

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MARCH 11, 2014**

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014

TIME: 7:00 [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** - LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG (VICE CHAIR), ANN WALKER, TOM MARTIN, PATRICK ELLIS, NANCY NOVELLINE-CLAYBURGH (VIA TELEPHONE), 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. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
  - a. FEBRUARY 4 2014
  - b. FEBRUARY 11, 2014 Non Public
  - c. FEBRUARY 11, 2014 Regular
  - d. FERUARY 18, 2014
  - e. MARCH 4, 2014

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of February 4, 2014, February 11, 2014 nonpublic, February 11, 2014 regular, February 18, 2014 and March 4, 2014 as a whole by Ms. Mullaney  
SECOND: Mr. Martin  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Roll Call Vote: 9 Yes 0 No
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Ms. Angela Pont of 300 Court Street addressed the Board regarding Common Core Standards.
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** - None
- VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
  - a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
    - i. BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR, FEBRUARY AND MARCH
    - ii. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE, MARCH
    - iii. ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY L. MULLANEY – *The Story Behind the SAT Overhaul*, NY Times Magazine, March 6, 2014
    - iv. PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RJLA AND YMCA
    - v. 2014 PHS SCHOLARSHIP BOOK
    - vi. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>
  - b. CORRESPONDENCE
    - i. JOEY CRESTA, LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS
  - c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- i. PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL STOKEL – Principal Stokel highlighted NWEA Assessment results, Project Alert (a 7<sup>th</sup> grade health program), MathCounts (an afterschool program where participants recently came in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 80 seacoast school competitors at UNH), iPad mini carts recently purchased (4 total), Mindplay (a reading program being piloted), the PMS main entrance is now opened, a new report card goal setting program and all after school clubs and activities. Board members followed up with comments and questions. What are the participation levels by grade and as a whole at PMS? Mr. Stokel will research and report back data findings. Board members were impressed with opportunities being provided through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant and other programs such as Project Purple, Project Alert and Community Builders and inquired how frequently teachers were using technology integration to enhance or deliver classroom instruction. Principal Stokel reported that iPad carts are in constant use, whiteboards are used daily and educators who seemed leery five years ago have embraced technology tools with the help of Ms. Rhonda Johnson, technology coordinator for the middle school. The middle school is currently in the process of rolling out a “Bring Your Own Device” policy.
- ii. LISTER ACADEMY, PRINCIPAL ROY – Principal Roy provided an update highlighting that students continue to improve their reading skills and are making substantial progress in math competencies. RJLA has entered into two new partnerships with tremendous benefit to its students. The local YMCA is providing daily use of their facility for staff members and students. Through this opportunity, students are learning self-moderation and how to conduct themselves as a team. Students will also be hatching trout provided by New Hampshire Fish and Game and releasing the trout in a nearby stream. Lister Leaf Busters continues to teach students business entrepreneurship and fund raising skills.
- iii. STEVE BARTLETT, FINANCIAL –Mr. Bartlett will continue working with administration to slowly tighten purchasing. Critical needs will continue to be met. The New Franklin School energy project has been submitted to the city manager’s office. The city manager is expected to request funding for the project at the next city council meeting. Mr. Bartlett stated that the NFS energy project is the type of initiative the school department will be pursuing in other areas.
- d. PHS STUDENT UPDATE, JAMES SULLIVAN – An All City concert is scheduled for Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> at Portsmouth High school. PHS will hold a dodge ball tournament and student art is now on display at the public library.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR (2ND READING)  
MOTION: Motion to accept the frameworks of the 2014-2015 School calendar, to be amended at a later date reflecting delayed opening/early release dates when submitted by Ms. Walker  
SECOND: Ms. Mullaney  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously Approved (NC disconnection; role call no longer needed)
- b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PHS 2014 GRADUATION DATE  
MOTION: Motion to approve Portsmouth High School 2014 graduation date as June 13, 2014 by Mr. Martin  
SECOND: Ms. Walker  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FY15 SCHOOL BUDGET

MOTION: Motion to approve the 2014/2015 School Board general fund budget in the amount of \$41,241,839.00 as presented by Ms. Mullaney

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION: Board members thanked administration for managing the budget through tough economic times yet still delivering a top notch education. Budget increase is modest and driven by changing health care costs and the deferred payment agreement with the APT. New Board members thanked administration for the budget process which allowed new members to fully understand the budget as submitted.

d. VOTE: Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes, 1 Absent (NC)

e. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD OPERATING PROTOCOL

MOTION: Motion to approve the School Board Operating Protocol by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Landry

DISCUSSION: Last Page, #14: The Board no longer refers to “executive session”. Exclude executive and close nonpublic due to RSA change in law.

VOTE: Pending above changes, unanimously approved

## X. NEW BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FUTURES ADVISORY BOARD CANDIDATES

MOTION: Motion to approve Ms. Amanda Blanchette and Mr. Justin Finn to the Futures Advisory Board by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL ELIMINATING EXISTING POLICIES:

i. BDD, FORMULATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

ii. BEDC, QUORUM

iii. BGB, ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF POLICIES

MOTION: Motion to eliminate Policies BDD, BEDC and BGB by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Martin

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL REAFFIRMING EXISTING POLICIES:

i. BDE, TEMPORARY BOARD COMMITTEES

ii. BDF, AREA SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

iii. BGF, SUSPENSION OF POLICIES, BYLAWS AND REGULATIONS

MOTION: Motion to reaffirm Policies BDE and BGF by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Mullaney

DISCUSSION: BDF Reaffirmation on hold while Policy Committee reviews current AREA agreement.

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

d. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL REVISING EXISTING POLICIES: (first reading)

i. BEC, EXECUTIVE SESSIONS (NONPUBLIC SESSIONS)

ii. BG, FORMULATION (AND ADOPTION) OF POLICIES

MOTION: Motion to accept the first reading of Policies BEC and BG by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Mullaney

DISCUSSION: BEC – third bullet regarding non-public. “be” to be stricken.

VOTE: Pending above, change first reading unanimously approved

XI. - **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

a. POLICY

XII. **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

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm by Mr. Martin. Second by Mr. Landry.  
Unanimously Approved.