

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MARCH 26, 2013

DONDERO ELEMENTARY

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013

TIME: 7:00 [or thereafter]

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- I. **ATTENDANCE** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR) ANN WALKER, DEXTER LEGG, KENT LAPAGE, PATRICK ELLIS, MARY OLEA, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR) AND OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE)
- II. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- a. MARCH 12, 2013
- MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of March 12, 2013 by Mr. Martin
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION MRS. KING’S FIRST GRADE CLASS: THAILAND ON THE BACKS OF ELEPHANTS** – Mrs. King’s class performed for Board Members and cited different facts about elephants and Thailand. Board members followed up with comments and questions.
- VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
- a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
- i. CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED FY 2014 SCHOOL BUDGET, SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2013, 2 PM, CTY HALL CHAMBERS
- ii. FY14 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE METRICS BOOKLET
- iii. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE, MARCH 2013
- iv. PREVENTING DRUG USE AMONG CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS, NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE
- v. UPDATE ON BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE’S INTERIM REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES
- IX. **OLD BUSINESS** - None
- X. **NEW BUSINESS**
- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE: KRISTEN O’CONNOR GUNN, PMS GRADE 6
- MOTION: Motion to approve Ms. Kristen O’Connor Gunn’s leave of absence by Ms. Walker
SECOND: Mr. Ellis
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimously Approved

b. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TEACHER CONTRACTS FOR 2013-14**

MOTION: Motion to approve teacher contracts for the 2013/2014 school year by Mr. Legg

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

- c. **WORKSHOP SESSION: YOUTH RISK BEHAVIORS** Ms. Karen Webb and Ms. Sue Christmas from Project Safety, Principal Jeff Collins from Portsmouth High School, Principal John Stokel from Portsmouth Middle School, Detective Mike Schwartz, Chief of Police Stephen Dubois and Deputy Chief Corey MacDonald joined the School Board to discuss the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results and issues around preventing substance abuse. Superintendent McDonough opened the workshop with a brief PowerPoint highlighting the “best practices” from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. In order to reduce risk and promote protective factors, it is the district’s goal to work collaboratively with the police department and other community organizations such as Project Safety to help the school department respond to YRBS data.

Mr. Zadavec highlighted past and present school efforts used to address youth risk behaviors and announced that due to the latest results in two specific areas, the district was now eligible to apply for a grant opportunity through the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Webb and Ms. Christmas briefed the Board on Project Safety and its plans to expand to the high school next year. Chief Dubois stated that everyone plays a part in keeping kids safe and that the Portsmouth Police Department has a vested interest in preventing problems before they occur. Chief Dubois is pleased that between the district and the police department’s budgets, another SRO will be added to the Portsmouth school system. Detective Schwartz stated that a presence of an SRO at both schools will have a positive effect on students. It will be an adult of authority congratulating them when they are doing well, having daily contact with that student who will need to trust them later on when a difficult decision needs to be made either concerning themselves or a friend. An SRO is also a great conduit in investigations as well as a liaison with parents. Mr. Collins stated that even though the high school lost its SRO, fail safes were put in place to assure relationships were built with adults. Board members inquired if the Crimestoppers anonymous tip calling feature could better be advertised to high school and middle school students. Detective Schwartz agreed to investigate whether posters or signage was available.

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATE

- a. JBC- Mr. Legg gave a brief overview of the City Council vote request process. First reading will occur on April 1, 2013 and the second and final reading will occur on April 15th.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. **WORKSHOP SESSION: SCIENCE**
b. **PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC/THEATRE UPDATE)**
c. **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: APRIL 2, 2013, 6 PM, SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

- XIII. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Ellis. Unanimously approved.