

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2016**

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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**NOTICE OF NON-MEETING WITH COUNSEL: THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL HOLD A NON-MEETING WITH COUNSEL AT 6:30 P.M., IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSA 91-A: 2 IN THE PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM.**

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER-** School Board Chair Leslie Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL-** Chair Leslie Stevens, Vice Chair Tom Martin, Jeff Landry, Lennie Mullaney, Gary Epler (by phone), Nancy Clayburgh, Patrick Ellis, Roseann Vozella Clark, SAU50 Representative Anne Pinciano, Superintendent Stephen Zdravec, Assistant Superintendent George Shea, Business Administrator Steve Bartlett, Teacher Representative Olin Johannsen
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** Chair Stevens led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
  - a. JANUARY 12, REGULAR MEETING  
MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of January 12, 2016 by Ms. Mullaney  
SECOND: Mr. Ellis-  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously accepted
  - b. JANUARY 19, WORKSHOP SESSION  
MOTION: Motion to accept the workshop session minutes of January 19, 2016 by Mr. Ellis  
SECOND: Ms. Mullaney  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously accepted
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** Rye School Board Chair Scott Marion (71 Washington Road, Rye) Greenland School Board Chair Sandra Tague, John O'Leary (15 Nathaniel Drive, Portsmouth) all spoke in regards to the School Start Times.
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
  - a. STUDENT TRIPS- PHS French Teacher Jeanette MacDonald and PHS Spanish Teacher Tara Hebert reported on the student travel opportunities that were available to students' grades 9 through 12 through the International Language Department. Upcoming trips: France, Mexico (February vacation), Puerto Rico (April vacation).  
Question/Discussions followed: The number of students participating in the upcoming travel is a little low: Paris- 5 students, Mexico- 9 students, Puerto Rico- 9 students. A homestay provides a more in depth, cultural experience and opportunity to practice the language.

## VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. JANUARY CO UPDATE
- ii. FIELD TRIP- QUEBEC
- iii. EMAIL FROM MARY LYONS-  
Discussion followed: The impact of social media during an emergency. There needs to be a pipeline for parents to get accurate information. Parent Advisory Meeting at PHS on February 9 will discuss the topic further.

## IX. OLD BUSINESS

- i. FUNDING FOR LISTER ACADEMY UPDATE- Principal Nancy Roy reported there are presently 23 (6 out of District) students and current staff: 4 full time teachers, 1 paraprofessional, 1 office manager and Ms. Roy serves a dual role as principal and guidance. She provided examples of how she continues to supplement resources through outreach and collaborations in the community including continuing their relationship with Great Bay.  
  
Questions/ discussion followed: It has not been typically successful for students to transition in the Career Tech program. A part time guidance counselor would be able to support the needs and would be able to work on relationship building. Students begin the day at 8:20 and the later start has been beneficial for students. There is growth opportunity and further innovation to partner with Great Bay. The continued question on what the sustainable future of Lister Academy. Superintendent Zadravec proposed establishing a short term committee to study the location of the Lister Academy facilities.
- ii. WORKSHOP: SCHOOL START TIMES- Superintendent Zadravec provided a memo summarizing where we are, what we know we can do and issues we still need to address. Rus Wilson shared how the athletic schedules are designed and how the later start time will impact the athletic schedules.  
  
Questions/ discussion followed: PHS Scheduling Committee is still in the early conversations and board representation is welcomed. Consensus is a possible implementation August 2017. The Board would like administration to propose a detail structured plan/timeline. A public hearing will be on April 12, 2016 with an additional public hearing in the fall. Afterschool care options and bus transportation costs/funding were discussed.
- iii. ELEMENTARY FACILITIES- Business Administrator Bartlett gave an overview of how the CIP money was utilized and an overview of the upcoming projects/improvements. LH will be finished this summer. Next will be upgrading Dondero (energy efficiencies, air handling units and other functionalities). The Elementary Facilities Committee needs to start meeting again as they to plan for next summer. Mr. Martin will fill the vacant position.  
  
Questions/discussions followed: The status of the Sherburne School was discussed.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

MOTION: Motion to approve the leave of absences by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Mr. Landry

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

**b. OYSTER RIVER COOP FOOTBALL-** Athletic Director Rus Wilson gave an overview of the proposal.

MOTION: Motion to approve the coop football proposal by Mr. Landry

SECOND: Mr. Martin

DISCUSSION: There will be approximately 6-12 football players that Oyster River will send Portsmouth and 4-8 hockey players that Portsmouth will send Oyster River. The proposal is beneficial for both Portsmouth and Oyster River.

VOTE: Approved (1 member abstained)

**c. OYSTER RIVER GIRLS HOCKEY**

**d. NEW CASTLE AGREEMENT TO SEND STUDENTS TO PMS-** Superintendent Zdravec reported Portsmouth was approached to see if it would be a possibility to accept New Castle grades 7&8 students to the middle school. New Castle parents would be given a choice between attending Rye or Portsmouth. SAU Superintendent Petralia reported it would be under ten students, more realistically 3-5 students. Rye is experiencing declining enrollment and the trend is expected to continue over the next 3-5 years. New Castle will be voting on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Discussion: Even with it being such a small number of students, the tuition cost will cover the cost for educating the students. Transportation costs would be covered by New Castle.

**e. RETIREMENT INCENTIVE-** Superintendent Zdravec shared the draft retirement incentive. It is verbatim to what has been previously offered. The Board did not offer the incentive last year. The incentive will provide a cost saving. The City Council will need to approve the incentive.

MOTION: Motion to approve retirement incentive by Ms. Clayburgh

SECOND: Mr. Martin

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

**f. 2016/2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR-** There were two copies provided. Superintendent Zdravec pointed out the major differences between the calendars (April vacation week, workshop days) and some other considerations. The calendar will be brought to the February meeting for final review.

Questions/discussion followed: It is important to be on the same calendar as SAU50. Discussion of possibly changing the April vacation every 2<sup>nd</sup> or third year.

**XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- i. JBC- Next meeting is January 27, 2016.
- ii. BEC- Ms. Mullaney reported BEC met on January 6. A number of issues were discussed. Construction students are in need of construction projects. Marketing and Sales just created a website and is hosting job fair.

Mr. Johannsen- A special recognition was given to PHS senior Dominique Couchaine for leading the charge in collection donations for PHS Business Students to show thanks to PHS Staff. More information can be found in this week's newsletter.

**XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. ELECTRONIC TEXT BOOK POLICY
- b. STEM

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m. by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Mr. Landry

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted