

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR JANUARY 24, 2017

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

NOTICE OF NON- PUBLIC MEETING: THE SCHOOL BOARD WILL HOLD A NON- PUBLIC MEETING AT 6:30 P.M., IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) and RSA 91-A:3,II (c) IN THE PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER-** Board Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL-** Chair Leslie Stevens, Vice Chair Tom Martin, Jeff Landry, Kristin Jeffrey, Gary Epler, Ann Walker, Nancy Clayburgh, Patrick Ellis, Roseanne Vozella Clark, SAU50 Representative Scott Marion, Teacher Representative Kimberly McGlinchey, Student Representative Andrew Rodgers, Superintendent Stephen Zdravec, Assistant Superintendent George Shea
- III. **INVOCATION-** Chair Stevens requested a Moment of Silence in recognition of Ms. Pat Elkin.
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** Chair Stevens led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - a. JANUARY 10, REGULAR MEETING

MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of January 10, 2017, by Mr. Epler

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted
 - b. JANUARY 17, BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of January 17, 2017, by Mr. Epler

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** Matt Allen- 81 Grove Road, Rye; Elisa Bolton- 304 Pioneer Road, Rye; Moira Bradley- 30 Oak Avenue, Rye; Sue Spaulding- 100 Walton Road, New Castle; Hugo Marin- 155 Fern Avenue, Rye; Andrea St. Jean - 54 Humphrey Court, Portsmouth; Jen Roelofs- Rye; Anna St. Jean- 54 Humphreys Court, Portsmouth; Abby Veilleux- 100 Holly Lane, Portsmouth; Mira Schwartz- 161 Wallis Road, Rye; Amy Borne- Wallace Road, Rye (submitted a statement signed by 60 people); Mike Schwartz- 161 Wallis Road, Rye (submitted several documents for Board review); David Witham- 238 Walker Bungalow, Portsmouth; Sharon Potter- 161 Wallace Road, Rye; Christine Groleau- 30 Oakwood Drive, Portsmouth; Rose Turcottos- 64 Liberty Commons, Rye, all spoke in regards to the PHS Freshman Honors Program. Lennie Mullaney – 248 Williard Avenue, Portsmouth and Russ Grazier- 220 Kearsarge Way, Portsmouth, both spoke in regards to the Arts.

VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. PHS HONORS COMMITTEE- Principal Lyons introduced some of the PHS Honors Committee members present at tonight's meeting; College Counselor Sharyn Grenier, English teachers Kate Fitzpatrick and Lisa McAllistar, Social Studies teachers Sara Carpenter and Sam Tombarelli, Science teachers Dee Barrett and Rick Hugener.

Ms. Grenier shared a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the process, goals of the committee, an explanation behind the proposed changes, and college impact. In addition to the Committee work, they used student survey feedback indicating one third of students reported having experienced academic transition stress. This survey was not exclusive to students participating in Honors classes. Ms. Grenier reported unanimous support of the proposed change from teachers.

In addition to the PowerPoint presentation, several of the PHS Honors Committee members verbally contributed to the presentation.

Lisa McAllister and Dee Barrett shared information regarding the application process. One third of the incoming freshman apply for Honors classes, however only half of the students are accepted.

Sam Tomberrili shared some personal comments, as both a parent and a PHS educator. Mr. Tomberlli also spoke of the opportunities available through Clipper Academy.

Sara Carpenter shared a few stories from her students regarding the pressure felt by students to participate in an Honors class. Ms. Carpenter shared information regarding the application process and the number of students currently enrolled in the Honors History classes.

Rick Hugener shared that some students reported only taking an Honors class for the name, to prove they were up for the task, and wanted to learn the skills as they are and concerned for their future. The trend he reports seeing is that kids aren't ready for the rigor of the Honors classes.

Kate Fitzpatrick spoke in regard to continuing the quality of work, expectations, and the need to challenge students.

Assistant Superintendent Shea spoke in regards to the core values, beliefs, and raising the bar for all students.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Many topics were discussed including the application process, differentiation between a College Prep class and an Honors class, and the structure of implementation of the program.

Concern was expressed for the need to improve communication and provide additional information to address parents' concerns. Superintendent Zdravec stated that tonight was more about providing information regarding the process behind the committee, the proposed changes, and how we create a structure that offers a greater level of rigor.

Chair Stevens requested Board members send their questions to her directly.

- b. FUTURE OF THE ARTS- Visual Art Teacher Anna Nuttal shared several examples of students' art work/ projects and the stories behind the students' art. Ms. Nuttal also provided an overview of the cornerstones of the Art curriculum, 21st Century skills and student outcomes, and the community partners, such as the Heart Project.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Ms. Nuttal reported there are many STEAM models that she would be happy to share with the Board. Introducing Art into Literacy can be very engaging, as there are many ways to integrate Art.

Concern was raised about the limited access to Art classes for middle school students. There are many locations where students' Art is displayed, including Portsmouth City Hall, all of the Portsmouth Schools, the Splash Show at the Portsmouth Library, an annual show at the African Cultural Center, the entry of Bank of America, Valeries Gallery, and in March the 3S Artspace.

MOTION: Motion to suspend the rules to continue the Board meeting past 10:00 p.m. by Mr. Ellis

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATE, JANUARY 2017
- ii. OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, WASHINGTON, DC
- iii. OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, JACKSON, NH

IX. **OLD BUSINESS**

- ##### a. BUDGET UPDATE- Superintendent Zdravec provided a brief update on the FY18 Budget.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Clarification was provided regarding on the process of additional requests, i.e. adding a part-time Art teacher.

- ##### b. ELEMENTARY FACILITIES UPDATE-Superintendent Zdravec reported a more detailed update will be provided to the Board at the February 14 meeting. The Elementary facilities Committee is currently working on obtaining cost numbers for the Dondero Elementary renovation.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Dondero's renovations are projected as a two-year project. Funding in the CIP will be available in the FY18 Budget.

X. **NEW BUSINESS**

- ##### a. NEW DHHS GRANT PROPOSAL-RJLA- Superintendent Zdravec reported an application was submitted for a grant to the NH Department of Health and Human Services. This grant would provide funding for a new position at RJLA, serving multiple roles primarily focusing around substance prevention. If awarded, funding would be available this summer.

XI. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- ##### a. POLICY- The next Policy Committee meeting is January 25, 2017.
- ##### b. JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE- The next Joint Building Committee meeting is January 25, 2017.

XII. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. 2017/2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR
- b. TQP UPDATE
- c. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL REPORTS

XIII. **PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CALENDAR** MAY BE FOUND ONLINE AT
<http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm>

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 10:21 p.m. by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted