

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MAY 28, 2013

NEW FRANKLIN SCHOOL CAFETERIA

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2013

TIME: 7:00 [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
 - II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR), ANN WALKER, DEXTER LEGG, KENT LAPAGE, PATRICK ELLIS, MARY OLEA, MITCH SHULDMAN, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE)
 - III. **INVOCATION**
 - IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.
 - V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - a. MAY 14, 2013
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of May 14, 2013 by Mr. Martin
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
 - VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: MS. KAREN SMITH & NFS 3RD GRADERS** – Ms. Smith shared what her third grade class had learned recently as they attended a concert at the Portland Symphony Orchestra on April 29th. They then performed a musical chant and a movement exercise set to the William Tell Overture for Board members who followed up with comments and questions.
 - VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
 - a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
 - i. *PORTSMOUTH’S NFS GETTING RESULTS BY ELIMINATING DISTRACTIONS AND CONCENTRATING ON LEARNING*, BILL DUNCAN, IN ADVANCING NH PUBLIC EDUCATION
 - ii. *TOWARD A NEW GRAND BARGAIN, COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO LABOR – MANAGEMENT REFORM IN MASSACHUSETTS*, BLUESTONE & KOCHAN
 - iii. NOTICE OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES GRANT AWARD - Assistant Superintendent Zdravec noted that grant funding is specific to substance abuse and counseling. Though the approval process is not complete yet, the district has received positive feedback and has been invited to negotiate with the state for governor approval for a middle school counselor. Mr. Zdravec publicly thanked his assistant, Ms. Jean Frisbee, Principal Jeff Collins, Guidance Counselor Amy Donovan, Physical Educator Kathy Birse-Siegel, and Ms. Marci Albert for their many hours of work preparing the grant for submission. If approved, the grant is a two year grant with a potential third year of funding ability.
 - iv. NOTES FROM SCHOOL BOARD APT DINNER
 - v. PROPOSED DELAYED OPENING DAYS 13/14

b. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- i. **21st CENTURY LEARNING GRANT AWARD** - Superintendent McDonough thanked the Assistant Superintendent for the collaboration, editing and follow through necessary to secure the two grants presented to the Board. The district has applied for the 21st Century grant three times in past years in partnership with New Heights for the middle school for afterschool programming. This year the district reached out to partner with the Portsmouth Housing Authority and received a 5 year grant that will support after school programming at New Franklin Elementary and Gosling Meadows Recreation Facility. Conditions of the grant stipulate that a position be created to act as liaison between New Franklin School and the Housing Authority and bring different entities already offering after school programming to students under the same umbrella. Total amount awarded for the 2013/2014 school year is \$123,500. It was noted that although the grant should be in the amount of \$130,000 due to sequestration, all programs will receive 95% of their allocation representing a 5% cut for FY2014. Monies for years two and here will be at full funding, year four at 75% and year five at 65%. The district award will be renewed annually pending the receipt of an Annual Performance Report indicating sufficient progress and availability of federal funds.
- ii. **THANK YOU LETTERS FROM DONDERO 5th GRADERS**

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **WORKSHOP SESSION: SCIENCE K -12 & NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS-** Assistant Superintendent Zadavec shared a PowerPoint highlighting different ways that the district is currently utilizing Ms. Doreen George's sabbatical research to further science units and better align NH Frameworks. Mr. Zadavec shared the work being done at the K-5 level, the middle school level and the high school level, inviting Ms. Laura Barone and Ms. Dee Barrett, Science Department Heads to share curriculum work at the different levels. Board members requested statistics on which students are taking which electives and how are they faring. What are science classes averaging for grades? How many students are choosing science related fields at the college level?
- b. **WORKSHOP SESSION: PSD INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STAFFING PLAN FOR FY 14 AND BEYOND** - Mr. Lotz reported that as director, he has reviewed other organizations utilizing VOIP and cloud computing and has found the results to be universal. All needed to hire extra system managers to address increased efficiency and security needs. Based on this input, Mr. Lotz presented a re-drafted organizational chart for 2013/2014 to reflect necessary changes to stay ahead of security and increased efficiency needs.

Mr. Lotz also shared job descriptions for two new proposed positions. Board members followed up with clarification questions surrounding the difference between technicians that support the network and IT department and instructional technology specialists that work with teachers, instructing how to best integrate technology into curriculum and classroom. Board members discussed a workshop session on technology to begin preparation on next year's budget and how to best leverage the work already accomplished by Mr. Lotz.

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATE

- a. **JBC** - A critical path item is the connector between the new wing and the 1930's building. The timeline became increasingly tight when foundation issues required special machinery that was dependent on weather. Mr. Legg is happy to report that the connector will be usable by the opening of school in the fall.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. PORTSMOUTH HIGH NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ACCREDITATION REPORT, JUNE 11, 2013
- b. RECOGNITION OF RETIREES, JUNE 11, 2013
- c. PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC/THEATRE UPDATE), FALL 2013

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Ellis.
Unanimously Approved.