

School Board Summary/Action Sheet

Date of Meeting: October 8, 2002

A regular meeting of the Portsmouth School Board was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2002 in the Council Chambers at the Portsmouth Municipal Complex.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Raimond Bowles, 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), Diane O'Leary McGee (Employee Representative), Mrs. Ann Mayer (SAU 50 Representative)

Actions Taken by the Board

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. He called for a moment of silent reflection and asked Board members to remember Jo Campbell, NEA/NH UniServ Director, who recently died. The Chair also asked the Board to keep two High School teachers, Dexter Robblee and Michael Rowe, in their thoughts and hearts as they leave for active duty to serve our Country. Mrs. McGee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

C. Hayward moved, seconded by C. Montminy, to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2002 meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Correspondence

The Chair read a message from Jackie Cowell, Executive Director of the Community Child Care Center, inviting Board members to attend the next meeting of the Early Childhood/Public School Partnership to discuss professional development and formalized visitations.

The Board received a letter from George Hosker, Jr., Executive Director of the Prescott Park Arts Festival, thanking the Board for volunteering at the park this summer.

On a motion by J. Lyons, seconded by N. Clayburgh, the Board unanimously voted to accept and place on file a letter from Ed Stokel, Chairperson of the Association of Portsmouth School Administrators, stating the administrators desire to negotiate revisions and changes to their master contract for the year beginning July 1, 2003.

The Chair acknowledged receipt of the following items: a copy of the PHS “Navigator;” school cafeteria menus; a copy of the Middle School parent handbook; and a copy of the Middle School project planner.

On a motion by J. Lyons, seconded by N. Clayburgh, the Board unanimously voted to accept and place on file a letter from Scott Samuels, Human Resources Director at Water Country Water Park, commending the Board on its decision to start school after Labor Day.

On a motion by N. Craig, seconded by C. Hayward, the Board unanimously voted to accept and place on file a letter from Tom Grasso, 35 Wilson Road, Portsmouth, stating a need for the school district to put in place a regulation as to how many non-biological, non-marital children a person or organization can enroll in the school system.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION

Mr. Peter Bresciano, 101 O’Leary Place, asked the Board, as they begin negotiations and the budget process, to keep in mind the taxpayers – many of whom have seen an increase in their home reevaluations.

Mr. Norm LaFleur, 85 Spinnaker Way, Portsmouth, a member of PRIAC (Portsmouth Regional Ice Arena Committee) said a concert is planned for Saturday, November 2 as a fundraiser. Two students presented Board members with a free ticket to the concert.

The Chair requested the Board take up agenda item VIII. A. Student Trip to Severdvinsk, Russia at this time. Dr. Lister presented a report on the trip, and Miss Sanger spoke as one of the students selected to go on the trip. Mr. Patrick Ganz, high school English teacher and chaperone for the trip, was in attendance to answer questions from the Board. C. Tefft moved the Board approve this worthwhile trip to Severdvinsk, Russia. N. Clayburgh seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PERSONNEL

N. Clayburgh moved, seconded by C. Montminy, the Board approve a new 50% reading position at New Franklin School to be funded through Title I. The motion was unanimously approved.

On a motion by C. Tefft, seconded by C. Hayward, the Board unanimously approved the nomination of Patricia Carr to the 50% reading consultant teacher at New Franklin School.

On a motion by C. Tefft, seconded by C. Hayward, the Board unanimously approved the nomination of Nancy Pollock to the position of art teacher at Portsmouth Middle School.

On a motion by C. Tefft, seconded by N. Clayburgh, the Board unanimously approved a maternity leave of absence for Megan Parker beginning on or near January 3, 2003 and for the remainder of the 2002-03 school year.

On a motion by N. Clayburgh, seconded by C. Montminy, the Board unanimously approved a maternity leave of absence for Maya Glos beginning October 7, 2002 through December 2002.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint Building Committee – Chair LaPage reported the next meeting will be October 18. It is expected a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) will be discussed at that meeting.

GPEPC – J. Lyons reported on the August 21 GPEPC Retreat and reviewed the goals established.

Curriculum Council – Dr. Lister reported the Curriculum Council will meet on October 17.

Chamber of Commerce – J. Lyons reported on the September 26 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and efforts being made to establish school/community/business relationships.

Fundraising Committee – N. Clayburgh reported a meeting was held this morning to discuss fundraising for the high school auditorium seats. A formal presentation will be made to the Board at the November 12 meeting.

Policy Committee – Dr. Tracy reported the Policy Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 15, at 4:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

NHSBA (New Hampshire School Boards Association) Delegate Assembly Resolutions:

- J. Lyons moved, seconded by C. Tefft, the Board recommend readoption of items 1 – 14. The motion was unanimously approved.
- J. Lyons moved, seconded by C. Tefft, the Board recommend the re-adoption of items 15 and 16 with amendment. The motion was unanimously approved.
- C. Tefft moved the Board vote not to adopt items 17, 18, 19, and 20. J. Lyons seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- J. Lyons moved, seconded by C. Tefft, the Board vote to approve item #21.
- C. Tefft moved, seconded by N. Craig, the Board support item #22. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed a resolution submitted by the Somersworth School Board regarding the “No Child Left Behind Act.” No action was taken on this proposed resolution.

(Miss Sanger and Mrs. Mayer were excused from the meeting at this time – 9:07 p.m.)

Chair LaPage asked for volunteers to plan the Board’s retreat. N. Clayburgh and Dr. Lister agreed to work on this.

N. Clayburgh stated the School Board has been invited to lead the holiday parade on Saturday, December 7th.

N. Clayburgh stated that PEP 2002’s after-school enrichment programs began yesterday at the three elementary schools, and the holiday home tour will be held on Sunday, December 8.

FINANCIAL

The September 2002 financial report was presented to the Board.

NEXT AGENDA/OTHER

C. Tefft requested an update on the status of the JROTC program. The Chair requested the Curriculum Council come back with a recommendation to the Board.

The Superintendent reminded the Board that it will meet in a work session from 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. on October 22 to discuss the Clipper Health Center.

The Chair reported that he asked Ms. Nancy Brown, Food Service Director, to address the Board on the subject of soda/juice and vending machines at the October 22 meeting.

The Board requested a work session, after the holiday season, to discuss the “No Child Left Behind Act.”

There was no further business to come before the Board. N. Craig moved, seconded by N. Clayburgh, the Board adjourn its meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

LBT/paw
10/9/02