

School Board Summary/Action Sheet

Date of Meeting: September 24, 2002

A regular meeting of the Portsmouth School Board was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2002 in the cafeteria at the New Franklin Elementary School.

PRESENT: Mr. Kent LaPage (Chair), Mr. John Lyons, Jr. (Vice-Chair), Mr. Raimond Bowles, Mrs. Nancy Novelline-Clayburgh, Mrs. Nansi Craig, Mr. Clay Hayward, Mrs. Colleen Montminy, Mr. Carvel Tefft, Mr. Charles Vaughn

PARTICIPATING: Dr. Lyonel B. Tracy (Superintendent of Schools), Dr. Robert J. Lister (Assistant Superintendent), Mr. W. Peter Torrey (Business Administrator), Miss Sarah Sanger (Student Representative), Mrs. Diane O'Leary McGee (Employee Representative)

Prior to the meeting, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held. Following a ceremony that was held in the gymnasium, the Honorable Evelyn Sirrell, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, cut the ribbon leading to the new addition. New Franklin students and their Principal, Mrs. Constance Carmody, accompanied the Mayor as she cut the ribbon.

Actions Taken by the Board

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. He called for a moment of silent reflection and asked Board members to remember Carl Corliss, an employee for over 25 years, who died unexpectedly on September 13. He said Mr. Corliss was an outstanding employee, and his family should be proud that so many of his colleagues paid their last respects. Mr. LaPage extended the Board's sympathy to the Corliss Family. Mrs. Constance Carmody, Principal of New Franklin School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On a motion by Mr. Vaughn, seconded by Mr. Hayward, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 10, 2002 meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Vaughn, seconded by Mr. Hayward, the Board unanimously voted to accept and place on file a thank you note from Millie Aliberti.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION – GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS

No one in attendance signed up to address the Board.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF/STUDENTS

Principals Rick Gremlitz (Portsmouth High School); John Stokel (Portsmouth Middle School); Robin Burdick (Little Harbour Elementary); Jill LeMay (Mary C. Dondero Elementary); Constance Carmody (New Franklin Elementary); and Paulette Hoeflich (Student Services Director) and Beth Setear (Coordinator of Portsmouth Early Education Program) presented brief reports on the opening of the school year. They also introduced

new staff members to the Board (with the exception of Mrs. Setear, who stated there were no vacancies at PEEP this year).

The Superintendent invited the new staff members to come forward and meet the Board. Following this, the Chair declared a brief recess (8:20 p.m.). The meeting was reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

PERSONNEL

Retirement of Anne Costello, art teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, effective October 18, 2002, unanimously approved on a motion by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Hayward.

Retirement of Sandra Wilkins, sixth grade teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, effective September 20, 2002, unanimously approved on a motion by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Tefft.

Nomination of Sue Rafferty to the position of sixth grade teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, effective September 26, 2002, unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Hayward, seconded by Mrs. Montminy.

Mrs. Clayburgh moved the Board suspend the rules and take up agenda item VIII. A. Student Trip to Costa Rica, at this time. Seconded by Mr. Lyons and unanimously voted.

Ms. Kathleen Metterville, Assistant Principal at Portsmouth High School, presented a proposal for a student trip to Costa Rica from June 30 through July 11, 2003. Following the presentation and discussion, Mr. Vaughn moved the Board approve this trip and the Business Administrator be asked to report back to the Board in early May as to whether or not there are funds available for five or six students who may not be able to afford the trip. Mr. Bowles seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion. The motion failed in an eight to one vote (Mr. Vaughn voted for the motion; Mr. Bowles, Mrs. Clayburgh, Mrs. Craig, Mr. Hayward, Mr. Lyons, Mrs. Montminy, Mr. Tefft and Chair LaPage voted against the motion). Mrs. Craig moved the Board approve the trip to Costa Rica with the provision that the insurance is finalized and in place at the time the students leave. Mrs. Clayburgh seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint Building Committee: Chair LaPage reported on the latest meeting of the Joint Budget Committee and spoke of the bid process. There was discussion of the bid process that will take place this Thursday, September 26.

Policy Committee: Mrs. Craig reported the Policy Committee will meet on October 15 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room. The Board received copies of current policies and were asked to submit suggestions, comments, etc. to members of the Policy Committee prior to the meeting

Curriculum Council: Dr. Lister stated the Curriculum Council will be prepared to give a report at the next meeting.

Chamber of Commerce Representative: Mr. Lyons reported that he will be introduced as the School Board's representative to the Chamber of Commerce Executive Board on Thursday, September 26. He also stated the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent

will speak on the relationship between the School Department and the business community.

Greater Portsmouth Educational Partnership Council (GPEPC): Mr. Lyons stated there would be a report from GPEPC at the next Board meeting. A retreat was held in August, and the first meeting of GPEPC will be held this Thursday, September 26.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bowles stated he will attend the “Bradley F. Kidder Educational Law Conference” sponsored by the New Hampshire School Administrators’ Association and the New Hampshire School Boards Association. He encouraged other Board members to also attend this conference.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

There was no continuing business to come before the School Board.

FINANCIAL

Mr. Torrey reported the Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Christine Todd Whitman, visited Little Harbour School on Monday to recognize the school for its efforts in addressing the indoor air quality.

Mr. Torrey commended Mr. Scott French, who was responsible for coordinating the construction and renovation projects at both the New Franklin Elementary School and the Mary C. Dondero Elementary School. He said Mr. French was in constant communication with the Principals throughout the duration of the projects.

NEXT AGENDA

Chair LaPage said the Board will address the subject of vending machines at the middle and high schools.

Mr. Lyons requested that notification of the work session regarding the Clipper Health Center be sent to all those concerned and interested.

The Chair stated the Board will discuss the dropout report submitted by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent on October first at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

There was no further business to come before the Board. Mr. Vaughn moved the Board adjourn its meeting; Mrs. Clayburgh seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

LBT/paw
9-25-02

