

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION FOR JANUARY 20, 2009

NEW FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009

TIME: 5:35PM [or thereafter]

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: ANN MAYER, KENT LAPAGE, PATRICK ELLIS, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, and DR. ROBERT LISTER, STEVE BARTLETT, STEVE ZADRAVEC, ANN WALKER, LESLIE STEVENS, LISA SWEET, LINDA BRIOLAT AND DEXTER LEGG.

Absent: REBECCA EMERSON, ABIGAIL ROCKEFELLER

I. AGENDA

1. Steve Bartlett opened by handing proposed 2009/2010 budget books out to board members and giving a brief description of its contents and cost centers. Mr. Bartlett will also be inputting information into Pentamation, in order to adapt data into spreadsheets for board members to analyze.

The summary sheet and index sheet will be provided to board members January 22, 2009. Mr. Legg encouraged all alternatives are explored before the board makes tough decisions on the future. There may be more state funding available and agreements with Newington and Greenland will also affect the bottom number.

Mr. Bartlett passed out a spreadsheet showing the amount of money being spent for maintenance on the middle school for this year. For unscheduled maintenance issues, money has been re-directed. A wing of the middle school that is settling is being monitored and has been reported to be structurally sound. Experts affiliated with JCJ Architects were able to assess from original drawings found at City Hall of the middle school that there are no pilings. These costs will be recovered during the renovation process.

2. Athletic fields are widely overused. The use of the practice field is closed and will be opened in the fall. Field lights will need to be updated with a cost of \$300/bulb to change.

If it is decided not to pursue astro turf and stay with sod, the budget will need to be doubled due to fertilizer increases 5 to 10% each year, according to Mr. Linchey. The football field alone costs \$40,000 per year to maintain. A total of six new teams for added sports are playing on the same amount of fields and we are asking them to be maintained for the same price. No fields are being rested. Turf appears more and more appropriate to Ms. Mayer. Ideally, three fields for the schools and three fields for the city will be needed.

3. Maintenance of buildings, plowing, and trash were discussed with Mr. Linchey as well. Two of four chemicals used in the Portsmouth Schools are green sealed. Ms. Garrity inquired if the district always takes the lowest bid. Mr. Linchey explained that the lowest bid is only one factor considered. Mr. Linchey also stated that the Portsmouth School district maintenance crew maintains 158,000 sf/worker. The

state average is 98,000 sf/worker. Approximately twenty-eight acres are maintained around the district.

4. Safety issues that need to be addressed this upcoming budget season include New Franklin School's hot top, which needs to be replaced. Hot water heaters and roof leaks also need to be addressed.
5. Energy - The cost of gas increased and utilities increased by 4%. Despite these increases, Mr. Linchey anticipates flat lining for the year. A consolidation of microwaves, refrigerators and coffee pots from classrooms and in each school will curb electric costs.
6. Vending misers are being recommended by Mr. Linchey, which will reduce energy use from \$311 to \$110/year.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. Robert J. Lister
Superintendent of Schools