

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Present: DR. MITCHELL SHULDMAN (CHAIR), BRENDAN RISTAINO (VICE CHAIR), KENT LAPAGE, SHERI HAM-GARRITY, ANN WALKER, DEXTER LEGG, LISA SWEET, REBECCA EMERSON, LESLIE STEVENS, DR. ROBERT LISTER (SUPERINTENDENT) STEPHEN ZADRAVEC (ASST. SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), JEFF COLLINS (PRINCIPAL PHS), JOHN STOKEL (PRINCIPAL PMS), MS. ABIGAIL ROCKEFELLER (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE), MS. LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE).

Absent:

III. INVOCATION

Superintendent Lister asked School Board members to remember Karen Bonde-Stasko who passed away last week. Ms. Stasko taught at Dondero Elementary for five years. The father and grandfather of Margaret and Susan Ronchi, who are employed at Portsmouth High School, also passed away.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Martha Fuller Clark was invited to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. August 02, 2008 School Board Retreat Work Session

Voted to approve and accept the minutes of the August 02, 2008 School Board Retreat work Session. Ms. Emerson Opposed.

2. August 05, 2008 School Board Middle School Work Session

Correction to be made on the following: Remove sentence that states two auditoriums have been scaled down to one auditorium and state the auditorium and cafeteria will utilize the same space. Minutes will be corrected before being posted. Pending corrections, voted to approve and accept the minutes of August 05, 2008 School Board Meeting.

3. August 12, 2008 Actions Items of Regular School Board Meeting

Voted to approve and accept the action items of the August 12, 2008 School Board Minutes.

4. August 12, 2008 School Board Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Voted to approve and accept the minutes of the August 12, 2008 School Board Minutes.

5. August 27, 2008 School Board Superintendent Search Work Session

Voted to approve and accept the minutes of August 27, 2008 Superintendent Search Work Session.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Invitation for board members to join the Superintendent for lunch in the schools -

Superintendent Lister provided board members with an invitation to join him at the school of their choice. Ms. Walker reminded the Superintendent that board members usually receive a lunch menu for the month. Dr. Lister will speak with Pat Laska, Director of School Nutrition, and include the menu in the school board's next agenda packet.

2. Corrected letter to the Honorable Mayor Ferrini

The original letter written stated that a vote on the issue of the letter was unanimous, when the vote was eight to one.

3. Booster Club letter – DRAFT

Superintendent Lister asked the board not to take any action at this time. This letter deals with the cost of entering athletic events and the filming of such events. He requested the board turn this matter back over to the Superintendent in order to schedule two meetings with City Hall, Rus Wilson, Mr. Bartlett, Jeff Collins and Kent LaPage. Mr. LaPage volunteered, due to his past involvement with clubs. This committee will analyze financial implications this may have. Motion to hand back over to the Superintendent. Mr. LaPage and the Superintendent will report back at the meeting in November. (November 18, 2008).

4. Copy of City Council Agenda notes

The results from the attorney regarding Eminent Domain, a map of Alumni Field were also provided in this packet.

5. Letter from Ms. Amy Brnger, Library Board of Trustees and Dr. Lister's letter in response

The Board of Trustees from the Portsmouth Library requests someone keep them up to date on the design of the new middle school and work with the Board of Trustees to assure their parking concerns are addressed. Superintendent Lister attached a letter in response. Chair Shuldman stated his apologies for not keeping the trustees informed. Referred to Ms. Walker who is on the library's Board of Trustees.

6. Parent/Guardian informational e-mail from Superintendent

Superintendent Lister provided the board with a copy of his newsletter sent out to all parents district-wide. His goal is to keep all parents informed and engaged in the schools.

7. Portsmouth resident response from Attorney Dwyer

A response letter from Attorney Dwyer to a Portsmouth resident was provided to the school board. Ms. Emerson asked if there were copies of the resident's letter that Attorney Dwyer was responding to. Superintendent Lister then passed out a packet of correspondence between Attorney Dwyer and the Portsmouth resident.

8. Henry and Phyllis Coito Scholarship Fund

Henry and Phyllis Coito were first generation Americans from Hudson, MA who did not have the opportunity of post-secondary education. It is in recognition of the encouragement and support they gave their children and grandchildren in all THEIR educational pursuits that this fund is being established. Dr. Lister requested permission to enter into agreement in order to establish a scholarship of a senior at Portsmouth High School. Mr. LaPage moved, seconded by Ms. Garrity. Voted to approve.

VII. RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

1. Safe Routes To Schools – Ms. Deborah Finnigan

Deb Finnigan, Director of Transportation, presented a brief update on the committee's purpose and activities. Safe Routes to Schools is funded by a 100% federally funded grant. The city does not have any match obligation. Part of the program is to get children to walk and bike to school to get exercise in the morning. Sidewalks, educational programs and bike paths are funded through this grant. On October 08, 2008, the committee is encouraging parents and students to walk to school, joining in with communities around the globe in this international event. Many hands are needed from parents, board members and staff members to make this event a success. Volunteers are needed at school to provide nutritious snacks as a reward for the students participating and to assist in providing safe travel of large groups at crosswalks. Ms. Finnigan stated volunteers could call her or any member of the committee. Ms. Sweet asked if Ms. Finnigan could utilize the committee to remind people of crosswalk laws now that school is in session. Ms. Finnigan will bring it up at her next staff meeting. Ms. Sweet also inquired, if she wanted to see some of the projects funded by this grant, whom would she see? Ms. Finnigan stated her office would be the contact and Ms. Sweet was welcomed to view the plans at any time. Ms. Stevens inquired about when more bike racks would be available. Ms. Finnigan has received estimates that exceed the amount allotted by the grant. The committee will discuss at next meeting. Ms. Sweet also inquired if a bike path would be feasible at Little Harbour. Ms. Finnigan stated she would like to receive feedback from each school stating what they feel the needs of each individual school are. She would compile the data and the committee would be much better equipped to fix issues of transportation that she may not be aware of. Mr. LaPage mentioned funds available through Fed-Ex and stated that in many countries 100% of children walk to school on narrow, dangerous roads. Ms. Finnigan received an email from Fed-Ex and is hoping to find out more about the opportunity through the company.

Mr. LaPage said he would provide Ms. Finnigan with whom to contact in the company. Referred to Ms. Emerson to report back when a decision has been made.

2. Resignations

Cindy Fitzgerald – Reading teacher at Dondero Elementary. Ms. Fitzgerald took a leave of absence in October of 2007 and is now resigning. She has been employed for 5 years. Moved to approve by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ristaino and voted.

3. Nominations

Jessica Locke– Resource Specialist at Dondero Elementary. Jessica received her masters at Wheelock College and, most recently, was a special education teacher at Rochester Middle School in Rochester, New Hampshire.

Deborah DeQuattro – 1/3 Art teacher at Portsmouth High School. Ms. DeQuattro has a master's degree in creative arts from Florida State College and, most recently, was a teacher at Triton High School in Massachusetts.

Karen Crowley – Technology Integrator Coach at Little Harbour Elementary. Most recently, Ms. Crowley has been temporarily filling her now full time position for Ms. Romano since her leave of absence last October.

Terra Merry – Technology Specialist/Integrator at Portsmouth High School. Ms. Merry was most recently a science and literary coach in the Sacramento, CA. area.

Nominations (Moved to accept all hires by Ms. Walker. Seconded by Ms. Ham-Garrity and voted.)

4. Other

As of September 9, we have one position to fill.

VIII. FINANCIAL

1. 2008 – 2009 Proposed Rates

Mr. Bartlett discussed the 2008/2009 proposed rates for the budget. Very few changes from last year's rates were made. Rental rates will stay the same as last year. Food service rates have already been discussed and voted on by the board. Transportation rates are based on the City's rates, which are published in the report provided. Currently the substitute rate stays the same for one-day rates, but long-term rate have been increased slightly due to the new teachers contract. Ms. Emerson inquired as to how often the district's rental spaces are rented. Mr. Bartlett will provide a breakdown of who utilizes the space and whether they are for profit or not for profit at the next meeting. Ms. Garrity inquired about the student parking fee and where the funds actually go. Mr. Bartlett stated the funds go towards reducing transportation and bus contract costs.

Ms. Walker asked if air conditioning was charged above and beyond the basic rental rate. Mr. Bartlett stated that there is a rate based on an audit from PSNH and Arthur Ashley discusses this rate up front with organizations that will be renting space at the high school during warm months.

Ms. Rockefeller inquired as to whether the school board has a moped policy and if mopeds need stickers to park. Mr. LaPage stated that moped and small scooter usage has increased greatly since the fee was implemented and this matter should be sent back to Mr. Bartlett for further information.

2. August 08 Financial Report

Mr. Bartlett provided the August financial report in the new format and commented on a few highlights. In order to establish the base average, Mr. Bartlett averaged the past five years and this initial work will be modified as more data is added every year. He encouraged board members to look at the new format quarterly to see a better overall average. Minor adjustments may be made after the system finishes being audited. Ms. Emerson asked when the last audit was conducted and Mr. Bartlett stated an audit is done every year.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION

Ms. Pat Gormley - 579 Sagamore Avenue, Portsmouth, NH. Ms. Gormley stated it was always a pleasure to meet with the school board. Ms. Gormley wanted to comment on issues on the middle school, specifically demographics of the middle school. One of the things that is the bedrock of building a middle school or high school is providing a statistically sound demographic study and she realizes that the board has been discussing this for quite a long time and thought these issues could have been settled a long time ago before the design phase. They may have been clear to the architects, but certainly have not been clear to the rest of the community who have been trying to follow the design process. Ms. Gormley stated that it is not clear what the school board is using exactly for demographic statistics. She believes the implication has been that there is a greater size than demographic statistics show and the "graying" of Rockingham County. Some material on the middle school database did not show great growth in the future. It would be helpful to know the adjusted number the architects and school board members will be using to base their design on. If the number is 650 students, Ms. Gormley believes this number is way out of line.

Ms. Sara Hamel – 579 Sagamore Avenue, Portsmouth, NH. Ms. Hamel thinks board members have probably heard from several community members that meetings have been posted improperly or not posted at all and have been held behind closed doors and she spoke for citizens she certainly knows that citizens cannot follow the process because they are not seeing the whole picture. Some things are leaked to the public and it seems to her like a very haphazard way to run a school board. It also means that as a school board, they may lose the trust and respect of citizens who have elected them because it is unclear the direction the school board is going, particularly speaking on the renovation of the Portsmouth Middle School.

Mr. David Gorman - 579 Sagamore Avenue, Portsmouth, NH. Mr. Gorman started with displaying a document produced by the New Hampshire Department of Education and stated he hoped that each school board member was intimately familiar with the document. He addressed cost and planning. Mr. Gorman stated it is recommended by the Department of Education that an educational consultant be hired. He also stated that the document specifically states that an architect should not be asked to plan an educational facility. This would be unfair. Mr. Gorman also referred to the document to state that total cost should include all costs. (i.e. moving costs, technology, furniture and maintenance/repair.) This all affects the tax rate and taxpayers. Any analysis done should be related to the tax record.

Ms. Ellen Marlette – 97 Morning street, Portsmouth NH. Ms. Marlette joined the board on the tour of the high school prior to the board meeting and was able to tour the Technology Center. She now understands very clearly all the programs that are offered at the technology center and how they benefit students. From what Ms. Marlette has read in the papers regarding the middle school, it seems that the architecture has a lot to do with programs. What Ms. Marlette is curious about, and she feels she does not have enough information on, is what specifically the middle school offers for programs and which programs are forming the basis on what the architect is building the new structure on. She would be happy to support a larger structure if she clearly understood what the needs for a larger facility were.

Dr. Jane Kilcoyne – 67 Gate Street, Portsmouth NH. Dr. Kilcoyne stated she would love to have a beautiful new middle school for her grandson. More importantly, she would love to have a very good middle school for her grandson. Dr. Kilcoyne understands average spaces and regulated spaces that can only be used for one purpose. Square footage means maintenance but it doesn't necessarily mean excellent schools. She would rather see some of the funds go towards teacher's salaries and equipment.

Mr. Pat Ellis – 235 McKinley Road, Portsmouth, NH. Mr. Ellis stated that his son, attending Dondero Elementary, has 24 students in his fourth grade class. In Kindergarten, he had one teacher and two paraprofessionals. In fourth grade, he has more students and only one teacher and he hopes the board addresses the student/teacher ratio next year. Mr. Ellis thinks demographers are stating that we cannot project beyond 5 years. Mr. Ellis does not want to see a situation where the middle school is built on projections that look at 5 years and not have enough classrooms built so in a few years the school system is in a situation where there are 35 students in one classroom. Mr. Ellis is not satisfied with just an adequate education and does not want to see the cutting of any programs. He also stated that the five cereals available to students are Honey Nut Cheerios, Lucky Charms, Cookie Crisp, Fruity Cheerios and Cheerios. Cheerios has one gram of sugar and Lucky Charms has 12. He feels it is a lot of sugar and junk. He hopes the school board will investigate.

Ms. Carol Chellman - 430 Richards Avenue, Portsmouth NH. Ms. Chellman believes that each member of the board has been working very hard individually to build the best possible middle school for our students and she is very grateful for that. The problem she sees is it's not what the board thinks or even what the board collectively thinks. It is what the community thinks. This is a community building. Ms. Chellman, as a parent, may take a certain approach based on what her children are involved in. That would not be relevant. It is what the community believes is the best possible middle school. She believes the board is now working in the direction of what the community's idea of the best possible middle school is.

Mr. Eric Anderson - 38 George's Terrace, Portsmouth, NH. Mr. Jamieson passed out a letter from the Association of Portsmouth Taxpayers. The emergence of middle school costs concerns him. Tax implications and fiscal consciousness must be addressed. The project started big, now it is being down sized. He stated he is not attacking the board; this is simply a concern for a provided qualitative educational system. He reminded the board that their reactions would cause a reaction for taxpayers. Mr. Anderson asked the board to be as transparent as possible in order to give confidence to people watching the process and reduces criticism. The board cannot work in isolation.

X. AGENDA

1. Vote on Superintendent Search

Back in August 27, 2008, the board invited two companies in to make presentations. New Hampshire School Board Association and New England School of Development Council. Dr. Shuldman opened the conversation in order to decide whether the board would like to hire a firm to assist in the search process and if so, to vote on which company to go with. Mr. LaPage apologized for not being able to attend the August 27 meeting and cautioned that he has worked with both companies. After reviewing materials sent to him, he found himself concerned with the rise in cost from previous searches. He feels strongly on a national search, but feels a large portion could be done internally with advertising and the guidance of a second party being contracted out. Mr. LaPage requested that two or three members sit with Dr. Lister and start a community search with NHSBA. Under the guidance of Ted Comstock, he feels NHSBA has drastically improved. Mr. LaPage motioned that the board work in conjunction with NHSBA, on an amount to be determined, and an amount of no more than \$8,000.00 to be set for a Superintendent of Schools search for SAU 52. Ms. Walker seconded the motion but was not sure if she wanted the spending limit to be capped at \$8,000.00. Ms. Walker liked the fact that NHSBA was less expensive and believes in their work. Mr. LaPage clarified that the motion was for \$8,000.00 for NHSBA, and advertising costs would be an additional cost. Mr. LaPage revised the motion to be no more than \$8,000.00 for NHSBA to work in tandem with them. Ms. Emerson asked where the \$8,000.00 would come from. Chair Shuldman stated that whatever amount the board decided on, that amount would be requested from the contingency fund from City Hall. Mr. Legg asked what NHSBA's proposal was in terms of cost. Chair Shuldman stated the cost ranged from \$14,000.00 to \$17,000.00. Mr. Legg commented that both firms made it very clear that the board could change the process and there was an active involvement with the community from beginning to end. Mr. Legg was willing to support the motion but not the cap and would like to ask the firm to set a salary range for the new search. Ms. Emerson stated she would not support this motion. She was pleased with both presentations, but was not ready to make a decision. She has mixed feelings and likes both for different reasons. Mr. LaPage, after being able to view the proposal from NHSBA, and seeing that \$8,000.00 is the amount proposed by the firms, now supports the motion. Additional advertising fees were discussed. Ms. Stevens asked Mr. LaPage to clarify what the presenter for NHSBA meant when he said the firm would work with the school board and help the board even if they

were not chosen. Mr. LaPage stated the board receives a certain amount of advertising in communications because they are members of the association and where to advertise would need to be negotiated. Mr. LaPage explained that there was a “cafeteria plan” available, meaning the board could pick and choose the elements that work for their particular needs. Ms. Mayer stated that the board would receive a much more personal search from NHSBA and NESDEC would provide a much more corporate recruitment feel. Mr. Ristaino stated concern if the board only asked for \$8,000.00 from City Council. He would like to see the amount raised, with the understanding that any monies unused would be returned. Mr. LaPage stated the board has never asked City Council for funds and he would like to see the amount kept down to a minimum. Vice Chair Ristaino hoped that City Council could look at this as short money for a long-term investment in the seacoasts’ greatest asset, which is its students and he would like to see the amount increased to \$12,000.00. Ms. Emerson questioned NHSBA as professional recruiters. Mr. LaPage stated statistics that 11 Superintendents hired by NHSBA in the last 4 years were outside of New Hampshire, one internationally and several outside the New England area. NHSBA is constantly looking outside the state of New Hampshire to see what works. Administrators hired by NHSBA have stayed in their positions for a longer period of time than other recruiting firms. Motion was revised to remove the cap, to commit to \$8,000.00 to NHSBA for professional fees and have other expenses to be determined at a later date not to exceed October 15, 2008. Ms. Walker seconded. 8 approved, one opposed. Voted and approved.

Chair Shuldman asked if members would object if a letter be drafted to City Council in the amount of up to \$12,000.00. Chair Shuldman stated he would get in touch with NHSBA to state the firm was chosen. He will also speak to Mr. Comstock to discuss how to begin forming the search committee.

2. LoTi Report

The LoTi report is the report used by educators around the state to gauge the level of technology of staff and the integration of technology into the classroom. Ms. Birrell shared the state summary, which broke down various levels of use and integration for SAU 52. This was based on state level data and administration has since contacted the state to see if there was any comparable data they could look at specifically to compare our district with. What they were told was it is a confidential survey and they could not view data to make a comparison. Chair Shuldman asked for clarification. The district has data that shows Portsmouth vs. the state and Portsmouth vs. the national, but not with other districts in New Hampshire. Mr. Zadravec stated the answer from the state was not completely clear. The LoTi report is an annual report, which SAU 52 has participated in for the past two or three years.

3. Middle School Update

Dr. Shuldman passed out information and stated he has appointed three members to work with JCJ Architects in order to develop a presentation that will be made to the City Council. The three members will be Dexter Legg, Lisa Sweet and Sheri Ham Garrity. Mr. LaPage questioned when the board voted on a committee. Dr. Shuldman stated he believed it was a Chair's prerogative to form a work group. If the board felt that a vote should be taken, Chair Shuldman would not oppose. Mr. LaPage stated to his belief that if board members formed a committee, there would need to be postings and minutes of the committees meetings. Mr. LaPage understood that the committee had already met and asked if there were minutes taken that could be shared with the board. Chair Shuldman stated there are no minutes. Chair Shuldman stated that things are moving forward and the board is trying to work towards a deadline. In his mind, he has made the decision as to whom he will assign to the committee and it only makes sense for them to sit down with JCJ to work out a strategy and move forward. There is no behind the scenes intention. This is simply a way to move forward. Chair Shuldman stated they are work groups, not a committee. LaPage countered that other work groups formed have had an end date. This committee would be associated with JBC and would be long term and has past practices that the board must follow. Chair Shuldman asked if there was a motion from the board to create a committee that would work with JCJ to form a presentation that would be presented before City Council. Dexter moved, but stated the workgroup does have an end date tentatively scheduled by the request of City Council some time around end of September, beginning of October. At that time, the work group would no longer be formed. Dexter recommended it be an ad hoc committee with a specific end date. LaPage does not believe this to correlate with the email that was sent out. Ms. Emerson asked when the discussion took place and when the chair approached the members. Dr. Shuldman stated that, after the last work session, he asked to speak with three board members. Vice Chair Ristaino stated this is an ad hoc committee that is intended to smooth the transition with the community. As the chairman, Dr. Shuldman has the prerogative to form a work group. Ristaino made the motion to create a committee under the direction of the chairman of the board to appoint who he would like to appoint to the committee and have an end date of December 31, 2008 and that conclusion will include a presentation to City Council in regards to the Portsmouth Middle School building project. Mr. Legg moved, seconded by Ms. Walker.

Mr. LaPage asked for clarification as to whether the committee has already met. Chair Shuldman stated the committee has had one meeting. Mr. LaPage asked if there were discussions or notes that could be shared with the board. Chair Shuldman stated there were no minutes taken. Mr. LaPage requested roll call. Vote was 7 to 2.

A draft of a time line was passed out and Chair Shuldman stated this would be presented to the City Council to be approved. Time line break down was discussed. It was stressed that the time line is only in draft form. Ms. Emerson made a motion to make the draft time line available to the public on the city's web site after approval from City Council. Mr. Legg seconds and voted to approve.

Mr. LaPage requested for a public hearing at least one week before October 25th's meeting to have a complete consensus of the community's feelings toward the middle school project. Dr. Shuldman stated that was a good idea and it would be looked into.

Supt. Lister passed out a comparison of existing space of the Portsmouth Middle School and proposed square footage provided by JCJ Associates. The draft of the next session of educational steps that is being sent to the state was passed out as well. Chair Shuldman asked board members to read and digest the documents. The board would discuss them at the next school board meeting. Chair Shuldman stated that some have asked if City Council must vote on the bond issue before this document can be submitted to the state. This document can be submitted before City Council votes on the bond issues. The board must vote on appropriate size and cost and this document appropriates funds necessary at the state level for the project. Ms. Emerson made the motion for both draft documents to be posted on the web for the public. Mr. Legg seconds with the amendment that DRAFT be placed on every page of the document. Mr. LaPage clarified that any documents accepted by members at a meeting becomes public documents. Dr. Lister clarified that he is being directed by the board to post both documents on the school's web site as PDF files with DRAFT on each page after his meeting with Mr. Bohenko.

Mr. Zadavec explained that both documents purpose was to clarify how the new building justifies each program's needs. The design of the document is completely formed by middle school teachers and those involved with the programs. He stated at the next meeting, there will be a fairly comprehensive presentation by John Stokel. He also stated the document is written differently than what will be submitted to the state. This is written for the public.

Ms. Sweet asked if there was a way for the board to respond to the public's questions in a more timely way and answer the public's questions. But in a manageable manner. Mr. Legg proposed a sub committee be formed to work with administration specifically to form a communication plan that will include, but not be limited to, a FAQ document available on the web site. He also recommended that this committee be approved to answer questions, if able, without the approval of the board. Ristaino seconds. Voted and approved. Chair Shuldman requested any members that would like to be on the committee send an email to him. Dr. Lister thanked all the work and time Mr. Stokel put into creating the document now in draft form. Chair Shuldman thanked him for his previous presentations.

Mr. Ristaino moved to cap the meeting at 10:30. Ms. Emerson seconded. Voted and approved 8 to 1.

Mr. Legg presented a PowerPoint presentation that will be posted on the web along with supporting data documents. A brief discussion followed regarding current population and programs of the middle school. Mr. Legg believes it is very important for the public to understand that we are looking to build a school that hopefully will last fifty to one hundred years. Most demographers only forecast out for five to ten years and the middle school won't even be built for another few years. He also states that he bumps into a lot of young families and believes Portsmouth is attracting younger families and not less. A 14% increase of New Hampshire is expected by 2030, due to the fact that more people are moving into the state every year. He encouraged every community member to visit the attached web sites and study the statistics. Based on the studies, Mr. Legg believes it is clear that the population of the state will not decline in the coming years, especially with Portsmouth being such a desirable community. Keeping this an attractive community will have to do with what type of education we provide for children. Large corporations will be swayed by the education available to their employee families. They will not come to a community that does not provide top education. Mr. Legg briefly explained how the board came to the core space figure of 650 students, stating that a building is never built at 100 % maximum capacity and is very hard to expand after the fact. He stated that simple math brings the board to the 696 number. Chair Shuldman asked for the calculation/formula on how the board came to the number of 696 be posted on the web.

Ms. Emerson asked about the 14.8% increase and asked if that was statewide. Mr. Legg stated yes, that it was not broken down and agrees we are unique. Ms. Emerson asked about the application to the state, specifically where it talks about statistically based demographics. Mr. Legg stated the board received strong education from the state that they would be hesitant to fund school less than 650 students. He then shared some current populations of some middle schools that have been built recently and their approved capacities from the state. The approval capacities were considerably higher. Ms. Sweet asked if the board should be asking for reimbursement for instructional space, which is based on 696. Classrooms are still going to accommodate 696 so shouldn't that be the number multiplied? The state will be asked.

Ms. Emerson asked if it was possible for Mr. Ed Murdough to be invited to speak with the board. Ms. Stevens asked what she would specifically ask him. Mr. Stokel reiterated that Mr. Ed Murdough said from day one; do not bring us a plan where three or four years from now you will be back. Make sure the building will accommodate enrollment for the future. Mr. Zdravec clarified the state asks for a 5 year projection and the projections we have done show slight dips and bubbles and that is also a trend that we will need to look at.

Mr. LaPage stated when the high school was being built; the enrollment was low 800's. The projections stated in 2010 the high school might be at 1000. Enrollment is over 1000 already. Statistics are simply a template that the state will digest a little bit further. Ms. Stevens stated enrollment has increased by 60 kids at Little Harbour since her son started in 1999. She also stated that Mr. Murdough made it very clear that 696 was the correct number.

Mr. Legg asked at the next meeting, if prepared, that administration step through program needs/space needs and highlight state funding guidelines and where there are differences. How are we different from other middle schools? Mr. Stokel stated he does not want the comparison made with smaller schools and is waiting for information from comparable schools. Ms. Emerson requested clarification why the Tech. Ed space is twice the State's recommended space size and Ms. Walker asked for Special Education to be explained in detail for the public so they would have a better understanding of the special education program.

4. Televised taping of all regularly scheduled Board Meetings

Superintendent Lister stated that City Hall is contacted biannually to see when school board meetings can be held in council chambers. Dr. Lister stated the board appreciated Howard (cameraman) being able to attend and televise the meeting off site. Second school board meetings scheduled in schools will be recorded and available to the public. There is a cost to the school board associated with taping off site. Ms. Emerson questioned if meetings will be available on Channel 22 or only on line. They will be televised on Channel 22. Ms. Walker inquired what the cost was per meeting and Dr. Lister stated \$150.00 per meeting would be charged.

5. Underage Drinking Initiative – 9/22/98 at PHS in the Little Theatre

A follow up to the first meeting will be on September 22, 2008. This will not be addressed to only high school aged students. It has been made very clear by high school students that the concern should be addressed to middle school students as well. A flyer is available to download on the school website calendar. Mr. Eddie Edwards, Chief of Liquor enforcement for the State, will be the guest speaker. Ms. Mayer asked how this initiative is being advertised. Dr. Lister stated the flyer would be circulated to PTO's and forwarded to Foster's and the Portsmouth Herald. Dr. Lister stated it has been sent to all parents in the district and Dr. Cushing will be sending it out as well.

6. School Board Annual Dinner – December 16, 2008

School Board Annual Dinner – Will be held December 16, 2008 and Dr. Lister asked school board members to mark the date now.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were rescheduled for next board meeting due to time restraints.

XII. NEXT AGENDA ITEMS (September 23, 2008)

1. School Board goals be put on web site
2. Minimize agenda as much as possible
3. Field Trips Update

XIII. ADJOURNMENT At 9:20 p.m., voted to adjourn

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. Robert J. Lister

Superintendent of Schools