

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 9, 2012

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
 - II. **ROLL CALL** LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE-CHAIR) ANN WALKER, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, PATRICK ELLIS, MARY OLEA, KENT LAPAGE, CAROL CHELLMAN, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE)
 - III. **INVOCATION**
 - IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.
 - V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** - None
 - VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
 - VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
 - VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
 - a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
 - i. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE, OCTOBER 2012
 - ii. NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 SCHOOL BOARD –APT DINNER MEETING
 - iii. SCIENCE NECAP COHORT COMPARISON – Mr. LaPage requested further discussion at a future workshop and invited Principal Collins to attend.
 - iv. SPECIAL EDUCATION DATA
 - v. *TEACHER COMPENSATION PLANS: AN OVERVIEW OF OPTIONS AND ISSUES* BY JAMES H. STRONGE
 - vi. NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION NEWS
 1. CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS – Board member LaPage reported that the Dover School Board recently discussed concussions, specifically related to football. He recommended the Board draft a resolution and present it to NHSBA. Mr. LaPage read aloud a rough draft of a proposed resolution. Board members agreed that the topic should be discussed in depth further. Board members also asked the Policy Committee to further study what policies are already available and how the Portsmouth School Department implements practices to reduce concussions in contact sports. SAU 50 Representative, Ms. Mayer reported that legislation has been passed setting parameters on taking players out of games and schools 9-12 have been mandated to adopt these new policies around concussions. Superintendent McDonough will request materials from Principal Collins and Athletic Director Rus Wilson. Mr. Ellis requested that in following years, a reminder be sent out prior to NHSBA’s call for resolutions to

allow Board members more time to spend on current topics that the Board may want to weigh in on.

2. SCHOOL BOARD TRAINING SESSIONS

b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. MEMO AND FAQ'S FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM RE: EMPLOYER RATES FOR FY14 & FY 15.
- ii. LETTERS OF RESIGNATION
 1. MS. LAURA PITTS, PMS GUIDANCE SECRETARY
 2. MS. BARBARA AMERGIAN, PHS GRADE OFFICE SECRETARY
- iii. LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL FROM PORTSMOUTH LODGE OF ELKS # 97
- iv. LETTER FROM CONCERNED CITIZEN SENT AFTER BOARD PACKET WAS MAILED – Mr. Legg will report back action taken by the Middle School JBC.

c. DISTRICT REPORTS

- i. FINANCIAL UPDATE, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BARTLETT– Mr. Bartlett presented a 3 month report highlighting full operation of the first quarter. Payroll and benefits portions are adjusted but operating and non-salary reflects a 5 year average.
- ii. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS
 1. DONDERO, PRINCIPAL CALLAHAN - Principal Callahan highlighted new staff members, new families totaling 32 new students, PEEP joining Dondero, and that Dondero staff continue to work on PLC's during delayed openings. Ms. Cynthia Merrill, a consultant from UNH, has been hired to deliver units of study. Ms. Merrill asked for 5 teachers to volunteer their time after school to reflect and participate in a lab classroom. Five teachers attended Skillful Teacher Training and greatly benefitted over the summer. School Board Members followed up with questions.
 2. LITTLE HARBOUR, PRINCIPAL GROSSMAN - Principal Grossman began by highlighting a large number of new staff, and a total of 487 students. 61 students are enrolled in kindergarten, the lowest enrollment LHS has experienced in years. Kindergarten teachers are enjoying their new classrooms and drop off/pick up logistics have been ironed out. Mr. Grossman reported that the new space in the main building has been greatly noticed by teachers in grades 1-5. Little Harbour revamped the schedule to allow for one more lunch to be served and for each lunch to be increased by 5 minutes. Noise level has decreased and extra time has allowed for more recycling efforts to be implemented like composting. Yoga 4 Classrooms has become a part of Little Harbour's culture by helping kids relax and focus. Professional Development this year focuses

around writing and the school-wide smart goal is to monitor student's progress in writing over the course of the year. Mr. Grossman has requested that each grade level identify math units that will need to be brought into alignment with the common core. In the lower grades, teams are focusing on word problems and in the upper grades, fractions. Principal Grossman concluded with upcoming events. Board members followed up with questions.

3. **NEW FRANKLIN, PRINCIPAL SHEA** Principal Shea began by highlighting new staff members and reporting that New Franklin was experiencing its 91st opening. Three new staff members joined NFS this year, 270 students are currently enrolled and NFS has welcomed 46 new kindergartners. Student council selected a new mascot; the lightning bolts. A program called Open Circle is working well, allowing students a time to settle from difficulties outside of school before focusing on their work for the day. Yoga 4 Classrooms continues to benefit everyone including teachers who have better focused students. Principal Shea updated Board members on PLC implementation and professional development, as well as upcoming events. Board members followed up with questions.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **DISCUSSION OF ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS** – After Board discussion, it was requested that the Policy committee review policies available and report back to the full Board.
- b. **UPDATE ON NEW TEACHER INDUCTION MEETINGS**– Mr. Zadavec updated the Board on 4 pillars and what new teachers have been participating in. Literacy Model workshops, Infinite Campus Training, a 4-part series on Topics Essential to Core teaching, and iPad training. Special Education, Educational Law and Skillful Teacher training will be scheduled throughout the year. The plan is to have a robust, teacher driven craft improvement down the road. Superintendent McDonough will be teaching a course on brain based learning and invited Board members to attend.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL FOR EXTENDED LEAVE**
MOTION: Motion to approve an extended leave for Kelly Moore by Ms. Walker
SECOND: Ms. Chellman
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously approved

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATE

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. **FY 14 BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION ON OCTOBER 23, 2012**
- b. **SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT, HELAINE WEMPLE, NOVEMBER 5, 2012**
- c. **WORKSHOP SESSION ON COMMON CORE STANDARDS, DATE TBD**
- d. **SCIENCE WORKSHOP**

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn at 9:42 p.m. by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Ellis.