

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Palmer, Massachusetts 01069

**Minutes Approved  
9/2/09  
As Amended**

Regular School Committee Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, August 19, 2009  
PLACE: Palmer High School Library  
KIND OF MEETING: Regular Meeting  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Mary Salzmann, Mr. David Lynch, Mr. James St. Amand, Mr. Robert Janasiewicz,  
and Mrs. Maureen Gallagher  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Gerald Fournier, Mrs. Bonny Rathbone, Mr. David Stetkiewicz, Mrs. Mary Lou  
Callahan, Mrs. Deborah Smola, staff, parents, and members of the press.  
CALL TO ORDER: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. Letters/Communications from the Public

Mrs. Melissa Edwards spoke on behalf of a group of grade one parents who were concerned about the reduction of a grade one teacher. Mrs. Edwards relayed the concerns regarding a large class size in first grade where students are learning how to read. She indicated that large class sizes could result in long term effects on the students. There was a lengthy discussion where parents voiced many questions and expressed their concerns. Mrs. Callahan and Mr. Metcalf responded to questions regarding the need to make additional cuts due to an increase in SPED costs. School Committee members also were concerned but indicated that this was a very lean year and many cuts had to be made, none of which were easy. They encouraged parents to continue to support education and to write their local legislators regarding additional funding.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Athletic Fee Guidelines and Athletic Waiver

Dr. Fournier reported that new athletic fee guidelines are being proposed and requested to move to action item 7c.

DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE ATHLETIC FEE  
STRUCTURE

Mr. St. Amand moved, and Mr. Janasiewicz seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the School Committee approve the Athletic Fee Structure as proposed.

Mr. St. Amand reviewed the proposal and indicated that paying the fee for a sport does not guarantee playing time. Mrs. Gallagher indicated she thought the fee had already been previously approved. She was informed that the general fee was established however modifications were developed for those playing more than one sport and those who had more than one family member playing a sport.

Motion was unanimously approved, (5-0-0).

DELIBERATION ON THE MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2009  
REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Lynch moved, and Mr. Janasiewicz seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Palmer School Committee approve the minutes of May 6, 2009 Regular Meeting.

Motion was approved, (4-0-1), with Mrs. Gallagher abstaining.

1 DELIBERATION ON THE MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2009  
2 REGULAR MEETING  
3

4 Mr. Janasiewicz moved, and Mr. Lynch seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:  
5

6 RESOLVED, that the Palmer School Committee approve the minutes of July 22, 2009 Regular Meeting.  
7

8 Mr. St. Amand indicated he was absent for that meeting – change line 51 on page 1 to read “Mr. Janasiewicz” seconded ...  
9

10 Motion was approved as amended, (3-0-2) with Mrs. Gallagher and Mr. St. Amand abstaining.  
11

12 .  
13 DELIBERATION ON HOME SCHOOLING  
14

15 Mrs. Gallagher moved, and Mr. St. Amand seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:  
16

17 RESOLVED, that the School Committee approve the requests for Home Schooling as presented.  
18

19 Dr. Fournier noted that parents submit curriculum information, daily schedules and testing results.  
20

21 Motion was unanimously approved, (5-0-0).  
22

23 DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE BUS FEE  
24 STRUCTURE  
25

26 Mr. Janasiewicz moved, and Mrs. Gallagher seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:  
27

28 RESOLVED, that the School Committee approve the bus fee proposal # 1.  
29

30 The Superintendent indicated that the money raised by the fee was included in the budget and encouraged passage of the fee.  
31 During discussion some committee members were reluctant to establish yet another fee for students.  
32

33 Motion was defeated, (1-4-0) with Mr. Janasiewicz casting the only affirmative vote.  
34  
35

36 DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF AN OUT-OF-STATE  
37 FIELD DAY TRIP TO CONNECTICUT FOR PHS STUDENTS  
38

39 Mr. St. Amand moved, and Mr. Lynch seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:  
40

41 RESOLVED, that the School Committee approve the request for an out-of-state field trip to the XL Center in Hartford,  
42 Connecticut for PHS students on Wednesday, September 9, 2009.  
43

44 Some members were questioning the number of students attending and the cost of transportation for the trip. Mrs. Naglack  
45 was present to answer questions.  
46

47 Motion was approved, (3-1-1) with Mrs. Gallagher voting against and Mr. Janasiewicz abstaining.  
48  
49  
50

51 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS  
52

53 Mrs. St. Amand reported that the Athletic subcommittee met and indicated the meeting dealt with the action item presented  
54 this evening.  
55

56 ADJOURNMENT  
57

58  
59 Mrs. Gallagher moved, and Mr. Lynch seconded a motion to adjourn from the Regular Meeting at 7:40 p.m. to enter into  
60 Executive Session for the purposes of *approval of executive minutes for public release.*

1 Motion was approved by a unanimous vote, (5-0-0).  
2  
3 Mrs. Gallagher – aye  
4 Mr. Janasiewicz – aye  
5 Mr. St. Amand - aye  
6 Mr. Lynch – aye  
7 Mrs. Salzmann - aye  
8  
9 Respectfully submitted,  
10 Deborah Smola, Clerk