

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

DONDERO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

It is anticipated that the School Board will vote to enter into a Non-Public Session after the regularly scheduled School Board meeting, in accordance with RSA 91 – A:3 (3).

I. CALL TO ORDER 7:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL

Present: MITCHELL SHULDMAN (CHAIR), SHERI HAM-GARRITY (VICE-CHAIR), REBECCA EMERSON, DEXTER LEGG, PATRICK ELLIS, KENT LAPAGE, ANN WALKER, LESLIE STEVENS, LISA SWEET, STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE), ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE), ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC, (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT) AND PHILIP BOYNTON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

Absent:

III. INVOCATION

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

a. SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 – PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 – PUBLIC SESSION by Mr. LaPage

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION: Page 6; Ms. Susan Avis is a Reading Specialist at Dondero Elementary.

VOTE: Pending above change, unanimously approved.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Items for Information

i. PMS Field Trip to Quebec – Both recurring trips are approved by superintendent and support the historical curriculum.

ii. PMS Field Trip to New York City

iii. Promethean Boards in Our Schools

- iv. Jeff Martell – PMS Special Education Coordinator - Previous instructor of the KIDS Program and now the Special Education Coordinator at the middle school.
- v. In-House Professional Development Course Offerings – Offerings take place once a week after school and are intended to align staff with PLC's. In the spring, courses will focus on working with pyramid of interventions. Motivation for participating in these courses is accumulating 15 credits and moving up one step in the pay scale.
- vi. 09-10 Elementary School Enrollments – Projected vs. Actual – Mr. Zadavec's projections in all elementary schools proved to be accurate.
- vii. Communication Tools – Dr. Birrell researched different tools to communicate in case of emergency in addition to email. Pricing is broken down per pupil district wide. Mr. McDonough requested that this be investigated further. Mr. Legg thought perhaps a conversation with other city departments would result in sharing of this technology and the cost. Mr. McDonough will meet with Mr. Bohenko to discuss this, as well as other cost saving options between the school district and other city departments.

A discussion followed regarding Promethean Boards and distribution of this new technology throughout the school system. Board members expressed concern regarding this distribution and inquired why Little Harbour had more than other elementary schools. It was discovered that Little Harbour second grade teachers wrote and submitted a proposal for a grant, which they received. This purchased 5 boards. Out of the other four, three were purchased with donations and one was purchased through district grant funding. Board members hoped that Little Harbour's second grade teachers would assist other grades in applying for other grants and that administration would make this technology a priority in the technology plan in the future. Chair Shuldman cautioned the board on placing this new technology in every classroom. He stated that he is just beginning to see teachers get excited about the use of this technology. Until we are sure that teachers will use this new technology, it may not be appropriate to put in each classroom.

Mr. Legg requested an update on PLC's. An update will be presented to the board at the first meeting in January.

- b. Correspondence
 - i. *Board & Administrator*
 - ii. *Portsmouth Community Education, Fall/Winter 2009*

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on Middle School Project – JBC Appointments – Chair Shuldman announced that the three school board members that would sit on the JBC would be Ms. Garrity, Ms. Sweet and Mr. Legg. Ms. Garrity will finish her term as a school board member in November and it will be the new vice-chair's decision to choose her replacement. The community member chosen by Chair Shuldman is Mr. Peter Middleton. 14 community members applied from a variety of life experiences. Mr. Middleton's children were educated in the Portsmouth school system and he has been involved in large educational construction projects. On October 5th, it is expected that City Council will announce their appointments.

Mr. McDonough, Mr. Bartlett and Principal John Stokel will serve as non-voting members of the JBC. The mutually agreed upon appointment will be Ms. Mary Ann List, Director of the Portsmouth Public Library.

- b. Consideration and Approval of Revised School Board Goals – Mr. McDonough added the requested goal as it was written a year ago under goal three.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Revised School Board Goals by Mr. Legg.

SECOND: Ms. Sweet

DISCUSSION: It was requested that this information be published in newsletter form for the public and placed on line.

VOTE: ROLL CALL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Teacher Evaluation Update – The Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent met with the Association of Professional Teachers representatives, Ms. Janet Lovering, Ms. Linda Briolat and Ms. Meg Ronchi. A small committee will be formed to assess what will work for both principals and teachers. Mr. Ellis hoped that this process would identify new teachers who should be closely monitored before reaching tenure. Ms. Briolat stated that personnel issues are discussed in non-public sessions and do happen. The Portsmouth School District has been very respectful of this process and the individual.
- b. Workshop Session re: School Board Committees – After a lengthy discussion of what constitutes a “standing committee” from a “special committee”, it was decided that there would be four standing committees: Athletics/Extra Curricular, Policy, Facilities and Technology. A new document will be drafted, showing standing committees, special committees still active and school district committees and how many members serve on each. A charter showing what the committee is responsible for will be drafted and approved by the new board at the beginning of March.

It was requested that Attorney Dwyer clarify which committees need to post meetings and take minutes as well.

- c. Workshop Session re: Re-Districting – Mr. McDonough presented the Board with some preliminary data showing a tightening enrollment in Kindergarten and higher enrollment at Little Harbour and New Franklin School. Board members were curious on the instructional square footage that would be gained at Little Harbour if Central Office were relocated. Mr. LaPage stated that a company assessed Central Office in 1997 and it was found to be non-conducive to instructional space. The Superintendent will locate this study and report any pertinent information back to the board. It was proposed that in 2010, a task force be developed to assess all three elementary schools. This should run on parallel tracks with any assessment of facilities through the city’s capital improvement plan.
- d. Consideration and Approval of “Friends of the South End” to Use Little Harbour Gymnasium for Candidate’s Night With Rental Fee Waived – Deleted from agenda. Friends of the South End will conduct their event at the Public Library.

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. LOTI Survey Results – Dr. Susan Birrell (November)
- b. Report from Athletic Director – October second meeting
- c. Mr. LaPage would like to invite the district’s librarians to write a report regarding “bookless” libraries. Although he does not favor the idea, Mr. LaPage would like a presentation.

- XI.** The Portsmouth School Board relocated to Dondero Elementary Library where a motion to enter into Non-Public Session was made by Ms. Garrity at 9:05 pm. Seconded by Mr. Legg. Unanimously Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Edward McDonough
Superintendent of Schools