

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2011**

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LOCATION: CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2011

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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**I. CALL TO ORDER** -The meeting was called to order by Chair Shuldman at 7:02 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: MITCH SHULDMAN (CHAIR), ANN WALKER (VICE CHAIR), LESLIE STEVENS, KENT LAPAGE, REBECCA EMERSON, TOM MARTIN, CAROL CHELLMAN, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE), LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE) AND SAVANNAH FODERO (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

**III. INVOCATION** Terry Charles Hayward passed away. He is the brother of Mr. Henry Clay Hayward, School Board Member  
David Cook, Dondero Custodian who retired in June, passed away.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Shuldman led the pledge of allegiance.

**V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

a. JANUARY 11, 18, 20, 25, 27, 2011

MOTION: Mr. LaPage to accept the minutes

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: - Unanimous

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

33 people spoke about the budget.

The following students and parents asked that the Board reconsider cutting the position of Shanyn Grenier, Guidance Counselor at Portsmouth High School. They described her as open, experienced, great resource, passionate, caring, dedicated, knows her students, enthusiastic, eager, outstanding, efficient, friendly, motivated, motivator.

**Students**

Kate Ness	Senior
Lauren Nevin	Senior
Eilee Foley	Senior
Kate Schefer	Senior
Eric Levenson	Senior
Chris Battye	Senior
Emma Wager	Senior
Will Saxe	Senior
Angus MacDonald	Senior

Zoe Pilla	Senior
Macy Howarth	Junior

**Parents**

Lee-Ann Gonsalves	Tax Payer, Employee
Jeanette MacDonald	Tax Payer, Employee
Shaula Levenson	
Christine Collins	Parent and NewCastle Resident
Dyland Snover,	Student, read a letter from his mother
A letter from Darcy Davidson	was presented to the board

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Kristina Kamakas	Senior
Tessa Fagin	Senior
Sam Lichtenstein	Junior
Simone Vitale	Senior
Tori Blanchard	Senior
Adam Wong	Senior
Sam Merousek	Senior
Aiden O'Leary	Senior

Becky Harvey McBeath, parent, spoke about Individualized Education and the importance of the Outreach Counselors, Guidance Counselors, Special Education Director and the support they give to the students and the families. She hopes the Board will reject this proposal.

Jane Zell, parent, is concerned with the elimination of the Outreach Positions, as well as Shanyn Grenier, with her great level of expertise, understanding, her rapport within the system and throughout the community.

Rob McDowell, Portsmouth Resident, spoke of his concern about the AYP reports and SATs. Taxpayers need to get their money's worth. He requested an Excel FY 2012 Budget Report, showing where the money is going, be sent to him.

Patrick Ellis, Portsmouth Resident, spoke about the Portsmouth Middle School looking to increase the student education time which would better meet the needs of students. Tell City Council that 0% is not good for our schools. Look at the long-term impact this will have.

Lori Lampert, Portsmouth Resident, is concerned with the 5% cut to Performing Arts. This would cut supplies, replacement and repairs to equipment, dues, fee, and transportation to festivals and performances, and contracted services for the drama performances.

Mark Brightman, Portsmouth Resident, handed out a list and a graph. Wants the Board to consider going back to the basics. Wants to see where the money is going. Said the budget is far above inflation.

John Shea, Ridges Court, Portsmouth Resident, said NH has done pretty well through these economic times. We need a strong education system. Wants the community to be an advocate for Excellence In Education. Residents need to make sacrifices for our kids. Schools and education needs to be #1.

Cliff Lazenby, Portsmouth Resident, wants to make the use of technology a reality in the schools as proposed.

Lisa Sweet, Miller Avenue, Portsmouth Resident, was glad to see the Seniors advocate for Shanyn Grenier for future students. The budget cuts are impacting what services our students are getting. City puts less money into education than the state average.

The public hearing closed at 8:35 p.m.

## **VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

- i. *Board and Administrator*, January 2011
- ii. Superintendent's Update, February 2011
- iii. Special Education Identification Codes
- iv. Keene Sentinel Article from Ms. Emerson
- v. Recreational Usage Fee  
New proposed fee would be \$20 per hour for field use and an additional \$45 per hour if lights are used.
- vi. Retreat Date, March 29, 2011 (5:30 p.m.)  
The location will be announced and will include pot luck

The regular meeting of the school board is set for March 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McDonough recommended a workshop on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. This meeting will be held at 7:00 in the Board Room at Little Harbour.

### **b. CORRESPONDENCE**

- i. Portsmouth School of Ballet
- ii. Read Across America Invitation  
February 22, 2011
- iii. Letter of Intent to retire – Pat Laska
- iv. Invitation to the School Board to attend the Joint Building Committee meeting on February 9, 2011.

### **c. DISTRICT REPORTS**

- i. Financial, Steve Bartlett  
Mr. Bartlett provided the monthly update stating nothing unusual. The substitute line is less. We are in the positive side. Waiting for bills to come in. Professional Development money is less than in past years, due to technology for the schools.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. WORKSHOP ON FY 2012 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

There were no takers for the early out.

Reviewed the Draft of the Portsmouth School Department 2011-2012 Budget Adjustment Summary. Will be bringing in a Zero Budget.

Counseling positions were discussed. Mr. McDonough will speak with Mr. Tom Flygare to answer questions from the board. He will also meet with the APT.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT**

- i. Lisa Carchidi, Little Harbour Nurse

MOTION: Leslie Stevens to approve the hiring of Lisa Carchidi  
SECONDED: Ann Walker  
APPROVED: Unanimously

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b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF COLONEL HELEN MASLANKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

MOTION: Ann Walker to accept this letter  
SECONDED: Tom Martin  
DISCUSSION: Mr. McDonough will get information from Bob Sullivan on this family as requested by Leslie Stevens. Thanked them for their generous gift.  
APPROVAL: Unanimous

c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF COOPERATIVE HOCKEY TEAM PROPOSAL

Rus Wilson, Athletic Director, proposed to form a Portsmouth/Sanborn Cooperative Hockey Team.

MOTION: Tom Martin to allow Rus to apply for approval from the NHIAA  
SECONDED: Ann Walker  
APPROVED: All members present with Kent LaPage abstaining.

d. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF REQUEST FROM CELEBRATION GRADUATION

MOTION: Ann Walker to give \$500 towards Celebration Graduation  
SECONDED: Leslie Stevens  
APPROVED: Unanimously

e. FIRST READING OF THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

- i. Motor Vehicle Seat Belt Use Policy
- ii. Slip, Trip and Fall Policy
- iii. Temporary/Alternative Duty

MOTION: Leslie Stevens to approve all three  
SECONDED: Ann Walker  
APPROVED: Unanimously

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. POLICY

Leslie Stevens said committee worked on and presented the policies this evening for 1<sup>st</sup> reading and will continue to look at them. Continue to work on the Facilities Policy and the Extra Curricular Disciplinary Policy.

Kent would like a public hearing before the Facilities Policy has a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Rebecca Emerson would like the committee to look at students traveling to the State House, where guns are allowed in the building. Would like the Policy Committee to put this on their agenda to discuss.

b. TECHNOLOGY

Tom Martin said the committee has met with several companies to look at the next generation in technology. They are looking at an instructional desktop. There will be a pilot program at the high school. Also want to look at state wide ARRA funded Network being built to provide

bandwidth to communities to get connected to other communities, including SAU 50. Looking at things that might help the board and district communicate better, like evaluating our website.

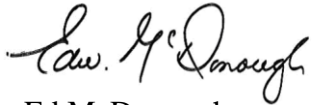
**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Tom Martin at 10:05

SECONDED: Ann Walker

APPROVED: Unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Ed McDonough  
Superintendent of Schools