

## PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR AUGUST 23, 2011

CITY HALL, EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2011

TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Shuldman.
- II. ROLL CALL** – MITCHELL SHULDMAN (BOARD CHAIR), ANN WALKER (VICE CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG, REBECCA EMERSON, TOM MARTIN, CAROL CHELLMAN, KENT LAPAGE, CLAY HAYWARD, LESLIE STEVENS, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE), ELIZABETH BOYNTON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE).
- III. INVOCATION**
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Shuldman led in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
  - a. JULY 19, 2011  
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of July 19, 2011 by Mr. LaPage  
SECOND: Mr. Martin  
DISCUSSION: None  
VOTE: Unanimously approved
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Assistant Mayor, Nancy Novelline Clayburgh, read a letter written to the editor of the Portsmouth Herald.
- VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT, DORE AND WHITTIER ARCHITECTS – Architect, Tom Hengelsberg presented the final feasibility study. A Board Q&A session followed.
- VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
  - a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
    - i. MAINTENANCE PROJECTS UPDATE
    - ii. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2011
  - b. CORRESPONDENCE
    - i. LETTER OF RESIGNATION – TRAVIS PARK
    - ii. RECERTIFIED EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATES, NEW HAMPSHIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
    - iii. ELWYN PARK BIKE LANES, PORTSMOUTH PARKING & TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS – Board members requested that Mr. McDonough speak with City Manager Bohenko to understand where the Safe Routes to Schools grant lies and if funds can be utilized differently than originally stated.
  - c. DISTRICT REPORTS

- i. FINANCIAL, MR. BARTLETT – Mr. Bartlett provided a year-end report and narrative. The general fund expenses versus total budget, after adjustments and reallocations, came in at approximately \$60.00 on the positive side. This was accomplished with the help and hard work of the staff maintaining expense contracts and flexibility throughout the year, allowing the management team to reallocate some funds to address budget pressure points without having to implement a hard freeze.

The net results from salary and benefits sections were reallocated to the operating expense section to cover extra special needs expenses and to allow additional maintenance projects required.

The substitute line came in 5.6% under budget. Other salary lines were favorable due to several staff members leaving mid-year without being replaced.

The special needs area was under the most pressure this year, resulting in exceeded revenue estimates.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL CHOICE – Superintendent McDonough followed up his previous conversation with Board members on August 16<sup>th</sup> with a memo stating that the cost for six (6) paraprofessionals had been located. (\$86, 228.00) \$21,000 will be available to bridge the short fall through Title I funding. Mr. McDonough also shared his conversation with Department of Education’s Commissioner Barry, who reported that the state is well poised to pursue a waiver on behalf of districts being adversely affected by school choice. Absent being granted a waiver, the Commissioner is likely to change state guidance and policy regarding school choice. Mr. McDonough also reported that Little Harbour would be granted a waiver for one year in hiring an Assistant Principal, recommended for schools with enrollment over 500. Mr. McDonough also laid out how each of the six new paraprofessionals would support LHS staff.

Board members expressed interest in a sub-committee being created to further study School Choice, readdressing enrollment at the elementary level and keeping up to date on changes at the state level. An email will go out to see who is interested in serving on this committee.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. UPDATE ON NEW HIRES
  - i. REBEKAH RADER, PHS NURSE (HALF-TIME)
  - ii. LISA SWEET, PMS, 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATH/SCIENCE
  - iii. CHRIS ROSE, PMS, 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCIENCE (ONE YEAR)

MOTION: Motion to approve Ms. Rebekah Rader, Ms. Lisa Sweet and Mr. Chris Rose by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Hayward

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously approved

- b. 1<sup>st</sup> READING OF POLICIES:
  - i. SERVICE ANIMALS (IMGA)

MOTION: Motion to approve SERVICE ANIMALS (IMGA) as a first reading by Mr. LaPage

SECOND: Mr. Martin

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously approved

- ii. BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT AND INTERVENTION (JLDBA)
  - MOTION: Motion to approve BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT AND INTERVENTION (JLDBA) as a first reading by Mr. Legg
  - SECOND: Vice Chair Walker
  - DISCUSSION: None
  - VOTE: Unanimously approved
- iii. SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM (JLD)
  - MOTION: Motion to approve SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM as a first reading by Mr. Hayward
  - SECOND: Vice Chair Walker
  - DISCUSSION: None
  - VOTE: Unanimously approved
- iv. HEALTH EDUCATION AND EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION (IHAM)
  - MOTION: Motion to approve HEALTH EDUCATION AND EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION as a first reading by Mr. Hayward
  - SECOND: Mr. Martin
  - DISCUSSION: None
  - VOTE: Unanimously approved
- v. COMMUNITY RESOURCES
  - MOTION: Motion to approve COMMUNITY RESOURCES as a first reading by Vice Chair Walker
  - SECOND: Mr. Martin
  - DISCUSSION: None
  - VOTE: Unanimously approved
- vi. HARASSMENT/SEXUAL HARASSMENT (GBAA)
  - MOTION: Motion to approve HARASSMENT/SEXUAL HARASSMENT (GBAA) as a first reading by Mr. Legg
  - SECOND: Mr. Martin
  - DISCUSSION: None
  - VOTE: Unanimously approved
- vii. GRADES
  - MOTION: Motion to approve GRADES as a first reading by Mr. Legg
  - SECOND: Mr. Hayward
  - DISCUSSION: None
  - VOTE: Unanimously approved
- viii. DATA/RECORDS RETENTION
  - MOTION: Motion to approve DATA/RECORDS RETENTION as a first reading by Mr. Martin
  - SECOND: Mr. Hayward
  - DISCUSSION: None
  - VOTE: Unanimously approved
- c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LGC CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION
  - MOTION: Motion to approve LGC CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZING by Mr. LaPage

SECOND: Vice Chair Walker  
DISCUSSION: None  
VOTE: Unanimously approved

- d. DISCUSSIONS OF SCHOOL BOARD LIBRARY TRUSTEE LIASON – After discussing the pros and cons holding a voting spot on the Library’s Board of Trustees, Board members decided that it was in the school department’s best interest to continue holding a voting seat.
- e. OTHER – The Arts and Athletics Committee met in July, updating the athletic handbook and reviewing the discipline policy. Athletic Director Wilson continues to revise a performance evaluation for coaches consistent with other evaluations throughout the district.

JBC – Parrott Ave is on schedule. An information meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2011 with the intent of discussing the construction management process for the next six months. Alumni Wentworth Field is complete, but the concession stand is delayed due to steel delivery.

Mr. LaPage commented that he understands the City Councils request to remain updated on School Choice, but stated that the School Board and City Council work independently as city officials. He requested an update on water/sewer and the district’s impact on water discharge through the Pierce Island facility. As the issue of fines comes forth, Mr. LaPage does not feel that the school department should be held liable.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. LaPage. Unanimously approved at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Ed McDonough  
Superintendent of Schools