

**Portsmouth School Board  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

**Minutes of the November 28, 2006 Meeting**

A meeting of the Portsmouth School Board was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 in the library at the Portsmouth Middle School.

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***Attendance***

**PRESENT:** Mr. Kent F. LaPage (Chair), Mrs. Nancy Novelline Clayburgh (Vice-Chair), Ms. Sheri Ham Garrity, Mr. Clay Hayward, Mr. John Lyons, Jr., Mr. Brendan Ristaino, Dr. Mitchell Shuldman, Mr. Carson Smith, Mrs. Ann Walker

**PARTICIPATING:** Dr. Robert J. Lister (Superintendent of Schools), Mr. Stephen Zadravec (Assistant Superintendent), Mr. Stephen T. Bartlett (Business Administrator), Mrs. Linda Briolat (Employee Representative), Ms. Elisa Loeser (Student Representative)

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***Budget Work Session***

Prior to the regular meeting, the School Board met in a budget work session in the library at Portsmouth Middle School.

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***Call to Order***

Chair LaPage called the regular meeting of the Portsmouth School Board to order at 8:00 p.m. He stated that we are entering the holiday seasons of Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza and New Years, and asked that we keep others in our thoughts. He said we need to understand there are those less fortunate and those who do not have the great community support that we have in Portsmouth.

***Remembrances***

The Chair asked the Board to keep the following staff members in their thoughts and prayers: Jean Frisbee, secretary to the Assistant Superintendent, whose father (Joseph O'Leary) recently passed away; Darlene Tracy, secretary to the Career Tech Center at Portsmouth High School, and Joy Betts, early education teacher at Portsmouth High School, who are fighting cancer. Dr. Lister stated that Cal Scarponi, a retired teacher from the High School, is recuperating from surgery for cancer. The Chair asked the Board to remember all of these people in their thoughts and prayers. Ms. Garrity led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- Minutes Approved*** The Chair called for approval of the November 14, 2006 minutes. Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Mrs. Walker, the minutes be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Thank You Note*** The Board received a note from Sally Vaughn, former FUTURES Coordinator, thanking them for the lovely send-off, plaque, and gift in recognition of her retirement.
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### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION**

No one had signed up to address the Board. The Chair declared the public commentary session closed.

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### **RECOGNITION OF STAFF/STUDENTS**

- Fall Sports Teams*** The Chair recognized the high school sports teams for an outstanding season in Division III. He said, although in a new division, the teams still compete with some of the same schools. The Chair also stated that many of our student athletes made the honor roll.
- Fall Drama Production*** Mrs. Clayburgh stated the recent production of "Roar of the Grease Paint, Smell of the Crowd" was wonderful and said that all should be proud of the performance.
- Students and Staff Helping Others*** Dr. Lister recognized all of the teachers and students in all of the schools for the food drives and fundraising they are involved in to help others. He said that some students have also worked in soup kitchens throughout the community.
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### **PERSONNEL**

There were no personnel issues to come before the Board.

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### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Joint Loss – Workplace Safety Committee*** Workplace Safety Committee – The minutes of the November 8, 2006 Joint Loss-Workplace Safety Committee meeting were in the Board packets. Mr. Lyons said the minutes are self-explanatory, and he had nothing to add to the report.
- Athletic Committee*** Athletic Committee – Mrs. Clayburgh reviewed the minutes from the
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***Athletic Committee  
(continued)***

November 20, 2006 Athletic Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the fall sports season at the Middle School and High School. She noted Mr. Wilson's concern that the athletic fields are not draining properly because of over-use, and he is considering shutting down some of the fields during the summer months. The Chair requested the Athletic Committee, prior to February 1, 2007, meet to have some discussion on whether to continue the arrangement with Mr. Wilson between the School Department and the City of Portsmouth for another year, to fully endorse it, or that it be reviewed. He requested the Athletic Committee come back to the Board with a recommendation.

***Middle School Joint  
Advisory Committee***

Middle School Joint Advisory Committee – Mrs. Clayburgh reported that Dr. Burdick, a scientist from the University of New Hampshire, spoke to the Committee about wetland and various situations that occur on the Jones Avenue site, and he clarified verbiage the committee members have been hearing. She said the Committee also discussed factors for consideration regarding priorities, costs, and addressing the educational narrative. Dr. Shuldman reported that a master list was developed to allow evaluation of items for prioritization. He also reported the Committee expects to receive a report from Team Design at its meeting on January 24, 2007. Ms. Garrity said the report will contain comparative information for both sites (Parrott Avenue and Jones Avenue).

Mrs. Clayburgh stated the School Board has spent approximately \$40,000 on the Middle School building since July 1, 2006 (\$30,000 to repair the roof and \$10,000 for other building repairs). She said the Board would need to consider budgeting up to \$100,000 just to annually maintain the present building.

There was a discussion of State Building Aid for the project and whether or not waivers from the State will be required. There was also a discussion of the appropriate time and venue for holding public hearings. Mr. Bartlett said the Committee's charge is to receive information and to make a recommendation to the School Board.

***Curriculum Council***

Curriculum Council – Mr. Zdravec reported the Curriculum Council met on November 16<sup>th</sup> and had a preliminary discussion exploring the possibility of offering an introductory level of the Chinese language at Portsmouth High School. He said this would be offered to students who have already taken another language. The Committee also discussed using resources in the City of Portsmouth to support the curriculum. Representatives from the Portsmouth Historical Homes Association were present and joined this part of the discussion.

***Ad hoc  
Communications***

Ad hoc Communications Committee – Ms. Garrity reported the Committee's first article was printed in The Portsmouth Herald.

**Committee**  
**Ad hoc**  
**Communications**  
**Committee (cont.)**

There was discussion about future articles. Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Mr. Ristaino, the ad hoc Communications Committee remain active for one year. The motion was unanimously approved.

**“Portsmouth Plus”**  
**Homework Club**

Mrs. Walker reported the Middle School homework club, “Portsmouth Plus,” will hold a fundraiser on December 8<sup>th</sup> downstairs at The Muddy River restaurant in Portsmouth.

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Policy Committee**

Ms. Garrity reported the Policy Committee met on November 20<sup>th</sup> and reviewed policies, which are being presented this evening for first reading.

**First Reading of**  
**Policies**

Ms. Garrity presented the first reading of the Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Policy – Bullying. She said the policy has been updated. Mr. Lyons requested the policy be reviewed on an annual basis. After further discussion, Mr. Lyons moved the first reading of the “Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Policy – Bullying,” be amended by making number III.: “This policy will be reviewed with the students on an annual basis.” Mrs. Walker seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

**Pupil Safety and**  
**Violence Prevention**  
**Policy -- Bullying**

**Wellness Policy**

Ms. Garrity presented the Wellness Policy for first reading. Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Lyons, the first reading be approved. Mrs. Clayburgh requested that a representative from the health department be added to the Wellness Advisory Committee. Mr. Smith and Mr. Lyons agreed to this amendment. In a roll call vote, the first reading was unanimously approved.

**Non-**  
**Smoking/Tobacco**  
**Policies**

Ms. Garrity presented the first readings of the Non-Smoking/Tobacco policies for personnel and students. Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, the first readings for the Non-Smoking/Tobacco policies for the personnel and student sections of the policy book. In a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

**Parent Involvement**  
**Policy**

Ms. Garrity presented the first reading of the Parent Involvement Policy. She said the policy was approved this past summer, and the revisions are necessary to meet Federal and State requirements for funding. Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Mrs. Walker, the first reading be approved. In a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

**Student Behavior**  
**Contract**

Mrs. Clayburgh said a few Board members will meet with Jeff Collins, High School Principal, on December 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss a student behavior contract. Mr. Collins suggested that Mr. Stokel, Middle School Principal, be invited to participate in this meeting.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

There was no Continuing Business to come before the Board.

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**FINANCIAL**

There was no Financial business to come before the Board.

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**NEXT AGENDA**

*Next Meeting* Chair LaPage said the next meeting will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall on December 12, 2006.

*Open Campus* The Chair said that Mr. Collins is working on a report about open campus and its impact on the school. He has requested that Mr. Collins give this report to the Board in March. Mrs. Clayburgh said the Parent Advisory Committee will meet on January 11, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss this.

*Students to Give Presentation to Board* Mr. Ristaino said that two High School students traveled to Washington, D.C. and met with the Senators and Congressmen from New Hampshire. He requested the students be invited to a future Board meeting.

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**OTHER**

*Budget Work Session* The Chair stated the Board held its budget work session earlier this evening and, therefore, it is not necessary to meet on Thursday evening.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

*Adjournment* There was no further business to come before the Board. Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Dr. Shuldman, the Board adjourn its meeting. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Robert J. Lister  
Executive Secretary