

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 13, 2016

EILEEN D. FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

NOTICE OF NON PUBLIC- THE SCHOOL BOARD HELD A NON- PUBLIC MEETING AT 6:30 P.M., IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSA 91-A: 3, II (c) IN THE SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER-** Board Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:07 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, Teacher Representative Kimberly McGlinchey, Student Representative Andrew Rodgers, Superintendent Stephen Zadavec, 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 29, REGULAR MEETING

MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of November 29, 2016 by Mr. Epler

SECOND: Mr. Martin

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** Arthur Clough- 431 Pleasant Street, Portsmouth, spoke in regards to a sexual harassment issue.
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
 - a. FUTURES- Futures Program Coordinator Amy Brnger provided information regarding the history, mission, and services provided by the Futures Program. The Futures Program currently serves 30 high school students and 26 college students. Often, these students are first generation college and are economically challenged. The Futures Program covers students' unmet needs after other financial resources have been utilized. Ms. Brnger reported \$1,600,000 has been distributed to Futures students since its inception in 1993.
Ms. Brnger offered a Summer program for high school seniors. The students met weekly to work on college essays, college applications, stress management, and received free SAT tutoring from Ms. Bakkom and Ms. Kwessell.
Ms. Brnger received a Clipper Foundation grant, along with a gift of Chromebooks to begin an afterschool program. Futures is also the recipient of \$110,000 donation from a 30 year

Portsmouth resident.

The new website Portsmouthfutures.org will include a donation portal.

Next year, Ms. Brnger would like to incorporate financial literacy to allow for a better understanding of the cost of education, as well as, encourage students to interview Futures alumni.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: The Futures Program is unique to Portsmouth and provides a wonderful opportunity for many students. Ms. Brnger explained the student selection process. The Futures Advisory Board continues to work on the capital campaign to maintain the longevity of the Futures Program.

- b. CTE PROGRAM UPDATE- Career Technical Education (CTE) Director Diane Canada shared a PowerPoint presentation which provided an update on CTE Center including expansion of the Architecture & Engineering Design (A/E Design) and the Computer Science Pathways. There are a variety of different pathways which blend disciplines in the classes offered through A/E Design. Ms. Canada shared the A/E Design Program expansion timeline which will include involvement with community partners.

Computer Science- New Heights collaboration: Next year, a Robotics curriculum will be added to Python and Java classes in year one, and Engineering Design will be added to the curriculum in year two. Ms. Canada shared the vision for the “Maker Space”.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: The Maker Space appears to be unique to Portsmouth, and is envisioned to be a semester long and will provide skills students acquire in the introductory Wood Working classes currently offered in the Construction Trades Program. The cost of the Maker Space should be net zero, as there is a teacher and money currently in the budget slated for Construction Program that would be used for the Maker Space. Ms. Canada shared the marketing strategy used for promoting the CTE programming opportunities available to students. It is important to educate people on the value of career trades, and a Career Fair hosted at PHS would be an opportunity to expose high school students to careers in the trades.

A teacher will need to be hired for the Computer Science Program, and resources for the computer needs have already been satisfied.

The Board was appreciative of the Culinary Arts Program students and Chef Perrin Long for the holiday dinner they prepared and provided the Board last week.

The Board received an email from Lindsay Gee which was not read at the meeting but will be included in the minutes. Mr. Epler requested Ms. Canada respond to Mr. Gee’s email.*

c. PMS REPORT- Principal Phil Davis shared the middle school enrollment numbers, Smarter Balance results, and provided department updates, as well as information on the changes implemented this year. Changes included the following:

- ♦ Tiered Reading Intervention Program (currently servicing 96 students)
- ♦ Shift in PLC
- ♦ Planning time alignment of Case Managers
- ♦ Marking term changes- four, nine- week marking terms
- ♦ Third year of Mindful Learning initiative
- ♦ Increased communication- 100% teacher participation with Infinite Campus, Team Friday updates, expanded use of Google Classroom, active Parent Advisory, Coffee with the Principal, Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ♦ Shift in the use of the Kids Center- fewer students with behavioral components, allowing staff to better serve students who are not meeting successes
- ♦ Started a Gardening Club
- ♦ Sixth Grade technology cycle- designed to give all students the same baseline computer skills
- ♦ Technology- mobile Chromebook carts and computer lab to enhance instruction
- ♦ First middle school musical production of *The Lion King*

Upcoming changes for the 2017-2018 school year:

- ♦ Structured technology plan across content areas
- ♦ Completion of departmental competencies
- ♦ Foreign Language shift- Currently, PMS offers French, Spanish, and Chinese. 59% of students are taking a Foreign Language. They are looking at creating additional points of entry; currently the only entry point is 6th Grade. There is a high level of student participation in French.
- ♦ Schedule shift- looking forward to reclaiming time lost in the 2014-2015 schedule change
- ♦ Structured Math intervention
- ♦ Looping Case Managers

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: 85% of students are on the honor roll, but this does not seem to compare to the number of students scoring higher than proficient on Smarter Balance. SBAC tests are taken in the Spring, and there is usually a drop in the results from Grade Five to Grade Six.

Currently, Foreign Language is offered during the Intervention Block which does not allow every student to participate. Also, PMS is looking to create a period of enrichment for all students.

Providing a five minute recess would be beneficial to middle school students.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, NOVEMBER 2016
- ii. BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR, DECEMBER 2016
- iii. CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATE, DECEMBER 2016
- iv. FIELD TRIP, NEW YORK

b. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- i. FINANCIAL REPORT- Business Administrator Stephen Bartlett provided the November Month End Report. Typical of this time of year, Mr. Bartlett is monitoring areas of potential concern, such as Special Education and energy costs. .

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Mr. Bartlett provided clarification on Extra Curricular line item 114.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (SINGLE READING)

i. REVENUES (DEA)

MOTION: Motion to approve Policy DEA by Mr. Ellis

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO ELIMINATE POLICY (SINGLE READING)

ii. OUTSIDE FUNDING (DO)

MOTION: Motion to eliminate Policy DO by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Landry

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. POLICY- November Policy Committee minutes included in the packet.
- b. JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE (JBC)- Ms. Vozella Clark reported JBC met once, and it was an informational session. The next JBC meeting is Wednesday, December 14. Ms. Vozella Clark will report at the January meeting.
- c. BUSINESS EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE- Ms. Vozella Clark reported that Ms. Canada is still working on State approval for the new LNA Program.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. FY 18 BUDGET
- b. RJLA REPORT/EXPANDED PATHWAYS

XIII. UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CALENDAR MAY BE FOUND ONLINE AT <http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school/index.htm>

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

*Lindsay Gee email

-----Original Message-----

From: LINDSAY GEE Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 2:28 PM

To: Leslie Stevens

Subject: Re: Construction Program at PHS

Dear Ms. Stevens

Firstly I apologize for sending this via email, and the web page to the board, but I am on travel and not able to attend the meeting and comment in session. I'd request my comments be read into the meeting record.

I remain concerned with the closure of the construction program and the way the change to the architecture and design program has been planned and presented. I don't see the proposal taking any benefits from the existing construction program, and importantly also closing the associated exploratory woodshop programs.

I attended the meeting of contractors at the school, and the contractors are obviously supportive of anything that can encourage students to work in their industry, but I have concerns that a "fancied up" program is the best route. It was also made clear at that meeting by Mr Jones that the decision to not continue the construction program and all exploratory woodshop programs had been made in the summer. CTE have presented to the board that over 500 students do exploratory courses at CTE, however it has not been made clear how woodshop experience will be replaced for 20% when the program is closed.

It seems that the approach is very much looking at the construction program from the half empty view and not a half full perspective. There is no attempt to fill up the glass and instead it's being emptied and the glass re-molded and starting again. Patrick Ellis noted in a previous meeting that the exploratory wood shop program were a good introduction to other makers programs, and the Superintendent said that all options would be included in the new program. This certainly doesn't seem to be the case and I'm concerned that good resources are not being combined into this proposal.

Another item mentioned by one of the contractors at the November 9 meeting was that there is a construction management program at the UNH Thompson School in Civil Technology. Part of the reasons to support closing the construction program is the closing of the community college program, however no mention has been made of this program at UNH. My understanding from the meeting was Mr Jones now has a full load and this program will be an additional and expanded program. It will eventually need another teacher for the engineering section, so he can build up the expanded design and build program. The proposal needs major modifications to the workshop area and new equipment and it would appear no budget has been prepared.

Since the meeting does not allow community questions after the presentations I'd suggest the board ask the Superintendent and CTE director the following after the presentation tonight:

- If the woodshop program closes how will those exploratory classes be replaced for nearly 100 students, noting Mr Jones has a full load and the only new course is part of the 2 year program? In particular what is to replace them in 2017/18.*
- Does this plan to expand architecture and design rely on the hire of a new teacher in the future, and if so when?*
- Why is there nothing from the current construction program used in this proposal and why hasn't Mr Robble been included in this planning, when it's been presented that there are many good things about the current construction program?*
- Why couldn't the existing construction program have been combined with architecture and design/build program, and use the combined teaching resources, instead of starting a makers space and new program from scratch?*
- When will a budget be prepared for this change, including modifications for the workshop, additional teaching resources, so the board has necessary information to fully consider the proposal?*
- Has the pathway to Thompson School at UNH been considered, and why couldn't a link be established with them for the construction program?*

I realize that the school board is not involved in the day-to-day management of PHS, however this proposal has significant changes to teaching and physical resources, and also reduces the availability of exploratory shop classes for students, at least in the short term.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Best Regards

Lindsay Gee