

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MEETING FOR MAY 26, 2015

LITTLE HARBOUR ELEMENTARY AMPITHEATRE

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - a. MAY 12, 2015
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: SABBATICAL REPORT, TESS HALL**
- VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
 - i. *BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR MAY, 2015*
 - ii. CLIPPER ACADEMY SUMMER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM
 - b. CORRESPONDENCE
 - i. LETTER OF RESIGNATION – JULIE THURBER (LHS)
 - c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
 - i. PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
- IX. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. PMS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SEARCH UPDATE
- X. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. SET DATE FOR LEADERSHIP RETREAT WITH SCHOOL BOARD AND ADMINISTRATORS
- XI. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**
 - a. JBC
- XII. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
 - a. ELECTRONIC TEXT BOOK POLICY
 - b. PHS BLOCK SCHEDULE
 - c. LEADERSHIP RETREAT WITH SCHOOL BOARD AND ADMINISTRATORS
- XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE: TOUR OF LHS 2nd FLOOR AND SUMMER IMPROVEMENTS AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MAY 12, 2015

EILEEN FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG (VICE CHAIR), ANN WALKER, PATRICK ELLIS, LENNIE MULLANEY, NANCY NOVELLINE-CLAYBURGH, GARY EPLER, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT) AND OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Stevens led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- a. APRIL 14, 2015 NON PUBLIC
- MOTION: Motion to accept the non-public minutes of April 14, 2015 by Ms. Mullaney
SECOND: Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- b. APRIL 14, 2015 REGULAR MEETING
- MOTION: Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 14, 2015 by Mr. Epler
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – NONE
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
- a. **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS – PI DAY** – NFS Principal Shea and Mr. Tony Coviello introduced the winners from each elementary school and presented each with a Pi Gift card in the amount of \$31.14 in recognition of all their hard work. Winners were: LHS: Louisa Morgan, 10, Molly Grocki, 10 and Maxwell Barker, 9; Dondero: Jason Yeaton, 10 and Katie Yeaton, 8; New Franklin Sydney Pettis, 8, Morgan Ruhnke, 7 and Madelyn Pettis, 11.
- VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
- a. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**
- i. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, APRIL 8 & MAY 6, 2015
- ii. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE, MAY 2015
- iii. PHS CLASS OF 2015 SENIOR WEEK CALENDAR
- iv. *BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR* APRIL, 2015
- v. ASSOCIATION OF PORTSMOUTH TEACHERS YEAR END CELEBRATION INVITATION
- vi. CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY INVITATION

- vii. CLIPPER FOUNDATION AWARDS CEREMONY INVITATION- Assistant Superintendent Zdravec announced the awarded projects for the upcoming school year. Winners were: Mr. Steve Berry (Robotics Team @ PHS), Linda Beal (Growing Readers, Growing Minds @ NFS). Sam Tombarelli and Kate Brunelle (Who We Are @ PHS) and Lindsay Bouzakine (Greenhouse @ PMS). This is the second cycle of grant requests completed by the Clipper Foundation. Mr. Zdravec thanked all teachers who took the time to submit proposals, as well as the many volunteers from the Clipper organization who volunteered their time to review all proposals submitted. The Board requested that each group provide updates throughout the school year.
- viii. RJLA FIELD TRIP – NYC
- b. CORRESPONDENCE
 - i. LETTER OF RESIGNATION, KAREN WISBEY (OT) - Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh personally thanked Ms. Wisbey for her many years of service to the students of Portsmouth, her son being one of them.
 - ii. LETTER FROM PHS SOPHOMORE RE SCHOOL START TIME – Superintendent McDonough stated that his office has responded to the student’s letter. Mr. Ellis offered to chair a committee to review school start time.
- c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
 - i. FINANCIAL, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BARTLETT – Superintendent McDonough provided an update on the financial report in Mr. Bartlett’s absence. The budget is tracking “tightly, but positively” after ten months.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. NEW FRANKLIN PRINCIPAL SEARCH UPDATE- 18 applications were received in which 8 candidates were selected to interview. The committee will present their final choices on May 27th for students, teachers and the public to meet. A final candidate will be presented to the Board at the first meeting in June.
- b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PMS STUDENT COMMONS DEDICATION

MOTION: Motion to name the new common area at Portsmouth Middle School the John M. Stokel Commons in honor of Principal John Stokel by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

SECOND: Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 YES, 2 ABSENT (TM, JL)
- c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (SECOND READING):
 - i. EARLY GRADUATION (IKFA)

MOTION: Motion to approve policy IKFA, Early Graduation by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
 - ii. SCHOOL FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (KA)

MOTION: Motion to approve policy KA, Family and Community Partnerships by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

iii. AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT (IKG)

MOTION: Motion to approve policy IKG, Awards for Achievement, by Ms. Mullaney

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

iv. PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM (KDA)

MOTION: Motion to approve policy KDA, Public Information Program, by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

SECOND: Ms. Mullaney

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

X. NEW BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION: Motion to approve a one year leave of absence for Ms. Maria Gubellini by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR WELLNESS COORDINATOR

MOTION: Motion to approve Ms. Laura Burbine, as Wellness Coordinator for the 2015-2016 school year by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT-ELECT CONTRACT

MOTION: Motion to approve the Superintendent-Elect contract, as presented, by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 YES, 2 ABSENT (TM, JL)

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. JBC – Vice Chair Legg invited all to the Open House scheduled for this Saturday, May 16th at 2 p.m. Vice-Chair Legg called attention to the program highlighting the many individuals who played part in the project over the years. The Open House will provide an opportunity to publicly thank each one.
- b. POLICY – The committee continues to add new policies required by law and update old policies.
- c. SAGAMORE CREEK – The Committee's second meeting was held May 7th where vision and guidelines were finalized. The committee has decided that athletic fields are not a good fit for the property. The committee will strongly urge the city to address the issue of athletic fields when they submit their final recommendations for the property. Board members discussed meeting with Recreation Board members to better align mutual interests before approaching the city.
- d. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACILITIES – The Elementary Schools Facility Sub Committee held their first meeting where previous studies and reports were reviewed. Now that renovations are under way at Little Harbour, the committee will begin to discuss what should be completed next. The committee will present their final recommendation to the full Board in the fall.

- XII. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Late start time, athletic fields, a new policy for use of electronic techbooks in the classroom, strengths and deficiencies of PHS block scheduling, and a leadership retreat in with new administrators in the fall.
- XIII. **ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Ms. Walker.
Unanimously Approved.

Portsmouth High School

SB
5/26/15

Clipper Academy Summer Advancement Program

Clipper Academy is an opportunity for all high school students and incoming freshmen in the Seacoast region to advance their education during the summer.



Clipper Academy offers TWO options for learning:

Option # 1:

Learn online with the help of a PHS "Academic Coach"

Student accomplishes 2-3 units of study through our online partner, the Virtual Learning Academy. A PHS academic coach helps to ensure success. Most of the classwork is completed during flexible coaching hours at the PHS Library. See pg. 2-4 for details.

VirtualLearningAcademy



Option #2:

Take an innovative class taught by a PHS teacher

These classes are interactive, engaging, and outside the box! See pg. 5-9 for course descriptions.



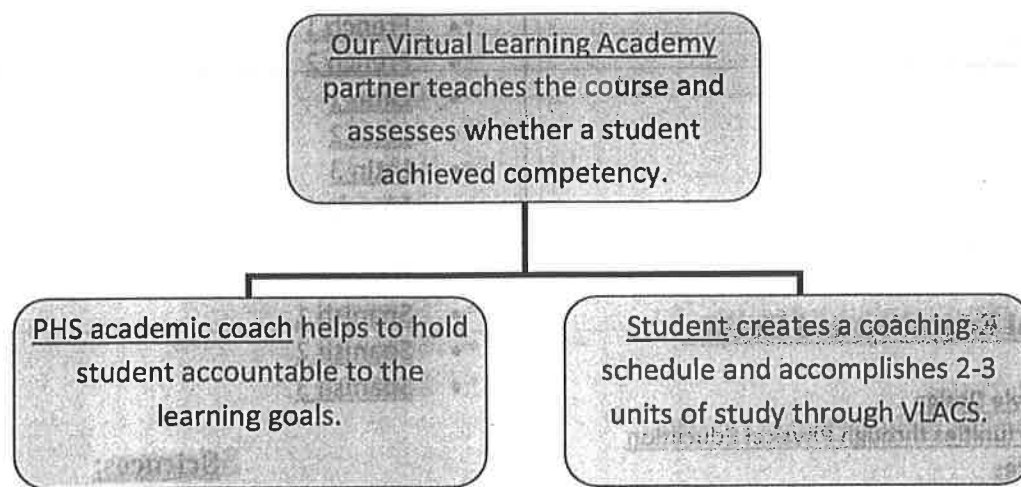
Register online at the PHS website - click on "Clipper Academy."

OPTION #1 - Virtual Learning Courses Offered Through Clipper Academy

Learn Online With the Help of an “Academic Coach”

Clipper Academy offers students an opportunity to learn through our partner, the Virtual Learning Academy (VLACS). Students can gain credit by completing 2-3 units of study (also known as competencies) from any of the courses listed on the following pages. While VLACS teachers will be teaching the units of study and assessing student work, Clipper Academy staff will be acting in a supportive role, offering academic coaching at the PHS Library so each student can get the assistance and accountability they need to be successful.

How Academic Coaching Works:



Because we know students have family vacations and work obligations, students can create a flexible coaching schedule as long as they attend a minimum of 30 coaching hours at the PHS Library. Coaching hours are available from June 23rd to August 30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-6:30 pm. It is also important to note that students who finish their coursework early do not have to complete the 30 hour requirement. This is great incentive to get your work done!

Summer Coaching Hours are available between June 23rd to August 20th

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		Coaching hours: 3:30-6:30pm at PHS Library	Coaching hours: 3:30-6:30pm at PHS Library	Coaching hours: 3:30-6:30pm at PHS Library		

The cost for attending Clipper Academy is for the support provided by the Clipper Academy coaches. There is no charge from VLACS for taking a course through them. Cost for academic coach services is \$250 for unlimited coursework.

OPTION #1 - Virtual Learning Courses Offered Through Clipper Academy

*Click on links below for course descriptions. Please note that because Clipper Academy students will be taking 2-3 units in a course, VLACS credit amounts and estimated hours do not apply.

Art:

- [Digital Arts I](#)
- [Digital Photography 1](#)
- [Digital Photography 2](#)
- [Music Appreciation](#)
- [Theater, Cinema & Film Production](#)

English:

- [Creative Writing](#)
- [English I or English I Honors](#)
- [English II or English II Honors](#)
- [English III or English III Honors](#)
- [English IV or English IV Honors](#)
- [Journalism I](#)
- [Reading for College Success](#)

Physical Education and Health:

- [Fitness Lifestyle Design](#)
- [Health Opportunities through Physical Education](#)
- [Health Sciences](#)
- [Life Management Skills \(health\)](#)
- [Personal Fitness](#)
- [Real World Parenting](#)

Math

- [Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications](#)
- [Algebra I or Algebra I Honors](#)
- [Algebra II or Algebra II Honors](#)
- [College Readiness Math](#)
- [Developmental Math](#)
- [Geometry or Geometry Honors](#)
- [Liberal Arts Math / Algebra 2](#)
- [Pre-Calculus \(Honors only\)](#)

Computer Technology:

- [Computer Programming I – Python and Java](#)
- [Computing for College and Careers](#)
- [Web Design 1](#) or [Web Design 2](#)

Business:

- [Introduction to Entrepreneurship I](#)
- [Introduction to Marketing I](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [Sports Marketing](#)

Languages:

- [French 1](#)
- [French 2](#)
- [Latin 1](#)
- [Latin 2](#)
- [Latin 3](#)
- [Mandarin Chinese 1](#)
- [Mandarin Chinese 2](#)
- [Mandarin Chinese 3](#)
- [Spanish 1](#)
- [Spanish 2](#)
- [Spanish 3](#)

Sciences:

- [Anatomy and Physiology](#)
- [Astronomy](#)
- [Biology or Biology Honors \(lab\)](#)
- [Chemistry or Chemistry Honors \(lab\)](#)
- [Earth Space Science or Earth Space Science Honors \(lab\)](#)
- [Forensic Science](#)
- [Forensic Science 2](#)
- [Green Design and Technology \(Introduction to Environmental Science\)](#)
- [Marine Science or Marine Science Honors \(lab\)](#)
- [Physical Science \(lab\) or Physical Science Honors \(lab\)](#)
- [Physics 1 or Physics 1 Honors \(lab\)](#)
- [Veterinary Science](#)

College Credit Courses

To obtain college credit, student must enroll in entire course. There is also an extra charge through VLACS. See vlacs.org for details.

- Introduction to Humanities I
- Introduction to Humanities II
- Music, Introduction to
- Personal Financial Planning
- Creative Writing
- English Composition (eStart)
- English Composition – (SNHU)
- Introduction to Communications
- Human Growth and Development
- Medical Terminology
- Applied Finite Mathematics
- Statistics
- Topics in Applied College Math
- Public Speaking
- Biology
- American Politics
- Criminal Justice
- Psychology
- US History 1: 1607-1865
- US History Since Reconstruction
- Interactive 3D Virtual Environments
- Introduction to Information Technology
- PC Applications
- Introduction to Sociology
- Nutrition for Health and Fitness

Social Studies:

- Economics or Economics Honors
- Human Geography
- Introduction to Anthropology
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Introduction to Sociology
- Law and Order
- Psychology
- Social Problems 1
- Social Problems 2
- U.S. Government or U.S. Government Honors
- United States History or United States History Honors
- World History or World History Honors

Study Skills and Test Preparation:

- English Language Arts Critical Thinking (SAT, ACT, CCSS Test Prep)
- Math Critical Thinking (SAT, ACT, CCSS Test Prep)
- Thinking and Learning Strategies

Career:

- Early Childhood Education
- Fashion and Interior Design
- Introduction to Culinary Arts
- Veterinary Science

Incoming Freshmen Opportunities:

Incoming freshmen are encouraged to sign up for units of study in a course called, Thinking and Learning Strategies. Incoming freshmen can also choose to take units of study in various content area courses listed in this catalog, although no credit will be issued unless a special arrangement is made with the sending school.

*** Coaching is also available for students completing their assigned honors or AP summer work.**

OPTION #2 - Take an Innovative Course Taught by a PHS Teacher

An Ecological Odyssey

Instructor: Kimberly McGlinchey

Meeting Times: July 6-23, 2015
Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm,
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.
Classes will be held at PHS Room 319 and
at various field site locations.

Cost: \$350 (includes all costs for various field trips)

Credit: 1/2 credit



Description: This environmental / Ecology Science class will offer students a chance to conduct real world explorations and hands-on outside investigations of the natural world. Students will use experiential learning to discover and explore a variety of ecosystem habitats in New Hampshire. Study Sites will be done both on site and off site, where students will gather and analyze data on each ecosystem they explore. The cross-cutting themes of systems, matter and energy will be a focus for understanding and learning. When traveling, students will meet scientists who are currently working on conservation efforts in that field of study.

About the Instructor: Kim McGlinchey has an administrative degree from the University of New Hampshire (Ed. S); Masters in Environmental Education (M.A.) also from the University of New Hampshire; and B.A. in Natural Science from Plymouth State University. Ms. McGlinchey was recently accepted and attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education Aspiring School Leaders Program.

Conversational French

Instructor: Mr. Jonathan Sandberg

Meeting times: July 6-31, 2015
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9:00 am - 11:00 am.
Classes will meet at PHS in room 221 and also
at local cafes in downtown Portsmouth!

Cost: \$120 per student

Credit: 1/4 credit



Description: Students will learn strategies to sharpen their oral language skills by taking advantage of the vast media resources available to them. The students will enhance their oral skills and learn about French culture by speaking with native speakers, watching French movies and television shows, listening to music, playing games, and reading magazines. While students of all levels should expect to make significant gains in their French speaking abilities, the language learning strategies learned in the course will allow students to continue their learning long after the course ends.

About the Instructor: Jonathan Sandberg graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2000, and the University of Southern Maine's graduate teaching program in 2002. He has been on staff at Portsmouth High School since 2007. Jonathan has studied French since 2001 and has traveled to France and Belgium dozens of times over the past fifteen years.

OPTION #2 - Take an Innovative Course Taught by a PHS Teacher

Developing Confidence through Public Speaking

Instructor: Mr. David Drukker

Meeting times: 9:00 -11:00 am

Class begins Monday June 29.

Classes on June 30, & July 2,

July 7-10, July 13-17, & July 20-24.

Classes will be held at PHS in the Little Theater.

Cost: \$325 per student

Credit: 1/4 credit

Description: This course will give students the tools they need to speak with confidence in social, formal and academic situations. Skills taught will include effective use of body language, clear articulation, understanding your audience, using quotes and statistics to enhance speech content.

Students will present several speeches that will help them to build their public speaking skills in manageable increments of increasing complexity and length. Speeches will include telling a story, explaining how to do a task, reading a manuscript to an audience, effective microphone use, informative speeches, and getting outside your comfort zone.

About the Instructor: Mr. Drukker holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of New Hampshire and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Boston University. He is also a graduate of the Dale Carnegie Course in Public Speaking and Human Relations where he served as a graduate assistant. He has been teaching English at Portsmouth High School for 21 years, including 18 years of teaching Public Speaking to high school students.

Writing the College Essay

Instructor: Mrs. Lynda Bettcher

Meeting times: August 3-7 from 9:00 - 10:30 am.

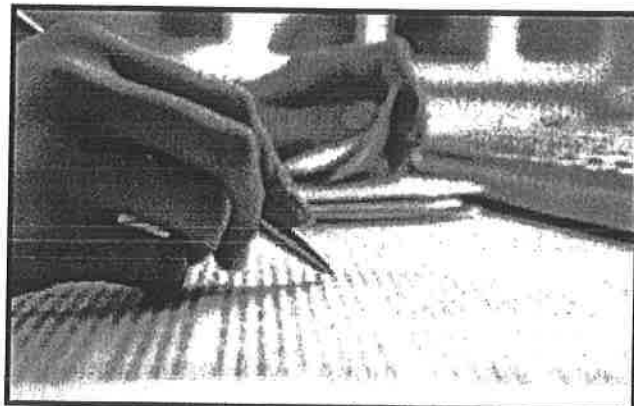
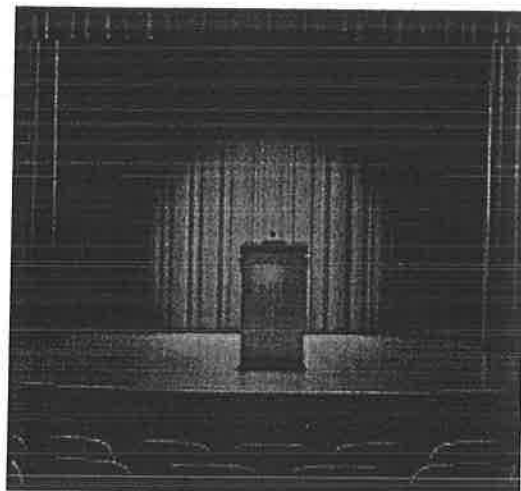
Class is limited to 20 students and will be held in Room 218 at PHS.

Cost: \$190 per student.

Credit: Enrichment

Description: Writing the college essay is a class designed to help new seniors address the most daunting part of the college application. By the end of the week most students have completed their main essay and others have made good progress on any supplements required. The focus is on appropriate topic choice, a lively introduction, colorful examples and details, and strong conclusion. Editing and revision are the backbone of the class.

About the Instructor: Lynda Bettcher is a 43-year veteran English teacher at Portsmouth High School. Mrs. Bettcher is highly regarded in her expertise of the writing process.



OPTION #2 - Take an Innovative Course Taught by a PHS Teacher

The Beatles: Album by Album

Instructor: Mr. Patrick Ganz

Meeting times: 9:00 - 11:00 am
Mon. through Fri., July 6-10
& Mon. through Thurs., July 13-16.
Classes will meet in Room 211 at PHS.

Cost: \$125

Credit: ¼ credit

Description: The course will chronologically survey The Beatles' lyrical and musical output, from the first album to the last. Primary areas of focus will include The Beatles' impact on culture and ongoing influence, thematic concepts present in each recording, and the evolution of the members' artistic and creative visions. We will engage in a series of activities, including listening sessions, discussions, and creative activities that deepen our understanding of The Beatles' legacy. Brief outside activities will be assigned, and one culminating paper/project will be required.

About the Instructor: Patrick Ganz has been teaching English at Portsmouth High School for 18 years. He earned his BA in English from Boston College and his MAT from the University of New Hampshire. Mr. Ganz has also been facilitating graduate courses for teachers at Walden University for 11 years. In addition to working with young people, Mr. Ganz's interests include music of all varieties, books on human psychology, and travel to as many countries as possible.





PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

SB
5/26/15

LITTLE HARBOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CHARLES H. GROSSMAN
PRINCIPAL

May 8, 2018

Dear Mr. McDonough,

I am writing to notify you of my retirement as of June 22, 2015.

**“THE PURPOSE OF
THE PORTSMOUTH
SCHOOLS IS TO
EDUCATE ALL
STUDENTS BY
CHALLENGING
THEM TO BECOME
THINKING,
RESPONSIBLE,
CONTRIBUTING
CITIZENS WHO
CONTINUE TO
LEARN
THROUGHOUT
THEIR LIVES.”**

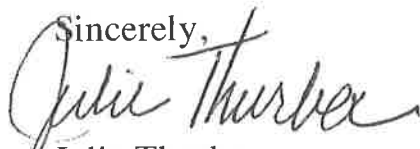
After much thought and soul searching I realize it is time to end my employment with Portsmouth School Department.

I cannot put into words what it has meant to be part of such a wonderful school system. I have had the pleasure of working alongside amazing teachers. It has given me the opportunity to make many wonderful friends. During my many years of employment I have had the privilege of many opportunities for educational experiences.

I have been part of several administrations, each one bringing energy and ideas. I have fought passionately for my fellow Paraprofessionals. But what makes this decision so painful, are the extraordinary children that I have been so blest to have been part of my life.

They are the reason that kept me returning year after year. They are the ones that I will miss the most.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do a job that I loved for 34 years.

Sincerely,

Julie Thurber

Portsmouth High School News

We are winding down a successful school year with many exciting events still to come. Regrettably I am unable to be at today's meeting to share this information with you, but Diane Canada has graciously agreed to attend the AREA meeting, speak on my behalf, and answer any questions you may have.

End of the Year Activities

- Junior Prom is Saturday May 16. Grand March is set to kick off at 5:45.
- Senior Prom is May 29.
- Baccalaureate Ceremony is Wednesday, June 10, at 7:00 PM.
- Awards Assembly will be held Thursday, June 11, at 1:00 PM.
- Graduation is Friday, June 12, at 5:30 PM.

Baccalaureate is a beautiful ceremony and we encourage board members to attend. All are invited to the Awards Assembly and Graduation as well. Parents have planned a great celebration graduation and we look forward to a full night of festivities.

Continuing Education Update

- 85% of seniors have applied to college for a total of 1,204 applications. Currently seniors are updating their decisions and waiting to hear back on local scholarships. The senior class is estimated to get \$200,000 in scholarships from the local community. Final numbers will be available the week of graduation.
- Planning is already beginning for next year's senior class. We have had college planning appointments with 40% of the junior class. Evening programming for next year is almost finalized with a couple new events in the works. More details will be available in June.

National Merit Finalists

- Congratulations to Jack Dewsnap and Colin Yost for being named National Merit Finalists. In addition to our two finalists, PHS had four commended students, Alexander Bock, Elizabeth Carroll, Jonathan Harrison and Anna Johnson. Hats off to all for their distinguished recognition!

The American Regions Math League (AMRL)

- Two of the PHS math team members have qualified for the ARML held at Penn State University in State College. In order to qualify, the competitors had to finish among the top five in the league for their grade level. Portsmouth competes in a math league with thirteen schools, approximately 220 total competitors. This year's qualifiers are freshman Ginny Church and sophomore Tim Kammerer. They will be part of a team going on ARML that consists of schools across Southern New Hampshire and are sponsored by SNHU in Manchester. The trip to Penn State will take place at the end of May. Congrats to Ginny and Tim and best of luck in the May competition.

Project Purple

- Project Purple, is a new student leadership club at Portsmouth High School. Project Purple, founded by Chris Herren, former NBA basketball player and sobriety advocate, has chapters in middle schools and high schools throughout the country. Each chapter has the same mission – to address the important issue of substance misuse and abuse. Through peer education initiatives, Project Purple club members work to support and celebrate a strong non-use message, educate all students as to the risks involved with substance use, and support their fellow students whose lives are impacted by addiction. This year's work has included October's Red Ribbon Week, Children of Alcoholic Holiday Awareness Campaign which included student produced PSAs on Clipper News, our school's first Redefine Party Project, and a new social norms marketing campaign entitled "Most of Us." The "Most of Us" campaign advertised / marketed the truth - most PHS students make the healthy choice not to use alcohol and other drugs. Project Purple also implemented peer education initiatives addressing safe prom activities.

School Counseling Update

- The PHS School Counseling Department began the process of on-line scheduling via Infinite Campus with 8th grade students at PMS. Eighth grade PMS parents are also able to log on to the portal and make changes to the student's course selections during a two week course selection window. Next year all students 9-12 will complete the on-line scheduling process in a new infinite campus program called 4-year course planner. In this new program teachers will also have the ability to input all of the course recommendations. The benefits to on-line scheduling include: encouraging students and parents to log on the infinite campus portal; providing students with experience that will assist them in college on-line course selection process; helping to ensure accurate teacher recommendations; and of course saving trees by preventing the need for so much paper.

Points of Interests from the Athletic Department

Since our last meeting:

- Girls alpine ski team won the Division I State Championship in only their second year of existence!
- Boys winter track team won the Division 2 State Championship for the first time in 36 years!
- Boys basketball team entered the Division 2 playoffs as the #1 team in the State but lost the championship to Bishop Grady in a very close game.

For Spring Sports:

- All our spring sports teams are doing very well. Both boys and girls tennis teams are currently undefeated with a record of 8-0. We expect most all teams to make playoffs and hopefully do well and make the championship games.

Career Technical Education

- The ProStart Culinary Arts Team traveled to Anaheim, California in April to represent the State of New Hampshire at the ProStart National Competition. This is the second year in a row our team has competed at a national level. In June, the team will travel to Washington, DC by invitation of Senator Jeanne Shaheen, to participate in the annual Experience New Hampshire Reception she and the NH Congressional Delegation host. Our students are the first secondary school group to be invited. Over 500 guests will attend the Capitol Hill event where the people and products of New Hampshire are showcased.
- The 7th CTE Awards Ceremony is scheduled on Thursday May 21st at 6:00PM. This evening of celebration will highlight student achievement, industry certifications, two-year program completion and the induction of the eleven nominees to the National Technical Honor Society. Please join us at 5:30 PM in the Culinary Arts dining room for refreshments followed by the ceremony at 6:00 PM.

Performing Arts Department

May 2015

All City Concerts

- Wednesday, May 13 featuring PHS Woodwind & Brass Ensemble, PHS Winter Guard, PHS Concert Choir & PHS Jazz Band
- Wednesday May 20 featuring PHS Percussion Ensemble, PHS Madrigal Singers & PHS Concert Band

Both concerts begin at 7:00 in the PHS auditorium

- Kudos to the cast and crew of the Laramie Project and their director, Alden Caple. The show ran this past weekend with performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening and two matinee performances, one Saturday and one Sunday.
- PHS Woodwind and Brass Ensemble and the PHS Marching Band will perform at various Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday, May 25.

April 2015

- Seven PHS Musicians, Seth Lampert, Matt Harrison, Julia Adler, Luke Choi, Spencer Wirth, Charlie Nitschelm and Hadley Pope, represent PHS at the NHMEA state festival in Concord.

- PHS Drama advanced and performed at the New England Drama Regional Festival at Camden Hills Regional High School in Rockland, ME

March 2015

- Music in Our Schools Month featured concerts by the PHS Jazz Band, PHS Madrigal Singers, Concert Choir, Touring Choir and the PHS Concert Band
- The PHS Percussion Ensemble completed an undefeated season with a Gold Medal finish at the New England Championship in Dartmouth, MA
- PHS Drama participated in the NHTEG Regional Festival at Kingswood HS and the NHTEG State Festival at Sanborn Regional HS.
- March 13-14 - PHS Drama participated in the NHTEG Regional Festival at Kingswood HS

The month ended with the NYC Choir Trip. The PHS Touring Choir travelled to Boston, MA, for a Clinic at New England Conservatory and then continued on to NYC to perform at the Heritage Music Festival.

February, 2015

- Danny O'Leary and Bridget Keaveney represented PHS at the NH Jazz All-State Festival at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH and the PHS Choir Hosted Keene State College Chamber Singers for Clinic and Home Stay

Summary of Upcoming Events

- May 13 – All City Concert #1 (7:00 PM)
- May 14 – Student Council Sponsored Volunteer Day
- May 16 – Junior Prom; Interact Day of Giving- Wallis Sands (9:00-11:00)
- May 18 – National Honor Society blood drive
- May 20 – All City Concert #2 (7:00 PM)
- May 21 – Career Technical Education Awards Ceremony (6:00 PM)
- May 23 – 2nd annual Portsmouth Challenge 5K obstacle race
- May 29 – Senior Prom
- June 8 - Senior Scholarship Reception (6:00 PM, By Invitation Only)
- June 10 – Baccalaureate
- June 11 – Awards Ceremony
- June 12 - Graduation

