

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 27, 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** - LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR) ANN WALKER, DEXTER LEGG (ELECTRONICALLY), KENT LAPAGE, PATRICK ELLIS, CAROL CHELLMAN, MARY OLEA, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR) AND LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**– Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- a. NOVEMBER 5, 2012

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of November 5, 2012 by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: PHS ECO CLUB SOLAR PROJECT – Science teachers Ms. Dee Barrett and Ms. Kim McGlinchey were accompanied by Eco Club students to present a PowerPoint. The ECO Club’s efforts began with introducing composting at the high school. Since then, the Eco Club has introduced paper recycling, installed a rain garden, and organized the Run for the Sol 5K fund-raiser for the last two years. Ultimately, the club’s goal is to help the high school achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. Ms. Barrett then focused on the club’s main fundraising goal installing solar panels at Portsmouth High School in order to decrease electrical dependency. The club is launching its new fundraiser called “Sell a Cell” where community members will have the opportunity to purchase solar cells on solar panels for \$5 each. Each solar panel costs approximately \$300 after rebates and deductions. Information on how to purchase cells can be found on their website www.runforthesol.com. Board members followed up with comments and questions.

- VII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. CITY OF PORTSMOUTH FY14 BUDGET SCHEDULE AND PRO FORMA
- ii. NEW FRANKLIN GAZETTE
- iii. POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 2012
- iv. 2012-13 SCHOOL TUITION RATES

- v. MATERIALS ON CHANGES TO CHINS PETITION – With current local newspaper articles highlighting the narrowing of the CHINS PETITION legislation, Board members agreed to schedule a work session in January or February to discuss further what Portsmouth is doing to fill the void currently and what the Board could do to possibly impact future CHINS legislation.
- b. CORRESPONDENCE
 - i. LETTER OF INTENT FROM CITY MGR BOHENKO REGARDING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. WORKSHOP: COMMON CORE STANDARDS – Mr. Zdravec presented an introductory video on New Hampshire’s Common Core State Standards. Mr. Zdravec’s PowerPoint highlighted new standards for PK-5 and 6-12, increasing text complexity expectations, new math standards, and explained how the Portsmouth School Department is positioned well to meet these new standards. Mr. Zdravec concluded with the new standards implementation plan for the Portsmouth School District. To view Mr. Zdravec’s PowerPoint in its entirety, please [click here](#).
- b. DISCUSSION OF FY 14 BUDGET REVIEW GROUP – Mr. McDonough proposed to meet with a subset of board members interested to discuss major topics and review budget sections more in depth. Mr. McDonough would arrange meetings for these members to attend. After discussing, board members agreed to a one year trial format. Mr. LaPage, Ms. Olea, Mr. Ellis and Ms. Chellman expressed interest. Mr. McDonough will schedule a series of meetings and report back the dates.
- c. UPDATE: RENEWABLE ENERGY RFQ PROCESS AND TIMELINE – Mr. McDonough, Vice-Chair Martin, Mr. Ellis and Revolution Energy have met to discuss renewable energy sources and sustainability resources for the Portsmouth School Department. The talks are now where opportunities have been identified and the district would need to begin the RFQ process. The district would want to pre-qualify certain individuals and work with city staff to complete the RFQ before the holiday break.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF UNPAID FOUR DAY LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION: Motion to approve an unpaid four day leave of absence for Ms. Tess Hall by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION: Mr. LaPage raised the question that this does not follow the format of leaves of absence in the teachers’ contract and wondered if this sets a new precedent. Mr. McDonough stated that all extended leaves of absence require superintendent and Board approval; therefore it would not set precedence. Each instance would need to appear before the Board.

VOTE: Roll Call Vote: 8 YES, 0 NO (DL electronically) Motion passes.

X. COMMITTEE UPDATE

- a. JBC – As the 1930 building was demolished, it was discovered that terracotta was used for the construction of interior walls. While terracotta has great compression strength, anchoring into those walls would likely fail. The design team has been problem solving design issues by ordering additional steel supports and adding block walls. Sixth graders are now scheduled to move into their newly renovated space around April/May of 2013. Principal Stokel assured the committee that delays will not impact existing programs or instruction. When all bids have been accepted, Mr. Legg will be better able to relay any cost impacts to the Board.
- b. POLICY – Several policies will be shared at the first meeting in December. The committee also intends to review our attendance policy.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. PRESENTATION ON TECHNOLOGY AND VDI – DECEMBER 11, 2012
- b. WORKSHOP SESSION: SCIENCE, TBD

- XII. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Ellis at 9:23 p.m.