

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 13, 2009

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009

TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

A reception was held from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Portsmouth Room for School Board Members and New Staff Members.

I. CALL TO ORDER at 7:05 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 22, 2009 – PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 – PUBLIC SESSION by Mr. Legg

SECOND: Vice Chair Garrity

DISCUSSION: Page 3; Vice Chair's School Board term ends in December.

VOTE: Pending above change, unanimously approved.

b. SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 – NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 – NON PUBLIC SESSION by Mr. LaPage

SECOND: Ms Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION

VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Principal Reports on Opening of School and Introduction to New Staff

Principals Jeff Collins, John Stokel, Jill LeMay, George Shea, Charlie Grossman and Nancy Roy, all reported a smooth beginning of the school year and took a moment to introduce the new staff in their buildings to the Board.

The Superintendent then took a moment to introduce Ms. Paula Wensley, the new Director of Student Services, to the board and the Chair welcomed them to Portsmouth, asking them to put their best foot forward.

- b. School Board Goal 1 PowerPoint – “*Getting to Scale With Professional Learning Communities*” – Mr. McDonough, along with Mr. Zadavec, presented a PowerPoint to board members showing the work completed to date on the district’s first goal, assuring that all students learn. This PowerPoint can be viewed on the school district’s website.

A conversation followed, discussing the ways that administration will assure the goal is achieved and that practices put in place with stimulus funds will be sustained after funding ends.

Because old views of teaching are being challenged, board members wondered if some would be resistant to change. The superintendent and assistant superintendent stated that change started with administration looking within. They asked the questions of themselves on how they needed to change, took the data and focused on the areas where change is needed. The superintendent stated it will be an expectation that teachers do the same.

Mr. LaPage stated that the board would like a possible survey in late April, showing feedback from parents, students and teachers on the losses and gains of delayed openings. The Superintendent stated he did not think this would be necessary, due to monthly reports from principals being shared with the board. The proof that delayed openings have been successful will be evident when the district reports out on achievement.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- a. Items for Information
 - i. Redistricting Information Requests
 - a. Elementary Enrollment Per Sector – 2000 vs. 2009 – Basically, the report shows that two sectors were switched from Dondero to New Franklin and sector 28 was increased at Little Harbour. It was clear that many community members are nervous about the possibility of redistricting. Board members wanted to assure the public that, if the need arises, the community would have ample opportunity to have input. The Superintendent stated that in late December, data would be received from NESDEC, showing projections of enrollment. He recommended tabling the subject until this data was received.
 - b. Team Design Drawings of LHS – Mr. Linchey provided drawings of Central Office’s floor plan.
 - ii. Lunch Menu – October
 - iii. Call for Resolutions from NHSBA – Mr. LaPage noted that Portsmouth has never submitted a resolution. The cut off date is 10/23/2009.

- iv. School Board Committees
- v. Draft of School Board Goals Newsletter – Document will be posted on the school’s web site and emailed to parents.
- vi. Superintendent Update to Staff – Document will be posted on the school’s web site and emailed to parents.
- vii. *Board & Administrator* - October

b. District Reports

i. Financial

Overall the general fund is tracking according to plan with some minor variances, the majority of which are in the operating section. The total general fund appropriation has been increased by \$ 181,732.00, as a result of school committee and city council approval of the negotiated agreements with the administrator, clerical, paraprofessional and custodial supervisor groups. The FY 2009 retro payments for members of those groups and other employees that follow cola and benefit portions of those agreements, resulted in an increase to the base that carried forward to FY 2010 after the budget was set. The funding for the extra appropriation is being covered from reserves on the city side.

The worker’s comp bill we planned to pay in September did not arrive in time and will be processed on October. The rest of the major variances are the operating section. Generally they are the result of identification of needs earlier in the year than in the past, causing a variation from historical purchasing patterns.

Cost center 207 expenses are tracking within acceptable plan variances for the salary and benefits section. The operating section is ahead of plan due to increased summer service needs while delays in grant approvals processing has created a timing issue, which will corrected during the second quarter.

Medicaid reimbursement is ahead of schedule, which we expect will offset estimated under funding of the catastrophic aid reimbursement recently published by the NHDOE.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on Middle School Project - A JBC organizational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th at Little Harbour in the Board Room. Attorney Sullivan will conduct the meeting until a chair is voted on. A commentary opportunity for the community will be planned.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consideration and Approval of Capital Improvement Plan School Requests - FY 2011-2016

MOTION: Motion to Approve the Capital Improvement Plan School Requests - FY 2011-2016 by Mr. LaPage

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: Roof repairs that were not replaced when the high school was constructed are now in desperate need of repair. Board members were presented with a list that will be submitted to the city, upon approval. It was evident that the list contained projects that have been neglected, due to budget constraints in the past years.

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

- b. Consideration and Approval of Athletic/Extra-Curricular Committee Charter –
After careful consideration, it was decided to allow more time for changes to be made to the committee charter. Mr. Rus Wilson, the Athletic Director, will be consulted and a revised charter will be presented at a later date.

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Policy – A meeting was held on Sept 25th, where the Extra Curricular Policy was reviewed. It was unanimously decided that there was no discriminating aspect of this policy. The next meeting will discuss which policies will need to be revised, according to the New Hampshire School Board Association. The NHSBA packet has been received and will be shared with the Policy committee October 22nd.
- b. Safe Routes to Schools – An invitation to a national course was distributed by Ms. Emerson, where an action plan for PMS will be created. Middle School students have been invited to participate. National Walk to School Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2009.
- c. Mr. LaPage announced a Booster Club Meeting is scheduled for Nov. 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. He also complimented Ms. Barbara Pamboukas and Home Depot for their display on how to be preventive on spreading germs.
- d. Ms Walker stated that October is parent involvement in education month.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Athletic Director Rus Wilson – Recreational/Athletic Needs Study (October 27)
- b. Presentation from Attorney Dwyer re. Protocol for School Board Standing Committees and RSA Law (October 27)
- c. LOTI Survey Results – Ms. Susan Birrell (November)
- d. PLC Update – (December or January)

XIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. by Mr. Legg

SECOND: Vice Chair Garrity

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edw. McDonough". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "M".

Mr. Edward McDonough
Superintendent of Schools