 8

Mike Bello moved, seconded by Rey Torres to approve the Biennial Plan for Participation. No discussion. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

Approval of Side Letter of Agreement for PJTA Employee – Agenda Item 9

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Bill Smith to approve the aforementioned agreement. No discussion. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

Approval of Financial Consultant Agreement with Bernard P. Donegan, Inc. – Agenda Item 10

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Bill Smith to approve the aforementioned agreement. No discussion. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

Discussion of Director of Curriculum and Data Position – Agenda Item 11

Mr. Bongiovi asked the Board to open enclosure no. 6 in their Board packet as he would be referring to a number of things in that enclosure. He reviewed the list of duties for Mrs. Muro as Director of Data and Curriculum, along with a history of the position and how it came to where it is today. Mr. Bongiovi mentioned that in 2011 NYS changed how the data was to be coordinated and how it now needs to be reported to the state every year. He conducted a survey by calling every school district in the county to see how they did data coordination and read the responses he received. The survey showed that each district had a Data Coordinator in one capacity or another. Mr. Bongiovi said he met with all the administrators and reviewed Mrs. Muro's position to see what they would like to suggest to the BOE. Mr. Bongiovi said that when Mrs. Muro retires on January 31 he suggested that we could take that salary and hire a full time assistant principal for HBE to assist Mrs. Korycki and take the remainder of the salary and address the data. That can be done in a number of different ways. He suggested that we could use shared services either through OUBOCES or the MHRIC for the remainder of the year. The Title I Grant portion of her job could be spread out to other people in the district and possibly pay them a stipend because much will have to be done after regular work hours.

After much discussion, Mr. Onofry suggested that maybe they should schedule a special workshop to talk about some of their ideas further. The Board agreed to schedule a workshop in November.

Policies – Agenda Item 12

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Rey Torres to approve the following policies:

First Reading

Policy No. 6450	Jury Duty
Policy No. 7618	Extended School Year (July/August) Services and/or Programs
Policy No. 6551	Family and Medical Leave Act

Mr. Witherow asked why Policy No. 6450 – Jury Duty – the wording that says an employee shall receive his/her full day's pay was struck out. Mr. Bongiovi said that the wording change is done by Erie BOCES but in the employee's contract it says they will get paid. Mr. Witherow said that he still didn't like the fact that it didn't say that in the policy and feels the policy should be revisited. It was agreed that the policy committee would do that. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

Approval for Donald Preiss, Director of Building and Grounds, to receive a 3% pay raise to his base salary for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 School Year – Agenda Item 13

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Mike Bello to approve the aforementioned 3% pay raise to Donald Preiss' base salary for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school year. Motion carried with a 5-3 (Smith, Torres, Witherow) -1 vote.

Approval of Middle School Overnight Trip to Washington D.C. on March 27-29, 2015 – Agenda Item 14

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Bob Witherow to approve the aforementioned overnight middle school trip. No discussion. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Port Jervis City School District hereby appoints Erin M. O'Grady-Parent, Esq. of Guercio & Guercio LLP. to provide advice and counsel regarding a complaint letter submitted by certain staff members at an hourly rate of \$240 – **Agenda Item 15**

Flo Santini moved, seconded by Rey Torres to table agenda item 15. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

Approval of CSE Vendor as follows - Agenda Item 16

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Bob Witherow to approve the following CSE vendor.

Center for Developmental Disabilities of Pike County LTD
101 Pocono Drive, Suite 2 Phone # 570-296-3992
Milford, PA 18337 Fax# 570-296-4919

No discussion. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

Mr. Bello said included in your red folders is a resolution from the Pine Bush School District that they are sponsoring and will be submitting at the NYSSBA convention. Mr. Bello read the resolution as follows: "Resolved that the NYSSBA support legislation permitting boards of education to sponsor a referendum which would create voting wards to foster community wide representation." He said that this doesn't really pertain to us, it may never apply to us. Many school districts in Orange County have voted to support this resolution and I would like our district to consider supporting them also. Mike Bello moved, Flo Santini seconded to support Pine Bush in their resolution. Motion carried with a 8-0-1 vote.

Board Member Comments – Agenda Item 17

Mr. Smith said Friday night is a big game for the Port Jervis Red Raiders. They are playing against New Paltz for the playoffs and I hope everyone comes out to support Port Jervis.

Mrs. Casey-Tomasi thanked the district for the Board recognition and gift. I had the pleasure of attending the *Arsenic and Old Lace* play and thought they did a terrific job. Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time and kudos to the kids. I am really looking forward to *Peter Pan* in the spring.

Mrs. Casey-Tomasi talked about the Plan of Participation and her concern with all the different committees that the district has. After some discussion, Mr. Onofry said he will have Mr. Bongiovi get together a list of our committees and what their functions are and then we can talk about them.

Mrs. Casey-Tomasi asked Mr. Smith if at the next Policy meeting if the committee could revisit the district's policy pertaining to student athletics and coaching. She also would like to review the districts procedure on releasing student pictures. It seems to be different in each building. Mr. Smith agreed to do so.

Mr. Bello thanked the Board for supporting a fellow school district. The Board toured the completed locker room project this evening and it looks great. Mr. Bello acknowledged fellow BOCES Board member, Jean Pavek who was in attendance.

The Board unanimously agreed to have a workshop to further discuss the Data Coordinator position on Wednesday, November 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the HS cafeteria.

Informational Items – Agenda Item 18

All informational items were acknowledged and received.

Dates to Remember – Agenda Item 19

President Onofry read the Dates to Remember.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 20

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Flo Santini to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. with a 8-0-1 vote.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 18, 2014** at 6:30 p.m. (executive session) and 7:30 p.m. (open business meeting) in the High School Cafeteria. Board workshop on **Wednesday, November 19, 2014** at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria.

Transcribed by *Dawn R. Lasch*
Dawn R. Lasch, Clerk of the Board
Port Jervis Board of Education

10/21/14