

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FOR February 14, 2012

LOCATION: CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: February 14, 2012

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

I. CALL TO ORDER -The meeting was called to order by Chair Stevens at 7:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- a. Present: LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR), ANN WALKER, MITCH SHULDMAN, KENT LAPAGE, CAROL CHELLMAN, PATRICK ELLIS, MARY OLEA, DEXTER LEGG, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE), LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE), ELIZABETH BOYNTON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

III. INVOCATION – Mr. LaPage asked that we keep the community of Walpole, NH in our thoughts

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mrs. Olea led the pledge of allegiance.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

a. **February 7, 2012**

MOTION: Mr. Legg to accept the minutes

SECOND: Mrs. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous approval

b. **February 9, 2012**

MOTION: Mr. Legg to accept the minutes

SECOND: Mrs. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous approval

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. ELEMENTARY LUNCH MENU – February, in the board packet
- ii. READ ACROSS AMERICA Invitation from Carla Frank to read on February 24, 2012. Board members are welcome to set up times to read to the students.
- iii. ENERGY STAR AWARD – Award letter addressed to Ken Linchey recognizing PHS.
- iv. MEMO: SCHOOL BUDGET INFORMATION, Included in the packet was information on school psychologists. There will be a meeting on Friday with the Seacoast Media Group as to how they may be able to help the Adult Education Program.
- v. NH TASK FORCE ON EFFECTIVE TEACHING, PHASE 1 REPORT, OCTOBER 2011, informational brochure from the Department of Education
- vi. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CLOSING THE TALENT GAP: ATTRACTING AND RETAINING TOP-THIRD GRADUATES IN CAREERS IN TEACHING, MCKINSEY AND COMPANY, article in board packet.

- b. CORRESPONDENCE
 - i. LETTER OF RESIGNATION – Ms. Danielle Herman
 - ii. MATERNITY LEAVE – Ms. Laura Bonner
- c. DISTRICT REPORTS
 - i. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS

New Franklin Principal George Shea, Little Harbour School Principal Charlie Grossman, and Dondero Principal Kate Callahan presented past school highlights, an update on PLC implementation and upcoming events.

New Franklin will be part of a Heinemann Digital Campus Video for Professional Staff Development. Students participate in a Public Service Announcement "Do Something Right" encouraging doing things to improve the school and the community. A Winter Walk was part of the 5-2-1-0 plan. NECAP results showed improvement. Goal setting, reading and math intervention programs and professional development programs have helped in making these improvements. Upcoming events include an Ice Cream Social, Read Across America, Math Game Night and a talent show.

Little Harbour had an outside team of teachers from Danvers, MA visit to observe the literacy program. Their report validated how wonderful the program is and what Mr. Grossman sees every day. With the help of such programs as the Math Intervention, the NECAP results are up. Students raised \$700 for Sudan to help them drill wells and students collected over 500 canned goods to help local communities. 4th Grader skyped Mt. Washington Observatory and made Electric House models. The entire school will perform in a Similarity Awareness where they will learn how able a disabled person can be. There will be two upcoming fundraisers: Flatbread Pizza and a Spaghetti Dinner with Auction.

Dondero School is going green with training on composting and a \$5,000 Lowe's Grant to help with a garden. Students, in combination with Art and Music class, recycled materials to make musical instruments. Students received special recognition in school-wide assemblies and a Math Superstar program. High School students participated in the AMPED Program, which is a math program, to help grades 3 - 5. These programs, as well as intervention programs, helped to see NECAP results improve. Parents and staff completed a survey to see where the school is today. Although the results show differences in interpretation of the questions, it is a starting point. Upcoming events will include Literacy month, Dondero Idol, Scholastic Fair and Math night.

Steve Zdravec spoke about Smart Goals, which are tools for teams to monitor their team success and where they want their students to be. Smart Goals are based on the grade level expectations set for our students. Curriculum is the same for all schools.

- ii. FINANCIAL, MR. BARTLETT

Mr. Bartlett presented the board with the Financial Report which shows we are overall in good shape, but freezing expenses is necessary right now.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY BBHR (SECOND READING)

Mrs. Walker asked that this be taken off the table since it needs more work.

- b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF REVISED SCHOOL BOARD RULES

MOTION: Mr. LaPage made the motion to table this until the second meeting in April, after the March retreat.

SECONDED: Mr. Legg

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous approval

- c. WORKSHOP SESSION: FY 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET. We are at 3%. If you choose not to move PEEP it will be 3.2 %. Also, looking at Adult Education with the help of Seacoast Media Group. Looking for guidance for what is needed for Thursday night. There is still about \$58,000 off from what needs to be presented. Would like to find where we could cut \$58,000 to get to where the City Manager wants us to be.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL CALENDAR 2012/2013 (FIRST READING)

We are trying to align our calendar with SAU 50. Survey done, voting day taken into consideration, as well as school attendance. Celine Henderson and Christina Cook were able to present things taken into consideration when they produced the calendar. A vote will be taken in March.

- b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF NO LONGER OFFERING NON-TITLE I SCHOOLS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT AS A SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION IN THE PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NH DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S DECEMBER 2011 TECHNICAL ADVISORY

MOTION: To approve Mr. Martin

SECONDED: Mr. Legg

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous approval

Mr. LaPage asked for a roll call vote. Roll Call was done and it was unanimously approved.

- c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PORTSMOUTH HIGH GRADUATION DATE FOR JUNE 8, 2012

MOTION: To approve Mr. Legg

SECONDED: Mr. Shuldman

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous approval

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. ELEMENTARY FACILITIES

Mr. Martin said surveys were done and discussion was at PTO/ PTA meetings. He will have a presentation in March.

b. JBC

Mr. Legg - construction is on schedule. Furniture is being checked out and tested with a recommendation due at the next JBC meeting. There will be a joint meeting between the JBC and School Board about the technology proposal for the Middle School. There will also be a site visit at 5:30 with a meeting to follow at the MS Library. The site visit is not open to the public because of safety and liability issues.

c. ARTS & ATHLETICS

Mrs. Stevens - Evaluations for coaches are being done. Lots of students involved in arts and athletics. They are working on a Compact which would state what participants are responsible for as well as parents and coaches. This would be in the agenda books of the high school and the Athletic Handbook. This will be brought before the Board for approval. The next meeting will not be until the end of May.

The Band played everywhere in the community.

The play was Beauty and the Beast.

The football team is The State Champion.

Mr. LaPage would like to schedule a March 21st meeting in the little theater at the high school for all booster clubs.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. JOINT MEETING WITH JBC ON TECHNOLOGY, MARCH 14TH

b. MARCH RETREAT - some dates will be sent out to see what is best for all board members. Ms. Olea would like to be reassured about policies on absenteeism. Mr. McDonough stated we have a 95.3 % attendance rate. The administrative team is keeping on top of this, choosing this as one of their Smart Goals.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Ellis made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30.

SECONDED: Mr. Legg

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous approval

Respectfully submitted by:

