

(Approved by the Portsmouth School Board February 13, 2007.)

**Portsmouth School Board
Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

Minutes of the January 30, 2007 Meeting

A special meeting of the Portsmouth School Board was held on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 in the Board Room at Little Harbour School in order to hold a public hearing on the 2007-2008 School Department budget.

Attendance

PRESENT: Mr. Kent 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 Zadavec (Assistant Superintendent), Mr. Stephen T. Bartlett (Business Administrator), Ms. Elisa Loeser (Student Representative), Mrs. Linda Briolat (Employee Representative)

Call to Order

Chair LaPage called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

The Chair thanked Superintendent Lister for representing the School Department extremely well during last evening's work session with the City Council about the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

***Rebuttal to
Comments Made
Regarding Middle
School***

The Chair said the newspapers reported comments made by a City Councilor who accused the School Department of deceptive measures toward keeping the Middle School in safe and good order; that is a false statement. Chair LaPage said that since 1999, when there was a fire in the building, \$1.2 million has been put into the Middle School building for its upkeep, at the rate of approximately \$150,000 per year. He said this does not take into account the cost of maintenance performed on a daily basis. The Chair said that during the last three years, \$366,500 has been spent on the building for maintenance and upkeep, including the roof repair, windows, and plumbing problems.

Chair LaPage also stated that the City of Portsmouth recently started a program whereby the School Department receives \$500,000 every two years from the Capital Improvement Program for the upkeep of all buildings. The Chair said when you divide this amount by the number of school buildings, it comes to \$35,714.29 per building.

Chair LaPage, on behalf of the administration, stated there is nothing

(Approved by the Portsmouth School Board February 13, 2007.)

deceptive about the maintenance and condition of the Middle School building. He stated that, prior to Dr. Lister becoming Superintendent of Schools, there had been meetings with the Middle School administration to discuss holding double sessions at the High School if there was a need to close the Middle School should they lose a boiler. The Chair said the administration is constantly keeping its focus with the major issues of the building.

Dr. Shuldman asked about the Capital Improvement Program funds (\$500,000 every two years). Mr. Bartlett said this is a new program, and the Department will be going into the second cycle of this program. Before that, repairs were made on an individual basis. The Chair used the example of replacing the wall at Little Harbour School, and deferring the installation of sprinklers that were in the CIP budget in order to accomplish that project.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing for 2007-2008 Budget

The Chair declared the public hearing for the 2007-2008 open at 7:11 p.m. There was no one in the audience other than the budget presenters and members of the media. The Chair called again for speakers, and then declared the public hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Budget Work Session

The Board then went into a budget work session. The three elementary principals, Robin Burdick, Jill LeMay, and George Shea, were present along with Reading/Title 1 Director, Joanne Simons, to present their budgets.

Adjournment

The work session was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Robert J. Lister
Executive Secretary