

PIONEER VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, August 30, 2007; 7:00 p.m.; PVRS Library

Present: Superintendent of Schools, Kevin Courtney; BES Principal, Scott Lyman; NES Principal, Tom King; Special Education Administrator, Sharon Jones; PRES Principal, Stacy Jenkins; PVRS Principal, Bill Wehrli; PVRS Assistant Principal, Mike Duprey; WCS Principal & ECE Coordinator, Ellen Edson; PVRS School Committee Members, Rick Fontaine, Heidi Gale, Linda Gale, Mary Glabach, Charles Hand, Peggy Kaepfel, Mark Maynard, Marsha Pratt, Jed Proujansky, Pat Shearer, Bill Wahlstrom

The meeting was called to order by Pat Shearer at 7:00 p.m.

- I. Citizen's Concerns: None
- II. Minutes: On a motion by Linda Gale and second by Rick Fontaine the minutes of June 21, 2007 were unanimously approved.
- III. Treasurer's Reports:
 - A. June, 2007: the final report of FY07 was reviewed. It was noted the end of year finances are favorable but not yet audited. Revenue was underestimated in several categories – transportation reimbursement, tuition, Medicaid reimbursement and interest.
 - B. July, 2007: the first report of FY08 was available for review.
- IV. Accounts Payable: Four reports were available for review. No questions were raised.
- V. Warrants: Two sets of warrants were circulated and signed. The final warrant for FY07 needed signatures to process.
- VI. School Lunch Reports: No reports were available due to technical issues with new software. Following discussion a motion by Rick Fontaine was made to increase all school lunch prices by 25¢. Seconded by Jed Proujansky with 10 in favor and 1 abstention.
- VII. Principal & Administrators' Reports:
 1. BES – Scott Lyman reported lots of faculty in school all summer and Jill MacKay covering Joyce VandeKieft's leave of absence. 180 students at this time.
 2. NES – Tom King reported smooth start to the school year in spite of plumbing issues. He noted reaching the 300 student mark at this time
 3. PRES – Stacy Jenkins noted new PC lab is up and running and new library will be ready soon. There are five new staff members. A successful staff retreat was held 8/9 & 10. Student population is 58 at this time.
 4. SPED – Sharon Jones reported successful summer programs and new speech/language pathologist on board.
 5. PVRS – Mike Duprey reported lots of positive energy amongst faculty. Bill Wehrli reviewed recent hirings and upcoming staff changes. He noted the 10th grade class will be traveling to Camp Takoda next Wednesday. Proposed changes by the middle school faculty regarding testing methods were not finalized at the time of the meeting. An open house/talk was well attended with an estimated audience of 130 parents.
 6. WCS – Ellen Edson reported no staff changes and 66 students enrolled to date. Faculty has initiated a pilot reading program and the school has begun using the Responsive Classroom model.
 7. ECE – Ellen noted 3 of the 4 preschools have received their accreditation. The report for Northfield has not yet been received but it is not anticipated there will be issues. To date all the preschools have met significantly more than the "minimum standard" required for accreditation.

- VIII. Finance Software: Following discussion a motion was made by Rick Fontaine to approve the expenditure of funds from the School Choice Revolving Fund to procure new financial/accounting software not-to-exceed \$90,000. Second by Jed Proujansky. Unanimously approved.
- IX. Personnel:
- A. Staff changes were reviewed and most resumes were available for review.
 - B. Central office – Pat Graves and Patty Gardner are leaving the central office so positions are being advertised. The plan is to separate the accounts payable functions from the payroll functions, hiring a full time Payroll Administrator and part time Bookeeper(10-20 hours per week).
 - C. Maternity Leave – Stacy Jenkins is planning for a September 30 maternity leave with an estimated return after Thanksgiving.
- X. Subcommittee Reports: Meetings will be scheduled to look at issues with failure of capital projects due to the Northfield override failure, the disposition of the old school building, and the superintendent search.
- XI. MASC Workshop: Heidi Gale attended the 7/21/07 workshop and reported on conflict-of-interest information that could potentially affect the committee members. It was recognized that small rural districts have unique difficulties in this area due to the limited slate of members.
- XII. Foundation for Educational Excellence: A letter was sent to faculty members regarding the organizational goals and opportunities available. The date of the next scheduled meeting was unknown.
- XIII. State & County Committees:
- A. MASS Small & Rural Schools Task Force: Kevin Courtney noted he attends these meetings which are examining the efficacy of small schools.
 - B. Franklin County Schools Study Committee: This committee, supported by area legislators, has secured \$150K to hire a consultant to look at how best to deliver educational services in Franklin County given the geographic and demographic challenges (ie., many square miles, sparse population, declining student). The search for a viable consultant has been re-opened.
- XIV. 2007/2008 Budget:
- A. Operating Budget: Reductions and transfers will be recommended at the September 27 meeting.
 - B. Capital Budget: All security, Pioneer, Northfield Elementary, and Central Office initiatives failed. Many were the result of the Northfield failed override.
- XV. Miscellaneous Update:
- A. Professional Development Grants: faculty have been busy this summer and more than 40 in-house professional development grants were awarded.
 - B. Meeting Change: due to pending the Jenkins family addition the 11/15/07 meeting will be relocated to NES and the 4/17/08 meeting will be held at PRES.
 - C. Pothole Grants: although applied for, the district did not meet the criteria for these grants.
- XVI. Meetings:
- A. Next meeting: Thursday, September 27, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the PVRS library.
 - B. Budget: a representative of the four towns\' finance committees has requested an early budget meeting on 9/19/07.
- XVII. Other Business:
- A. Kitchen Staff: appreciation was extended to the PVRS kitchen staff for tonight\'s refreshments as well as the open house food supplied.

B. Band: it was noted the band will be sporting new uniforms while marching in the Franklin County parade and the Big E.

XVIII. Executive Session: none

XIX. Adjournment: At 8:25 pm the meeting adjourned following a motion by Linda Gale and second by Jed Proujansky.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Harding". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Anne Harding, Recording Secretary