

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 8, 2015**

EILEEN M. FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER-** School Board Chair Leslie Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL-** Chair Leslie Stevens, Jeff Landry, Lennie Mullaney, Gary Epler, Ann Walker, Nancy Clayburgh, Patrick Ellis, Tom Martin, Ann Mayer, Superintendent Stephen Zdravec, Assistant Superintendent George Shea, Business Administrator Steve Bartlett, Student Representative Julia Adler

III. **INVOCATION**

IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- a. NOVEMBER 24, NON-PUBLIC MEETING

MOTION: Motion to accept the non-public minutes of November 24, 2015 by Mrs. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

- b. NOVEMBER 24, REGULAR MEETING

MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of November 24, 2015 by Mr. Epler

SECOND: Ms. Clayburgh

DISCUSSION: Correction needed to the NF Intervention and PLC blocks.

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** None

VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- a. **FOOD SERVICE REPORTS-** Director of School Nutrition Deb Riso gave an overview of what has been happening in the schools since September. October was Farm to School Month and National School Lunch Week. The middle school is making homemade pizza from scratch, the high school makes homemade soup on Fridays and continues to make high school team lunches for away games. Deb shared the exciting news of receiving a \$100,000 Implementation Grant from Farm to School and gave a brief history of the grant. It is a very competitive grant. Nationally, out of 82 grants only 16 were Implementation Grants

Kate Mitchell gave further statistics on the grant. PSD was the first entity in the State of NH to receive a USDA Farm to School Program Grant and also first in the State to receive the intended sequence of grants. Kate gave an overview of their 10 module strategic plan. The grant will allow funding for beginning the middle school rooftop garden, a salad bar at the high school (part time staffer, salad bar equipment and POS), a garden shed, garden tools, curriculum support &

field trip funding across the district and marketing needs. Kate recognized and thanked the community effort and support behind submitting this grant.

Questions/discussion followed: PMS Rooftop Garden: The next step after the railing installation on the rooftop garden, is a consultation with Green City Growers. Some options for the rooftop garden are the possible use of milk crates for plants, vertical gardening and installing a safe walkways. Second Chance Breakfast at the middle school serves menu items and “Grab and Go” bags. High school offers Second Chance as well. Students are taking advantage of the programs. The press release to announce the grant will go to the paper tomorrow and will be in this week’s newsletter.

- b. PMS REPORT- Principal Phil Davis gave a thorough overview of the middle school. Phil highlighted several items; enrollment numbers, student involvement of high achievement (honor roll and merit card), minimal discipline conduct, high number of student engagement (122 fall athletics, 124 winter athletics) and some changes in the daily schedule. Phil gave an overview of the PLC Communities and their department goals. The Parent Advisory Club is back and looking at different fundraising opportunities, parent education and a volunteer coordination position. PMS is increasing communication at home with newsletters and weekly emails. A community building effort is ongoing; Empty Bowls Initiative, Student Council donations to local organizations, Giving Tree, Food Drive, Hat, Mitten and Scarf Drive.

Questions/discussion followed: A positive, noticeable change in the middle school climate. SBAC Result: Staff will be looking further at the results and figure out where there are areas for improvements. Newsletter is impressive and has been very enjoyable to read. STEAM: Efforts behind Steam is a great idea. The list of extracurricular activities is extensive.

- c. RJLA REPORT- Principal Nancy Roy reported on RJLA. There are 24 students (17 boys, 7 girls). There are 18 in district students including 3 from SAU50 and 6 out of district students (2 Epping students, 1 Exeter student, 1 Wakefield/Ossipee student, 1 Winnisquam student, 1 Salem student). RJLA finished last year with increased revenue, was able to carry over small sum of money to this year. There are 3 out of district seniors that will not be returning next year, so the issue of sustainability and stability are going to be continuing conversations for budget season. Nancy gave an overview of their PLC work and their Smart Goal of focusing on developing growth mindset. They have completed their fall fundraising efforts and raised approximately \$6300.00 through the Lister Leaf Buster work. Students need a lot of the core content area and skill development. They are looking at making English and Social Studies more hands on for students. She has contracted with Megan Sampson, to work with embedding art into the core content area. Every quarter works with a different content area teacher and they come up with a 9 week project. Partnership with Great Bay Community College will continue. Five students are going to the college transition program. Other partnerships/work are with Seacoast Family Y. RJLA has a great network of support. Future direction will continue to work towards continuing development of a high functioning team and developing collaborations for post-secondary education.

Questions/discussions followed: Out of district students pay \$41,875.00 tuition cost. Students are not always successful in the career tech classes and further information would need to be obtained to know exactly why. Possibly adding a flex person would be an advantage and possible explore when the student is able to enroll in the career tech programs. Also extremely concerned about the drug use that is happening in the students’ families and in their communities and how to

supply more support for the teenagers and the communities. Competency Based Learning is a lot of work in terms of monitoring progress but kids are more engaged and it keeps students/teachers focused.

VIII. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORTS- Director of Pupil Support and Instruction Jeanette Souther gave an overview of the three big areas; homeless students, special education and ESOL. Jeanette provided homeless students numbers and the McKinney –Vento Act timeline. Numbers always fluctuate. Total count is 25. Trend is 27-29k for transportation cost. Special Education is steady on count at 423. PSD uses data on students to effectively and efficiently program for students access to education and success. Current staffing allows to legally meet IEP services but there is some concern that it doesn't allow much time for building resources in the building. Jeanette discussed the results of the Parent Involvement Survey from the DOE State Performance Plan Indicator 8 survey was included in the packet. Jeanette is also looking into forming a parental special education advisory group and continuing parental friendly language and training. A parental trainings was held on November 10. Future parent training to be held in the Spring. ESOL student enrollments have grown and is the biggest area of concern. Currently, there are 2.6 qualified teachers. Jeanette gave an overview of the minimum guidance the state suggest for ESOL students. Questions/discussion followed: Currently, conducting an internal audited for Medicaid reimbursement. ESOL enrollments increases are common across the nation and cities tend to grow faster. There is a fixed financial amount the state receives, larger cities tend to have a larger ESOL population and receive a larger percentage of the money. Many districts to do not get any money. Staffing level discussion, possibly increase a current paraprofessional's hours and possibly use other staffing resources in the district. .

IX. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, DECEMBER 2
- ii. LATE START SURVEY REPORT
- iii. BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR
- iv. FUTURES NEWSLETTER

b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. EDCAMP SEACOAST LETTER
- ii. STUDENT LETTER- PARKING

c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- i. FINANCIAL REPORT- Mr. Bartlett reported that overall it is within ½% of this time last year. Some of the components are a little different which could have to do with timing of reimbursements i.e. dental. A few areas to keep an eye on would be transportation particularly homeless, ESOL and mobility of some of the components of special education.

Questions/discussions: The financial numbers are based on a rolling average except salaries. At the beginning of the year, the department took the year to date expenses in every category and add them to the 4 years pervious to determine a rolling average. The rolling average gives a tighter picture but isn't foolproof. Technology expenses in some cases could be part of the replacement cycle. There was an extra cost to correct the

virtual desktop issues. Medicaid reimbursement: This year there will be more of a lag with Medicaid reimbursement. The Special Education department is spending a concentrated effort to make sure the district gets the money due to them.

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **WORKSHOP: LATER START-** Mr. Zdravec gave an overview of the survey results. The purpose tonight is to get a sense of whether the board wants to move forward. In the survey, the committee wanted to know negative effects in order to address the concerns and mitigate ideas to bring back in January. The SAU 50 survey was included in packet. Questions/discussion followed: The concerns/commentary of the results were discussed in depth. There will be a need to further educate and engage with the community with a public forum to be schedule at a later date (possibly February). Ideas to look into: Investigate if PSD didn't do a complete swap, what does that to do cost? Can time be shrunk in between classes and at lunch time at the high school to create some additional time in the schedule? Possibly try to figure out how to provide families more support in regards to childcare options. Determine the cost of having elementary and high school to starts at same time.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **BEN FRANKLIN PAINTING-** Mr. Zdravec gave an update on the painting in the school department's possession. Lennie put him in touch with a potential restorer who will give a sense of what it will take to restore the painting. The information will be brought to a future meeting.
- b. **BUD RICCI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP-** Mr. Zdravec gave a brief overview of the \$33,000 memorial scholarship by the Ricci Family. This is another great example of community support and a very generous donation of monies collected in Bud's name.

**MOTION:** Motion to accept the Bud Ricci Memorial Scholarship by Mr. Martin

**SECOND:** Ms. Clayburgh

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously passed

**XII. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. **POLICY-** Ms. Stevens reported Policy Committee is currently working on the Wellness Policy.
- b. **SAGAMORE CREEK-** Ms. Mullaney reported that last night a proposal was presented to city council. She shared the Vision Statement and has asked for a copy to be forwarded to the board.

**XIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. **ELECTRONIC TEXT BOOK POLICY**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:55 p.m. by Mr. Martin

**SECOND:** Ms Clayburgh

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously accepted