

School Board Summary/Action Sheet

Date of Meeting: November 12, 2002

A regular meeting of the Portsmouth School Board was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2002 in the Council Chambers at the Portsmouth Municipal Complex.

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), Diane O'Leary McGee (Employee Representative), and Mrs. Ann Mayer (SAU 50 Representative)

Prior to the regular meeting, the Board held a non-public session in Conference Room A at the Municipal Complex. This non-public session was held in accordance with RSA 91-A :3 II. (c).

Actions Taken by the Board

Chair LaPage called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. He called for a moment of silent reflection and asked people to keep in mind the turmoil and uncertainty in the Middle East. Mr. LaPage said many families, including those of Board members, would be drastically affected should acts of war happen. The Chair also asked the Board to remember the veterans who served and protected our country. He extended his thanks and honor to Board member Charles Vaughn, a veteran of World War II.

Mr. Peter Bresciano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

J. Lyons moved, seconded by C. Hayward, to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2002 meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

Copies of the November school lunch menus were included in the Board packets.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION -- GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS

Mr. Peter Bresciano, 101 O'Leary Place, Portsmouth, spoke on the municipal tax rate, the spending of local government, and the amount of money that will be sent out of Portsmouth to support the Statewide property tax. Mr. Bresciano said that residents are finding it difficult to support increasing taxes.

Mr. Jim Noucas, Chair of the Greater Portsmouth Education Partnership Council (GPEPC) introduced Council members. Dr. Tracy reviewed the Council's membership. C. Tefft moved, seconded by N. Clayburgh, the reappointment of 18 members of GPEPC. The motion was unanimously approved. C. Tefft moved the Board accept the nomination of Tom Southworth, educator from SAU 50, to GPEPC; N. Craig seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. C. Tefft moved, seconded by C. Montminy, to add two students to the GPEPC membership. Motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Noucas reviewed the goals set by GPEPC for the 2002-03 school year. Council members Tom Southworth and Susan Rizkalla also addressed the Board on goals. Ellen Beck spoke on the GPEPC web-site.

Dave Holden, John Burke and Dave Allen from the City of Portsmouth presented a traffic and safety plan for the Portsmouth Middle School. John Stokel, Middle School Principal, answered questions from the Board. C. Vaughn moved that action on the plan be post-poned until the next meeting (November 26) to allow the City to have copies of the plan for the Board and to answer Board members' questions; C. Tefft seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Chair declared a recess at 8:39 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

PERSONNEL

Coaching election of Greg Cronauer as co-ed varsity swim coach was approved on a motion by N. Craig; seconded by N. Clayburgh and unanimously voted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint Building Committee – Chair LaPage reported the committee has not met since the last Board meeting. He presented an update on the construction at the High School.

Joint Loss Committee – J. Lyons reported on the meeting held last week. Representatives from Primex, the District's insurance provider, attended the meeting.

Curriculum Council: Dr. Lister reported on the Curriculum Council meetings of September and October. He reminded the Board that presentations for and against the JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp) will take place on November 21.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair LaPage asked the administration to assist him in promoting "Take A Vet to Lunch" for November 11, 2003. He stated that he would like the students to not only have a day off from school, but to use that day to reflect on the sacrifices made by the Veterans and to listen and learn from their stories.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

The second readings of policies were brought before the Board:

Advisory Committees to the Board: Vice-Chair Lyons expressed concern that some committees should be affected by a sunset clause. Dr. Tracy suggested number five read, "The approximate date on which the Board wishes to dissolve the committee, except that each advisory committee of the Board shall be automatically dissolved unless officially extended by the School Board." The policy will be returned to the Policy Committee for review.

School Visits: C. Tefft moved adoption of the policy; seconded by J. Lyons. Unanimously approved in roll call vote.

Participation in Community Life: C. Tefft moved adoption; seconded by J. Lyons. Unanimously approved in roll call vote.

Political Activities: N. Clayburgh moved adoption; seconded by J. Lyons. Unanimously approved in roll call vote.

Gifts from the Board: C. Tefft moved adoption; seconded by C. Montminy. Unanimously approved in roll call vote.

Dr. Tracy provided additional information to the Board on the "No Child Left Behind" Act.

C. Tefft reported on the NHSBA Delegate Assembly.

C. Tefft commented on the tireless efforts of Raimond Bowles while he served as a State Legislator. He said Representative Bowles, regardless of political affiliation, sought what was fair. Chair LaPage thanked Mr. Bowles on behalf of the Board and the residents of Portsmouth, and stated that he never missed a vote.

FINANCIAL

Mr. Torrey presented the October 2002 financial report.

Mr. Torrey presented a copy of the 02-03 tax rate information compared to 01-02.

Dr. Tracy reviewed a budget impact spreadsheet that he asked Mr. Torrey to prepare. The Superintendent stated the City is in a crisis due to the Statewide property tax, and this spreadsheet outlines the potential impact of various budget scenarios.

OTHER

N. Clayburgh informed the Board of the following:

The High School Drama Department will present "South Pacific" on November 21, 22, 23 and 24.

December 8th – fifth annual Holiday Home Tour to benefit the after-school enrichment programs at the three elementary schools and the Middle School. Tickets are \$12 per person.

Fundraising for the auditorium seats is moving along; however, more publicity is needed.

Dr. Tracy stated the New Hampshire PTA is holding its annual conference in Merrimack on November 15, 16, and 17. He will be presenting “Thinking Styles for Children” on Friday.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Board. C. Vaughn moved the Board adjourn its meeting; J. Lyons seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

LBT/paw
8/13/02