

School Board Summary/Action Sheet

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2003

A meeting of the Portsmouth School Board was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2003 in the Council Chambers at the Portsmouth Municipal Complex.

PRESENT: Chair Kent LaPage, Vice-Chair John Lyons, Jr., Raimond Bowles, Nancy Novelline Clayburgh, Nansi Craig, Clay Hayward, Colleen Montminy, Carvel Teff, 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)

Actions Taken by the Board

Chair LaPage called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. He called for a moment of silent reflection, and asked people to keep in mind those who are sick and those who have passed away within our school community. He also asked the Board to keep in mind those who are still serving our Country on foreign shores. City Councilor Harold Whitehouse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Hayward moved, seconded by Mrs. Montminy, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2003 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Vaughn moved, seconded by Mr. Hayward, the letter from George Hosker, Jr., Executive Director of the Prescott Park Arts Festival, be accepted and placed on file. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Vaughn moved, seconded by Mr. Hayward, the letter from Betsy Young, 410 F. W. Hartford Drive, Portsmouth, be accepted and placed on file. The Chair read Ms. Young's letter concerning the 2003-2004 school calendar. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Vaughn moved, seconded by Mr. Hayward, that the Board accept the letter from Mr. Carl Diemer, 313 Aldrich Road, Portsmouth, concerning the 2003-2004 school calendar and that a letter be sent to Mr. Diemer thanking him for his suggestions. The Chair read Mr. Diemer's letter. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION

Miss Maria Nocas and Miss Julie Wilson, members of the Class of 2005, informed the Board of a fundraiser for their class.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF/STUDENTS

Mr. Patrick Ganz, High School English teacher, and the seven students who traveled to Severodvinsk, Russia gave reported to the Board on the trip.

Mrs. Paulette Hoeflich, Student Services Director, and Mr. Steven Lichtenstein, Student Services Coordinator, presented a report on the special education department for the 2003 – 2004 school year.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Tefft moved, seconded by Mr. Hayward, the Board approve the leave of absence for Angela Manning-Welch for the 2003 – 2004 school year. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Tefft moved, seconded by Mrs. Montminy, to accept the resignation of Steven Lichtenstein with regret. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Montminy moved, seconded by Mrs. Clayburgh, the Board accept the resignation of Amber Chandler. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Tefft moved, seconded by Mrs. Montminy, the Board approve the election of James Johnston, James Keane, and Margaret Ronchi for the 2003 – 2004 school year. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Montminy moved, seconded by Mr. Hayward, the Board approve the nomination of Nicole Keil as an elementary teacher at New Franklin School for the 2003 – 2004 school year. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lister presented a spreadsheet of possible vacancies for the 2003 – 2004 school year.

Dr. Tracy reported on the position of behavior intervention specialist.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint Building Committee – report given by Chair LaPage

Business Collaborative – Mr. Vaughn moved the Superintendent send a letter of commendation to Ms. Erica Nelson for her initiative in writing and obtaining a grant for a bio-technology program. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Vaughn moved, seconded by Mrs. Craig, the list of meeting dates and locations for the 2003 – 2004 School Board meetings be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Vaughn moved the Board ratify the negotiated contract with the Association of Portsmouth Teachers and authorize the Board Chair to send it to the City Council for action. Mrs. Craig seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Vaughn moved the Board approve the first reading of the field trip policy; Mr. Tefft seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved in a roll call vote.

Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Mrs. Montminy, the first reading of the schedules policy be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Lyons moved, seconded by Mrs. Montminy, the Board approve the first reading of items B, C, and D (bomb threats, patriotism, and school calendar). The motion was unanimously approved in a roll call vote.

Mr. Tefft moved the Board vote to eliminate the policies (graduation, Pledge of Allegiance, minority issues, and school day) in a block; Mrs. Montminy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved in a roll call vote.

Mr. Lyons moved the Board approve the trust agreement negotiated with Attorney Pelech on behalf of the Wholey Trust. Mr. Bowles seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved in a roll call vote.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

(No action was taken.)

FINANCIAL

The Business Administrator reviewed the April 2003 financial report.

Mr. Bowles moved the Board accept the four-part recommendation of the Business Administrator for an amount not to exceed \$82,000 to continue with Minolta Business Solutions of Salem, New Hampshire under a municipal lease-to-purchase agreement no less than 36 months and no greater than 48 months. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved in a roll call vote.

NEXT AGENDA

The next meeting of the School Board will be on May 27 at Little Harbour School. Mrs. Clayburgh requested some of the eighth graders who went to Washington, D.C. give a report to the Board.

The Chair reminded Board members of the following: to complete the Superintendent's evaluation; the retirement dinner for Rick Gremlitz on May 15; and the FUTURES dinner scheduled for May 22.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Vaughn, seconded by Mrs. Clayburgh, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn its meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

LBT/paw
5/14/03