

## PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 2014

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014

TIME: 7:00 [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG (VICE CHAIR), ANN WALKER, TOM MARTIN (7:19), PARTICK ELLIS, NANCY NOVELLINE-CLAYBURGH, LENNIE MULLANEY, JEFF LANDRY, GARY EPLER, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE), JAMES SULLIVAN (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Stevens led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **RE-OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY15 BUDGET** – Ms. Nancy Andrews, 161 Sagamore Avenue, addressed the Board on possibly supporting educational opportunities in the proposed senior center. Chair Stevens closed the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS**
- a. **WORKSHOP SESSION ON FY 2015 BUDGET** – Vice-Chair Legg provided Ms. Andrews a brief history surrounding adult education and School Board support of it. Three budget cycles ago, the Board decided to discontinue funding adult education based on two points. After studying the program in depth, Board members found the program to be in steady decline. Citizens were simply not signing up for courses offered. Secondly, difficult choices needed to be made during economic recession in order to assure and maintain educational standards set for students. Vice-Chair Legg hopes that the senior center will stimulate an opportunity for someone to come forward and lead the effort to create a vigorous adult educational program for the citizens of Portsmouth.
- Superintendent McDonough reviewed key driving factors in the FY15 proposed budget and the city’s timeframe for approving it. Board members followed up with comments and questions surrounding the following:
- The Health Insurance Stabilization Fund
  - Contingency Fund for Contract Negotiations
  - Which Upgrades/Maintenance Projects are in the City’s CIP Fund
  - Energy Contracts in Need of Re-Negotiation
  - Bus Contract
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS** - None
- VIII. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**
- a. **JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE** – Vice-Chair Legg stated that Phase III will be completed during April vacation. At the last JBC meeting, a lump sum agreement was reached with Gilbane Construction Inc. that assures the project will finish within budget with sufficient contingency for the unexpected. Ms. Clayburgh thanked Vice-Chair Legg for his efforts on the committee and reminded the public that this has been a multi-year endeavor and all committee members volunteer their time and talents. Board members thanked all JBC members with a special thanks

going to Mr. Dan Hartrey, Mr. Bartlett and Attorney Woodland from the city, Mr. Peter Middleton and Mr. Ernie Carrier from the private sector and Councilor Dwyer for their willingness to serve on the committee. Vice-Chair Legg stated that while the project has been a difficult one at times, it has highlighted the quality of staff working for the City and has left a deep appreciation for the talent that this city employs. Vice-Chair Legg thanked the staff of the Portsmouth Middle School for their willingness to work through the construction process with Mr. Johannessen adding that the staff was more than willing, especially seeing the incredible new space now provided their students.

**IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. COMMON CORE STANDARDS, MARCH 25, 2014
  - b. ELEMENTARY/PMS GUIDANCE UPDATE, MARCH 25, 2014
  - c. CAREER & TECHNICAL PROGRAMMING, APRIL 22, 2014
  - d. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES AT PHS, MAY 27, 2014
  - e. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FACILITIES REPORTS AND ASSESSMENT, MAY 27, 2014
  - f. ART, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, K-12 PROGRAM, TBD
  - g. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMMING, TBD
  - h. RE-EXAMINING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE, TBD
  - i. UPDATE ON SOLAR PROJECT @ PHS, TBD
  - j. STRENGTHENING STEM INITIATIVES, TBD
- X. **ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. Martin. Seconded by Ms. Walker.