

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR JANUARY 20, 2015**

SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015

**TIME: 6:30** [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** –LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG (VICE-CHAIR), TOM MARTIN, PATRICK ELLIS, NANCY NOVELLINE-CLAYBURGH, GARY EPLER, STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT) AND STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Stevens led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- VI. **WORKSHOP SESSION ON FY 2016 BUDGET**
  - i. **STAFFING/GRANT ADJUSTMENTS**-Assistant Superintendent shared a PowerPoint highlighting that grant and Title I allocations continue to decline. Because of this, each budget cycle adjusts to maintain student services mandated by law. Mr. Bartlett emphasized that this practice is not sustainable. These services are mandated, but not funded by state or federal governments. Board members followed up with questions and concerns. Board members discussed the importance of communicating effectively with community members so they understand why costs continue to increase in the budget.
  - ii. **LISTER ACADEMY** - Robert J. Lister tuition is not keeping pace with actual operation costs. Staffing at RJLA is as lean as possible. If more students are accepted, staffing will need to be increased, resulting in higher operating costs. Board members unanimously agreed that sending Portsmouth students out of district would result in higher costs and would be a detriment to students. Board members requested that Mr. Bartlett research other successful programs in the state. Are there any? Is RJLA tuition set at fair market value? Is there an interest in creating a “Seacoast Area” alternative school?
  - iii. **SUMMER CAMP PROPOSAL & PHS STEM SUMMER ENRICHMENT**-Assistant Superintendent shared Principal Shea’s proposal, outlining staffing needs necessary to expand summer camp opportunities. Principals and Guidance Counselors will work together to identify students who best benefit from the summer camps. Proposed costs are reflected in the FY16 budget.

- iv. PHS TUTOR PROPOSAL- This proposal provides students with resources and supplemental programming readily available on line without adding personnel.
- v. DISCUSSION: IMPLEMENTATION OF “TQP” - Board members discussed resources needed to create a different environment surrounding teacher performance. What are design and structure elements that will define model teachers? What processes will help new teachers grow? Administration is meeting with APT leadership to begin identifying the districts needs moving forward. These needs will be reflected in next year’s budget. Assistant Superintendent stated that the state is launching a new evaluation tracking system that he is closely monitoring in hopes that the district can integrate this new system into the new evaluation system at no cost.

VII. FUTURE WORKSHOP REQUESTS – Board members suggested the following areas for discussion: Start time, Elementary level curriculum, and Special Education reimbursement determination.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**- Motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. by Mr. Martin and seconded by Vice-Chair Legg.