

## PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2010

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ROBERT J. LISTER ACADEMY

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010

TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

It is anticipated that the School Board will enter into a non-meeting with counsel prior to the regularly scheduled meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

It is anticipated that the School Board will enter into a non-public meeting following the regularly scheduled meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, I (3), in order to conduct the Superintendent's quarterly review.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Shuldman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Present: MITCH SHULDMAN (CHAIR), ANN WALKER (VICE CHAIR), LISA SWEET, LESLIE STEVENS, KENT LAPAGE, DEXTER LEGG, REBECCA EMERSON, TOM MARTIN, CAROL CHELLMAN, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE) AND PHIL BOYNTON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

Absent: ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE)

### **III. INVOCATION**

### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

#### a. JANUARY 12, 2010 SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING –

**MOTION:** Motion to accept the minutes of January 12, 2010 Special Public meeting by Mr. LaPage

**SECOND:** Ms. Walker

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

#### b. JANUARY 12, 2010 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - KENT, ANN, UNANIMOUS

**MOTION:** Motion to accept the minutes of January 12, 2010 Regular School Board meeting by Mr. LaPage

**SECOND:** Ms. Walker

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

- c. JANUARY 19, 2010 SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING – KENT, LISA UNANIMOUS

**MOTION:** Motion to accept the minutes of January 19, 2010 Special Public meeting by Mr. LaPage

**SECOND:** Ms. Sweet

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

- d. JANUARY 19, 2010 BUDGET WORK SESSION – KENT, ANN. UNANIMOUS

**MOTION:** Motion to accept the minutes of January 19, 2010 Budget Work Session by Mr. LaPage

**SECOND:** Ms. Walker

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION**

Jack Thorsen – 136 Cabinet Street – Mr. Thorsen was disappointed about last weeks talk and believes that other areas can be addressed besides teachers. He believes teachers are our front line of education. Mr. Thorsen encouraged Board members to seek alternative solutions. Make solutions where there were no solutions before.

Isaac Brake – 322 Kearsarge Way – Mr. Brake would like the School Board to work hard to present alternative solutions. He also plans to sit with the Superintendent to seek ways that parents can organize and meet a greater need within the schools. Mr. Brake believes that to lose any teachers would do an injustice to our kids.

## **VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- a. PROPOSED 2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR – ROSEANN VOZELLA CLARK – Ms. Frank and Ms. Vozella-Clark presented the proposed calendar and reported that they had a tremendous response with survey monkey and the paper survey with students. Board members asked questions and the calendar will be presented at a later date for formal approval after administration has reviewed it thoroughly.

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- b. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPRING BROCHURE
- ii. PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
  - i. Mr. McDonough reported on a meeting with Rus Wilson, the City Manager and others regarding an additional gymnasium being added to the renovations of the Portsmouth Middle School. This new gymnasium would help alleviate some of the city’s athletic needs and would be funded by the city.
- iii. City memo
- iv. Draft to city manager letter

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. WORKSHOP SESSION FY' 11 BUDGET – PMS, PHS AND CTE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION –**

**John Stokel** – Mr. Stokel presented the middle school's budget needs and areas of concern. Some points of interest are:

- All class sizes average out over the three years (6, 7 and 8) Teachers are recommending students for advance math and reading, which makes students move around in classes and results in pure averages swinging.
- Technology in the classrooms is desperately needed. The ARRA grant recently won will fortunately take care of the immediate needs next year.

Board members then asked questions regarding funding, technology, foreign languages, retirees and morale regarding the budget concerns. Mr. Stokel stated that he has already been asked to write letters of recommendation and fears losing valuable teachers over unrest.

**Diane Canada** – Ms. Canada reported that 69% of students attend at least one CTE class. The Technology Center expects a large freshman class next year to participate in classes offered under freshman due better advertising efforts. Tours for eighth graders have also helped. Introductory classes have now been opened up to tenth graders. Some points of interest are:

- New programs have been added on to business. (Accounting course)
- Teachers are already working with Great Bay Community College to assure that many students receive college credit for courses taken in high school.
- All changes have been done in neutral budget times.
- The Perkins Grant continues to shrink from the Department of Education. Another \$15,000.00 was lost this coming year.

Board members then asked questions regarding cost/pupil, fields that Ms. Canada would like to introduce into the curriculum and the Technology Centers contribution to Portsmouth's low drop out rate.

**Jeff Collins** – Mr. Collins began by stating that in the past year, 96% of eligible incoming eighth graders came to PHS. These numbers do not include students coming from St Patrick's or Cornerstone. Some points of interest were:

- Transportation for after school students is greatly missed.
- An English teacher wrote a grant for I Touch's.
- Student Assistant Counselor – this position provides necessary counseling for what students are dealing with today. These types of supports are increasingly needed. If cut from the budget, the high school would feel a big impact
- SRO loss would greatly impact the high school

Board members then asked questions regarding how class sizes are determined, how students choose classes, how the schedule is determined, on-line course work and revenue sources.

Chair Shuldman then opened the floor for deliberations and asked board members to state areas that they would like explored in order to create next years budget at the rate requested by City Council.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. LaPage and seconded by Ms. Emerson. Unanimously approved at 9:43 p.m.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edw. McDonough".

Mr. Edward McDonough  
Superintendent of Schools