

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 9, 2014**

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014

TIME: 7:00 PM [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), ANN WALKER, TOM MARTIN(7:16 PM), PATRICK ELLIS, LENNIE MULLANEY, JEFF LANDRY, GARY EPLER, NANCY NOVELLINE-CLAYBURGH, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE), JULIA ADLER (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. NOVEMBER 12, 2014  
MOTION: Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 12, 2014 by Ms. Mullaney  
SECOND: Ms. Walker  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
  - b. NOVEMBER 25, 2014  
MOTION: Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of November 25, 2014 by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh  
SECOND: Mr. Ellis  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Ms. Erin Bakkom – grade 8, PMS. Ms. Stephanie Lazenby, 303 Mckinley Road. Both spoke in favor of later start times for middle and high school students.
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** – Futures Director Phyllis Eldridge and Board Chair, Peter Weeks, reported that the Futures program received a \$500,000 donation from Ms. Jean Sawtell, the widow of Futures founder, Joe Sawtell. This donation will provide an additional \$20,000/year to the program. The FUTURES endowment fund has a value in excess of 4.3 million, resulting in \$154,000 available per year for students. Director Eldridge reported that currently there are 34 students in the program and 26 students attending college. Since the Futures program began, 225 students have been accepted into the program, with 117 attending college and 73 receiving a degree. Board members followed up with comments and questions.

## VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### a. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i. NHSBA RESOLUTIONS – 2015
- ii. POLICY MINUTES – DECEMBER 3, 2014
- iii. SCHEDULING SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT, JANUARY 27, 2015, 4 PM

### b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. STUDENT LETTERS RECEIVED (2) RE: SCHOOL START TIME

### c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- i. SCHOOL NUTRITION, DIRECTOR RISO – The “Try It” program is now being offered at all three elementary schools. This program allows students to try new foods grown locally.

The Nutrition Department is providing lunches to traveling athletic teams and is receiving positive feedback from parents and athletes.

A local seafood purchasing group is in the process of negotiating better prices and arranging delivery dates and times. This will allow Ms. Riso to offer products within budget.

Ms. Riso was contacted by the USDA who wished to know more about the program. After touring the schools and participating in the “Try It” program, visiting members commented on how all involved support the program. Ms. Riso followed up by visiting the USDA in Boston where she was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

Congratulations to LHS, NFS and Dondero for winning the Healthy US Challenge. This challenge is very competitive and involves intricate grain formulations along with strict recess time requirements and many other variables that need to be met for a school to be considered. Ms. Riso is proud to report that all three of Portsmouth's elementary schools received the award. Board members followed up with comments and questions.

- ii. PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL STOKEL-Principal Stokel updated Board members on enrollment numbers, honor roll percentages, after school activity participation, and how students receive merit cards.

Sixth grade teams are participating in a new program, *Mindful Learning*, which studies the different parts of the brain. Training takes place during time set aside for advisory activities and does not take away from instructional time.

Mr. Stokel concluded by thanking the Board for the new middle school facilities. Board members followed up with comments and questions.

- iii. PUPIL SUPPORT & INSTRUCTION, DIRECTOR SIMONS-Ms. Simons highlighted the following:

ESOL numbers continue to grow from 82 last year to 86 currently.

The district is preparing for a Title III visit from the Department of Education where the top three spoken languages will need to be identified. Currently there are 46 languages spoken by ESOL students.

Title I funding continues to provide support to students requiring intervention in reading at New Franklin and at St. Patricks. However, the biggest challenge continues to be meeting federal mandates as grant funding continues to decline.

Students identified as homeless have slightly decreased but are expected to increase during the holiday season. Federal guidelines mandate that 1% of the Special Education budget be set aside for this population. Currently there are 28 students identified as homeless. When a student becomes homeless, a district must provide transportation for the homeless student located outside the district. Transportation costs are usually a shared expense between the home district and where the student resides.

There are currently 43 identified students with disabilities. Grant funding and current general budget funding will not adequately cover professional staff next year. Ms. Simons will be reviewing staffing and program sustainability with the Superintendent next week. Board members followed up with comments and questions.

- a. FINANCIAL REPORT, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BARTLETT- Differences between actual expenditures and projected expenditures should better align over the next few months. Certain rolling averages cost centers continue to be difficult to predict. Special Education/Homeless transportation costs have increased dramatically. Energy costs are expected to increase as well. Mechanical structures, such as the HVAC at the high school, have performed well past their expectancy and need to be replaced.
- b. STUDENT REPORT – JULIA ADLER, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE- Ms. Adler reported that students received progress reports, Peer Leadership hosted an open mike night, the junior class council is hosting an Early Release Feast, and the music department is preparing for winter concerts and caroling at Strawberry Banke.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

## III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF EXTENDED MATERNITY LEAVE THROUGH JUNE 2015

MOTION: Motion to approve extended maternity leave through June, 2015 for Jenna Bulger-Judd by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES

i. REAFFIRM (BGD) AMENDMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

MOTION: Motion to reaffirm policy BGD, Amendment by Mr. Ellis

SECOND: Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

ii. (CHB) BOARD REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS (FIRST READING)

MOTION: Motion to accept first reading of CHB, Board of Review of Administrative Regulations by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

c. WORKSHOP: DELAYED SCHOOL START TIMES- School Board members, along with administrators, listed questions/concerns that surround changing school start times. The following questions/concerns were raised:

- Bussing - If you move start time, do you decrease or increase the needs of transportation of a certain population?
- AREA Agreement concerns
- Athletics Schedules – Are after school athletic schedules the responsibility of the district or NHIAA’s responsibility?
- Is the benefit of changing the start time worth the academic gain?
- Are other schools (possibly co-horts) starting later? Do they have statistics to show academic improvements?
- Are after school jobs for students a consideration?
- Start times for after school athletic games –
- Could this help the district move the needle and produce higher achieving students better prepared after graduation? What is the gain with the minimal amount of disruption?
- What will be the impact of before and after school care for younger siblings?
- Should a committee be appointed?
- Was a comprehensive analysis already done with our scenario?
- Is this a topic that the Board would like to be implemented next year, if decided to change?
- Is more information available at the higher education level? Particularly around bus schedule difficulties?
- Is this a good time to look at the high school bell schedule as well?

- Would the change affect the teacher contract?
- With a new principal coming on board, would this be a good time?

Superintendent McDonough will gather as much information as possible and begin to map out a game plan for the Board to review and keep the topic as a regular agenda item.

**II. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- JBC
- POLICY

**III. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- FY 16 BUDGET PRESENTATION: JANUARY 13, 2015

**IV. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 10:02 pm Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Martin. Unanimously approved.