

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2012

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 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 7:01 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** - LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE-CHAIR) ANN WALKER, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, PATRICK ELLIS, DEXTER LEGG, MARY OLEA, KENT LAPAGE, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Ms. Walker requested a moment of silence for Ms. Theresa Pisarek who recently passed away, a Portsmouth teacher for many years. Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- a. OCTOBER 23, 2012
- MOTION: Motion to the accept minutes of October 23, 2012 by Mr. Shuldman
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
- a. **SABBATICAL REPORT - MS. HELAINE WEMPLE.** Ms. Wemple, a Spanish teacher at Portsmouth High School who recently returned from sabbatical in Costa Rica, is using what she learned to better infuse world culture into the curriculum of SAU 50 and 52. Before Ms. Wemple left, she studied what both districts were teaching and studying; she asked them what they would like to do upon her return and what she could help them with in the future. Surveys were sent out to collect data and World Culture Week was implemented, a huge success its first year.
- Upon her return upper level Spanish students at the high school are being trained to teach elementary students different world languages and travel to all three elementary schools with lesson plans they create themselves with the help of high school language teachers. Ms. Wemple continues to work to improve World Culture Week and work with other teachers to broaden culture experiences in their classrooms and curriculum. Board members followed up with comments and questions.
- VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
- a. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**
- i. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE, NOVEMBER 2012
- ii. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATOR, NOVEMBER 2012
- iii. NICHINAN, JAPAN STUDENTS – 23 students and 4 teachers participated in the exchange program this year and Mr. Zadavec reported the exchange to be a great success. Mr. Zadavec thanked the host families and Principal Collins and high school teachers for opening their homes and classrooms to the Japanese students..

b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. SAU 16 INVITATION TO ATTEND CONVERSATION WITH LOCAL LEGISLATORS – Ms. Stevens requested that the letter be sent out to Board members, as it was not included in the packet.

c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- i. PRINCIPAL JOHN STOKEL, PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL – Principal Stokel highlighted enrollments, honor roll results, fall athletics, student council elections, NWEA testing with 6th graders, and reported that the newly created department head positions are truly making a difference in PLC work and smart goals. Board members followed up with comments and questions on the following topics:
 - Absenteeism
 - The new facility; how is it working?
 - Gifted and talented student opportunities
 - New Math program, Connects
- ii. DIRECTOR NANCY ROY, LISTER ACADEMY – Principal Roy started the beginning of the school year asking herself “Who are we and what is our purpose and how do we get our most vulnerable students to believe education is a path to success and college is possible?” She then moved into Smart Goals, making sure they had depth and meaning which required she change her way of thinking and the way the school processes work. Accuplacer data is being used to place students in intervention blocks but no longer to set smart goals. A new smart goal was set to have conversations with staff on what is the process of student learning? This required a staff member to bring student work to the table once a week. Teachers rotate this responsibility each week and so far, the faculty has been able to make it happen. Ms. Roy stressed the level of difficulty for staff members to make this happen, with daily crisis that happen at RJLA. She applauded her staff and agreed that it was a new mindset that all staff would need to adopt. Principal Roy reported that RJLA is now a GED option approved school and that they continue their relationship with GBCC. Board members followed up with comments and questions on the following topics:
 - Clarification of GED program
 - Balance of tuition enrollment at RJLA and what it means for the future of RJLA
- iii. DIRECTOR JOANNE SIMONS, PUPIL INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT –Director Simons started with reporting on ESOL, homeless numbers, Title I and the increased number of private schools paying for tutors. Ms. Simons then provided a breakdown of Special Education numbers in a PowerPoint presentation and answered the following questions from Board members:
 - What are the levels of ESOL students throughout the district?
 - What have been the cultural and educational impacts at Dondero from the significant increase of ESOL students?
 - Homeless numbers
 - Tutoring at St. Patrick’s
 - How do we categorize services?

- iv. **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR STEVE BARTLETT, FINANCIAL REPORT** – The salary and benefit lines are tracking as expected with minor variations attributable to timing. There are a number of operating variances in individual departments. Some occur every year depending on changes in student and teacher’s needs. Several years with partial spending freezes have had an influence on purchasing patterns. The high school experienced a spending anomaly as a result of the NEASC evaluation expenses paid. Although spending levels to date may vary from historical patterns, they remain in good shape when compared to total departmental budgets for the year. Spending levels for energy, maintenance and transportation expenses will be watched. Middle school has come on line and will have an influence on energy consumption, something that is being monitored closely as the district prepares for the start of the next budget season. Staffing and benefit levels continue to track as expected. Medicaid reimbursement is ahead to date.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FY 14 BUDGET MEETING CALENDAR** –

MOTION: Motion to approve the FY14 budget meeting calendar by Mr. Shuldman

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: Mr. LaPage suggested that a budget subcommittee be formed. Anyone interested can email Chair Stevens.

VOTE: Unanimously approved

- b. **DISCUSSION RE: CONCUSSIONS AND SPORTS** – Mr. Shuldman has emailed the Superintendent to see if anyone is interested in educating the public on this subject. While right now is not the best time of year to start such a project, a group could move forward with planning and wait for community outreach events until after the New Year. Another possibility to think about is a videotaped program available for the community. A number of people have already come forward that are willing to speak. Mr. Shuldman will continue to work with the Superintendent, Mr. LaPage and Chair Stevens and report back to the full Board.

III. NEW BUSINESS

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATE

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. **WORKSHOP SESSION ON COMMON CORE STANDARDS, NOVEMBER 27, 2012**
- b. **PRESENTATION ON TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY VIRTUAL DESKTOP INTERFACE (VDI), DECEMBER 11, 2012**
- c. **WORKSHOP SESSION: SCIENCE, TBD**
- d. **CHINS INFORMATION IN A PACKET**

- VI. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Shuldman. Unanimously Approved.