

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2016**

ROBERT J. LISTER ACADEMY

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER-** Board Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL-** Chair Leslie Stevens, Vice Chair Tom Martin, Kristin Jeffrey, Jeff Landry, Ann Walker, Gary Epler, Nancy Clayburgh, Patrick Ellis, Roseanne Vozella Clark, SAU 50 Representative Ann Mayer, Teacher Representative Kimberly McGlinchey, Student Representative Andrew Rodgers, Superintendent Stephen Zdravec, Assistant Superintendent George Shea, Business Administrator Stephen Bartlett
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** Board Chair Stevens led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
  - a. NOVEMBER 15, REGULAR MEETING

MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of November 15, 2016 by Mr. Martin. Mr. Epler requested an amendment to the Motion to approve the minutes with the discussed changes.

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION: Three revisions to the minutes were suggested by Mr. Epler. Honors Program Update: Change the wording from “will be” to “was discussion of” and add “as discussed”. Honors: Change “decision” to “matter”.

VOTE: Unanimously accepted
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** Erik Anderson- 38 Georges Terrace, Portsmouth, and Eric Weinrieb- 9 Middle Road, Portsmouth, both spoke in regard to School Start Times. Christine Groleau- 30 Oakwood Drive, Portsmouth; Andrea St. Jean- 54 Humphreys Court, Portsmouth; Mike Schwartz- 213 South Street, Portsmouth; John McCafferty- 15 Sanderling Way, Portsmouth; and Jennifer Bell- 23 Marston Avenue, Portsmouth, all spoke in regards to the Freshman Honors Program.
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
  - a. SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM UPDATE- School Nutrition Director Deb Riso provided Food Service Program highlights: LH’s successful new salad bar, NF’s Harvest Dinner, PMS’s Second Chance Breakfast, the future addition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> salad bar at PHS and garden news. Farm to School Program Manager Kate Mitchell provided an update on the Farm to School Program and the celebrations that took place in October. Ms. Mitchell shared details of State, USDA, District, and Community relevance of their Program, as well as, a recently received donation and what is on the horizons for the Program.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: Ms. Mitchell’s approach is to empower the teachers and build the necessary foundations for continued sustainability of the Program once the grant ends.

Discussion occurred regarding the process to ensure long-term success and sustainability to incorporate the practices as “how we do business” verse a designated Program.

Student participation in the Food Service Program at the Middle School was a problem during construction, however, the participation level has increased this year.

There is a perception of lengthy cafeteria lines at PHS. The reality is it only takes about fifteen minutes to service students.

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

### **a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

- i. PMS POST
- ii. FY 18 BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE
- iii. NOVEMBER 15, FORUM MINUTES

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL START TIME**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the School Start Time Option 2 (aligning the elementary schools with NF current start time, increase the number of buses, recognizing the cost impact of \$150,000 plus the cost of 2 or 3 bus monitors, and adjust the school start time for MS and HS to 8:30 a.m. and 8:25 a.m. respectively) by Mr. Ellis. Ms. Clayburgh requested an amendment to the Motion, adding that the Board only approve this if \$164,000 of the supplemental budget is from the City Council.

**SECOND:** Ms. Walker

**DISCUSSION:** Discussion of funding the proposal and clarification was provided about the proposed amendment.

**VOTE:** Roll call vote. Motion fails 2-7.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the School Start Time Option 2 (align the elementary school start times with NF at 8:20 a.m., increase the number of buses in the bus contract, delay the school start time for MS to 8:30 a.m. and HS to 8:25 a.m., and work to incorporate the cost into the budget and plan for implementation for the 2017/18 school year) by Mr. Ellis.

**SECOND:** Ms. Walker

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Roll call vote. Motion passes 8-1.

Superintendent Zdravec shared the printed version of the PowerPoint presented to the Board in November. There were two options highlighted in terms of busing. The next step is to pursue a transportation contract.

Business Administrator Bartlett shared the bus monitor costs (\$80.00 a day/\$21.00 per hour). Currently, bus monitors are occasionally utilized to address behavioral issues. In terms of using multi-level busing, the thought process is to start with training and try to rotate the 2 or 3 bus monitors throughout the bus routes, as needed.

Superintendent Zdravec reported that Athletic Director Rus Wilson would schedule athletics so they do not interrupt a student’s school day more than they do presently. The TASC Block will provide an additional opportunity for students to manage their school work.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: The cost per bus is approximately \$50,000.

The bus company has a series of consequences for inappropriate behavior on the bus. All the buses are equipped with video surveillance cameras.

Training and educating students while continuing to use the Student Transportation Contracts should assist with concerns of multi-level ridership.

A plan to evaluate the impact of the School Start Time change would include surveys, attendance records, and an anticipated increase in academic performance.

Concern was expressed as to where transportation funds come from each year. Administration will receive guidance from the JBC in the next month. Chair Stevens suggested that the Board consider the School Start Time option separate from the cost.

Ms. Mayer commented on the impact of the increased cost to SAU 50's budget.

There is a scholastic benefit when students are healthier both mentally and physically. Previous survey results were discussed regarding the number of students who self-reported falling asleep during first block.

If the Board moves forward and there is a challenge regarding funding, Mr. Bartlett will review the timeline and implications to the bus contracts. The proposal costs were estimates taken from the RFP results.

- b. SCHOOL BOARD GOALS UPDATE- Superintendent Zdravec provided an update on the progress of the Board goals and distributed a revised version of Board Work Calendar- Goal Reporting and Discussion Timeline. Assistant Superintendent Shea provided an update on the work in progress by the Administrative PLC and PLC practices.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: PHS Honors Committee is comprised of Principal Lyons, HS teachers, and Guidance. A PHS Honors Committee representative will be presenting to the Board on January 24, 2017.

Ms. Lyons is hosting a parent meeting at PHS on January 10, 2017.

Clarification was provided on Board Policy IL. Typically, the Board does not vote on every change to the Curriculum. Concern was expressed that two major modifications were recently discussed but not reviewed by the Board. If there are any future significance changes to any Curriculum, the Board should receive a presentation to understand the process and rationale prior to any decisions to modify said Curriculum.

## X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION: Motion to approve leave of absence by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

## XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. POLICY- Policy IL was reviewed at the November 17, 2016, Policy Committee Meeting. The Policy minutes will be included in the next Board packet.

**XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. FUTURE OF THE ARTS
- b. ELEMENTARY WORLD LANGUAGE

**XIII. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- a. PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CALENDAR MAY BE FOUND ONLINE AT <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm>
  - ❖ PMS Christmas Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2016
  - ❖ School Board Holiday Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2016
  - ❖ PHS Christmas Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2016
  - ❖ PMS will host their own musical production of “The Lion King” in February 2017

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. by Martin

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

- ❖ High School Musical at PHS was a wonderful event!
- ❖ Dondero hosted a special program for Veteran’s Day.