

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2009

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009 TIME: 7:00 P.M.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER** 7:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mitch Shuldman (chair), Sheri Garrity (Vice Chair), Lisa Sweet, Leslie Stevens, Ann Walker, Kent LaPage, Dexter Legg, Patrick Ellis, Rebecca Emerson, Ed McDonough (Superintendent), Steve Zadravec (Assistant Superintendent), Stephen Bartlett (Business Administrator), Ann Mayer (SAU 50 Representative), Linda Briolat (Employee Representative), and Philip Boynton (Student Representative)

**III. INVOCATION** The board observed a moment of silence.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Vice Chair Garrity led in the pledge of allegiance.

**V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

October 27, 2009

**Motion:** Motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2009 by Mr. LaPage

**Second:** Ms. Walker

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Unanimously Approved.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSIONS**

No Speakers

**VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

A. UPDATE FROM SCHOOL NURSE

Gina Rodriguez-LaPage, Department Head, Portsmouth High School, introduced the other nurses present and recognized all the nurses for their daily hard work and the administering of the seasonal immunization and H1Ni boosters. She also thanked Carol Plante, Ginger Huff and Jeanne Fleischmann, Portsmouth High School staff for assisting in the documentation process and contacting high risk students for immunizing. Although the vaccines are limited at this time, they anticipate a large supply after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The elementary students have been instructed on the correct way to wash their hands. The custodians and staff have been cleaning and provided hand sanitizers throughout the schools.

A report on influenza like illnesses (ILI) is sent to the state on a daily basis based on details given by parents when they call their students in absent. Only the hospital can determine if a student actually has the H1N1 flu.

An information night was held on H1N1.

Staff and students are encouraged to stay home if sick. Staff is helping the students make up any work missed.

## **B. DR. SUSAN BIRRELL - LOTI SURVEY RESULTS AND FY10 TECHNOLOGY**

Three state grants were applied for through the Federal Stimulus Package; Tech Leadership, Classroom, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom. The Tech Leadership Grant was awarded. The others have not yet been announced.

The High School, Middle School, and New Franklin Schools are part of the Tech Leadership Grant. The Principals and two colleges will learn to lead with technology. There are three groups of people attending the training.

The Classroom Grant was written by Amy Krajeck, Portsmouth High School English Teacher. Her grant is called BACK TO THE WOODS. She takes the students on a walk at Waldon Pond. The kids will use ipod touch to document their experience and findings.

The big grant is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Class. There was a team of 11 participants, all math teachers, who worked on this grant and found that the Middle School should go for the grant to go along with the new building. This will allow them to experience what it will be like to teach with 21<sup>st</sup> century equipment.

Learning.com was purchased. This is a web product that has tutorials, activities and lessons aligned with student standards. They can be done in the computer labs in elementary schools. 93 lessons were chosen to be done with students this year. This will soon be available to parents and students to access from home.

Levels of Technology Innovation (LoTi) - We are at level 2 of exploration. Access to the computers is limited since students go to labs once a week and some only once per month. Time to plan is limited also.

The technology plan was presented. The plan has 6 goals. We have made a lot of progress on all of them. Infinite Campus has bridged the gap between students, teachers and parents.

Technology is mobile now. Replacing computer labs is not the answer. We need to look at the best thing to do to create 21<sup>st</sup> Century classrooms in Portsmouth.

In 1996-1997 the technology budget was \$340,000. The budget now is \$152,500. We need to look at what we can do with this budget.

A technology committee was formed at the high school to address where we are now and what the needs are and will be. A technology committee for each grade level is suggested to tell us what their needs are.

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **A. ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

- a. Budget Priority Worksheet
- b. Elementary Lunch Menu (November)
- c. PHS Field Hockey Senior Trip notice.

### **B. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. NHASP: JOHN STOKEL NOMINATED FOR PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR.
- b. Kathy Birse Siegel has been elected as Teacher Of The Year by the New Hampshire Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. She will be recognized at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- c. The Alternative School will be renamed The Robert J. Lister Academy with a ceremony and unveiling of a sign on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.
- d. The workshop Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> will be changed to December 1<sup>st</sup> because of the public hearing at City Council on eminent domain that night.

## C. DISTRICT REPORTS

### a. JEFF COLLINS , PRINCIPAL - PHS UPDATE

The School Profile is available electronically.

AP Statistics past 2 years scored 98%

In the fall the high school held an 8<sup>th</sup> grade introduction night. There was a curriculum fair where the families could see what programs were being offered. Tours of the school were given.

At a later date there will be a presentation from the madrigal singers to take a trip to Japan this summer to represent not only Portsmouth High School but the United States.

There are 350 students in athletics. Football is still on going with the State Finals this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at Souhegan. Mr. Collins will get a figure on how many students are in band and chorus.

The first quarter of school is completed.

PLC implementation. What every kid should know? How do we know if they know it? What is this all about?

SAT's are up. Students are being accepted at some of the top colleges.

Participation in activities is up

Honor roll is up

The question now is how do we make a great school exemplary?

Teachers are asked to utilize Delayed Opening days and March Day towards student achievement.

The Leadership Team and Department Heads at Portsmouth High School have motivated the staff. The Smart Goals are expected to be reached.

Fiddler on the Roof is being performed beginning November 19<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$7. There is a spaghetti Dinner on the 19<sup>th</sup> for \$8, which will include the show ticket.

The All City Concert is December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Football Team will play the annual football game against Dover on Thanksgiving Day in Dover.

### b. DIANE CANADA, DIRECTOR OF CAREER TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

335 students are in Career Tech six 2-year programs and twelve explorative programs.

Pam Wiggin, Career Center Coordinator, is teaching the Study Skills class for CTE kids.

The Work Education and the Cooperative and Internship Programs have doubled over last year. Students work 9 hours per week and get a credit with good report.

Work Education is for all students. Cooperative program is for CTE students.

There is also an Intern Program focused on the Seniors.

The Eco club collaborated with the Culinary Arts Department and the Construction Trades. They have raised beds with vegetables and herbs and then they compost to keep the cycle going.

Last year 7 students joined the National Technical Education Honor Society. Those who will be accepted into the program will be notified shortly. They must have a 3.0 GPA and a 3.5 in CTE Program and must be involved in an extra curricular activity. The induction ceremony will be in June.

The SMART GOALS have been drafted around student's ability to access resources.

The School Board Holiday Dinner will be December 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Holiday Express, in honor of Patty Wojnar, will continue. The Construction Trades are making a wooden train.

TV Production Media Course has presented a DVD demo on Clipper News Program with activities, news, sports, weather, lunch menu, band concerts, plays and other activities. They are also doing an informational DVD to be used when the 8<sup>th</sup> grade has its course selection days.

An Accounting Course is being offered by Business Teacher Vera Haus, which will give credit towards a college or university with a \$100 fee.

c. PHIL BOYNTON, PHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The class of 2010 is looking at recreating the walkway at Portsmouth High School. He handed out a packet for the board to look at about a fundraiser with information about engraved bricks.

d. STEVE ZADRAVEC - CURRICULUM COUNCIL

The Curriculum Council includes all principals, teacher representatives, and board members from SAU 50 and SAU 52.

Work on PLC Professional Learning Communities.

Essential Learning – Power Standards.

Common Formative Assessment gives teachers the tools and data to help them modify their instruction.

Year long work on the revision of the Professional Development Master Plan required by the Department of Education. The Plan is up the end of this year. Helps to determine the needs of the professional staff and the students' needs.

A list of the different Professional Development Plans by the Interdisciplinary Members will be given to the board.

e. STEVE BARTLETT - OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Salaries and benefits have had some unexpected changes.

Substitutes have increased due to illnesses.

There are more inspections by us and by the city. In response to the inspections some changes had to be made that were not planned for.

Infinite Campus subscription has been paid in 1 lump sum.

A lot of leases are due during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

Transportation is up due to late billing.

Cost Center 207 is on target.

Coaching is higher and Steve is doing a spreadsheet to determine why. It could be that more staff are coaching which pays higher than a non teacher coach.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. STEVE BARTLETT - CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF 2001/2011 TUITION RATES**

**Motion:** Motion to approve the rates by Mr. LaPage

**Second:** Ms. Walker

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Unanimously Approved.

### **B. STEVE ZADRAVEC - CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF MATH COACH AT LITTLE HARBOUR AND DONDERO ELEMENTARY.**

**Motion:** Motion to approve the hiring of Tracy Rusch as the Math Coach for Little Harbour and Dondero Elementary Schools by Mrs. Walker

**Second:** Ms. Emerson

**Discussion:**

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

## **X. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **A. JBC**

Mr. Legg informed the board that the committee has been formed and under way. Mr. Dexter Legg and Ms. Chris Dwyer, City Council Member, will be co-chairs. The representatives on the committee have construction backgrounds. There have been two meetings, including a presentation from JCJ on Saturday. The committee selected JCJ for Phase II contingent on the contract. Two more meetings have been set up in December. 2010 meetings will be set up. There will be a public session on eminent domain. The completion of the building is still on target.

### **B. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS**

Ms. Emerson informed the board that a meeting was just held a couple of weeks ago and another is planned for December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Minutes of the meetings will be given to the school board as updates. The bike route has become an issue due to wetlands along the pathway. Striping is waiting for recommendations from ALTA.

## **XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

A. ENTRY LEVEL UPDATE (DECEMBER)

B. KATHY BIRSE-SIEGEL (DECEMBER)

C. FACILITIES UPDATE (DECEMBER)

D. STACY KRAMER - COALITION COORDINATOR FOR SEACOAST AREA

E. PLP UPDATE - (DECEMBER OR JANUARY)

## **XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:50 p.m. by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. LaPage. Unanimous.**

**Mr. Edward McDonough**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

