

**Portsmouth School Board
Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

Minutes of the July 8, 2003 Meeting

A meeting of the Portsmouth School Board was held on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 in the Council Chambers Room at Portsmouth City Hall.

Attendance

PRESENT: Mr. Kent F. 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. Adam Irish (Student Representative)

Non-Public Session

Prior to the regular meeting, the Board met in non-public session at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. The non-public session was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The Chair called the regular meeting of the Portsmouth School Board to order at 7:08 p.m. He called for a moment of silent reflection, and asked that people keep in mind Dave Keitt, Safety Coordinator at Portsmouth High School, who recently underwent surgery and is home doing extremely well. Mr. LaPage said the Board hopes to see Dave back on duty in a short period of time. Mrs. Montminy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

***Letter re: Status of
Girls' Lacrosse
Team***

The Chair said he has received a letter from Louise Duprey, President of the Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Booster Club, requesting the team be given varsity status. The Chair stated, at the Superintendent's request, the letter will be forward to Forrest Ransdell, High School Principal, for him to start working on it and report back to the Board.

Minutes Approved

The Chair called for approval of the minutes of the June 24, 2003 meeting. Mr. Tefft moved, seconded by Mrs. Montminy, the minutes be approved as written. The motion was unanimously approved; Mrs. Craig abstained from voting.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION

Comments About Baseball Field

Mr. Peter Bresciano, 101 O'Leary Place, Portsmouth, speaking on behalf of the Seacoast Adult Baseball League, said that next year's program all hinged on this year's playing, especially at the high school varsity baseball field. Mr. Bresciano credited Drs. Tracy and Lister, and School Department staff, particularly Arthur Ashley, for ensuring the field is in playable condition. Mr. Bresciano said that, except for one time, he has not had to use his rake to prepare the field. He commended Mr. Ashley for having the field ready for a Saturday morning game following torrential downpours on Friday. He said Mr. Ashley had spent three hours on Friday evening dragging all the water off the baseball field after it stopped raining. Mr. Bresciano said three games were played on the field that Saturday. He said the League has about 15 to 20 more games to be played on that field, and he expects each one will probably be as enjoyable as the ones in the past.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF/STUDENTS

There were no staff or student presentations to come before the Board.

PERSONNEL

Resignation of School Board Member

Chair LaPage read a letter from Colleen Montminy, in which she resigns from the School Board as of July 16, 2003. Mrs. Montminy will be moving to Florida. He called for a motion to accept the letter. Mr. Vaughn moved the Board accept the resignation of Colleen Montminy with great regret, and added that she has done a great job on the Portsmouth School Board. Mr. Bowles seconded the motion. The Chair allowed comments from the Board.

Mrs. Clayburgh said Colleen is an outstanding Board member and is a pleasure to work with. Mrs. Clayburgh said she will certainly miss Colleen as a friend as well as a school board member.

Mr. Lyons said that whenever Colleen said something, it was worth listening to. He said he will miss her insight and wished her the best in her new place.

Mr. Hayward said it has been a pleasure working with Colleen, and that she will be missed.

Mrs. Craig said she will miss Colleen. She is sure Colleen has an exciting future, and she wished her well.

***Resignation of
School Board
Member (con't.)***

Mr. Bowles said he served on the School Board with Colleen's father, Harry MacLeod, many years ago. He said Colleen has carried that tradition and he enjoyed getting to know her while she served on the Board.

Mr. LaPage said Colleen made a personal and hard decision. He said there are no wrong decisions in life; and this is one that she and her family decided to do. He said Colleen's leaving is unfortunate for the City of Portsmouth, as she has done so much as a Board member. The Chair said he remembers Colleen hanging around with his younger sister when they were little. He credited her teamwork with fellow Board members and her efforts in working with people from the Cat's Meow to make available to the graduating seniors a replica of the new Portsmouth High School. Mr. LaPage said that Colleen's decision-making on the Board and her keeping in mind the younger students and parents ensured that Portsmouth is a full school system. He said her efforts did not go unnoticed.

The Chair stated he will hand-deliver Mrs. Montminy's resignation to the City Clerk tomorrow morning. The City Clerk's office will work on determining who will replace Colleen.

Dr. Tracy said since 1989 he has worked with 151 school board members, and Colleen has been one of the best. She consistently has brought a unique perspective to the Board, particularly on issues involving the younger students. He said she will be missed, and he thanked her for her contribution to the children.

In a roll call vote, Mrs. Montminy's letter of resignation was accepted 8-0-1 (Mr. Bowles, Mrs. Clayburgh, Mrs. Craig, Mr. Hayward, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Tefft, Mr. Vaughn and Mr. LaPage voted for the motion; Mrs. Montminy abstained from voting).

Chair LaPage handed the gavel to Vice-Chair Lyons.

***Professional
Nominations***

Dr. Lister presented the nomination of Christine Stilwell, teacher at PASS, for the 2003-04 school year. Mrs. Montminy moved, seconded by Mrs. Craig, the nomination be approved. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lister presented the nomination of Michael Deragon to the position of teacher at PASS for the 2003-04 school year. Mrs. Montminy moved, seconded by Mrs. Clayburgh, the nomination be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lister presented the nomination of Kathleen Otoka Gibbs to the position of English teacher at Portsmouth High School for the 2003-04 school year. Mrs. Montminy moved the nomination be approved;

***Professional
Nominations
(con't.)***

seconded by Mr. Hayward. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lister presented the nomination of Michael Mayo to the position of physical education teacher at Portsmouth High School for the 2003-04 school year. Mrs. Montminy moved the nomination be approved; seconded by Mrs. Clayburgh. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lister presented the nomination of Georgina K. Rodriguez-LaPage, APRN, BC, to the position of school nurse at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2003-04 school year. Mrs. Montminy moved the nomination be approved; Mrs. Clayburgh seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Mr. LaPage abstained from voting).

Dr. Lister presented the nomination of Martha A. Waterman, RN, C, to the position of school nurse at Little Harbour School for the 2003-04 school year. Mrs. Montminy moved the nomination be approved; Mrs. Clayburgh seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lister presented the nomination of Lori D. Williams to the position of fifth grade teacher at the Mary C. Dondero Elementary School for the 2003-04 school year. Mrs. Montminy moved the nomination be approved; Mrs. Clayburgh seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Lister presented a request for a leave of absence for the 2003-04 school year from Donna Schefer. Mrs. Montminy moved the request be approved; Mrs. Clayburgh seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Assistant Superintendent referred to a list of possible professional openings remaining in the Portsmouth School Department. He said interviews are ongoing and they are moving forward in finding quality teachers.

Dr. Tracy stated he is pleased to recommend to the Board that they offer another contract to Robert J. Lister as Assistant Superintendent for the 2003-04 school year. Mrs. Montminy moved the Board approve the nomination of Dr. Lister as Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Lyons seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Tracy said he is pleased to nominate W. Peter Torrey as Business Administrator for the 2003-04 school year. Mr. Vaughn moved the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation of W. Peter Torrey as Business Administrator for the 2003-04 school year; Mr.

***Professional
Nominations***

Lyons seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

***Sub-Committee of
Recreation Board to
Review Use of
Fields by Out-of-
Townners***

Recreation Board – Chair LaPage reported a sub-committee of the City’s Recreation Board is being formed to look at the issue out-of-town usage of our athletic fields. He said this does not impact the District’s contract with SAU 50, but refers to occasional usage from outside the City. Mr. LaPage said he is willing to serve on that committee, and he asked that another Board member, preferably one serving on the Athletic Committee, join him. He said Mr. Carl Diemer is heading up this sub-committee and will get back to people with dates and times for meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

***Agreement with
Executive Health &
Sports Center***

Dr. Tracy recommended the Board approve the proposed, tentative agreement with the administrators’ association, the terms of which were discussed in non-public session.

Mr. Bowles moved the Board, upon the recommendation of the School Board’s Negotiating Team, approve the five-year collective bargaining agreement between the Association of Portsmouth School Administrators and the Portsmouth School Board, and submit the agreement to the Portsmouth City Council for consideration of cost items. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved. The Chair stated the agreement will be forwarded to the City Council. He will keep the Board informed as to when it will be brought before the Council.

An agreement between the Portsmouth School Department and the Executive Health & Sports Center to enter into an agreement to allow the school district to promote community outreach by allowing team-building exercises on the ropes course at Portsmouth High School was presented for approval. Dr. Tracy said he endorses the program as it is a good community outreach program; he recommended the Board authorize him to enter into this agreement.

Mr. Vaughn moved the Board approve the agreement that has been drafted by our Assistant City Attorney Kathleen Dwyer with the Executive Health and Sports Center. Mrs. Montminy seconded the motion.

Mrs. Craig questioned if the Executive Health and Sports Center would be liable should there be damage to the equipment. The Chair

***Agreement
Approved***

said the responsibility is addressed within the contract. Mr. LaPage said that Mr. Daubney, the instructor, will report to the school district if there is any damage to the equipment. Dr. Tracy said the school district has agreed to maintain the equipment, and the fees from participants will assist in this. In a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

***Policy Book
Updates***

Mr. Tefft inquired about the status of updating the policy book. The Superintendent stated they plan to set a new schedule to resume work on this book. The Committee had been meeting the third Tuesday of each month. Mrs. Craig, Chair of the Policy Committee, said the meeting in June was cancelled due to end-of-year school activities. Chair LaPage stated the word is out that the Portsmouth School Board is updating its policy book and has worked over the years on ensuring that policies are current; a board member from Sanborn recently asked him for a copy of Portsmouth's policy book.

***PTSA Meeting at
Portsmouth High
School, July 17***

Mrs. Clayburgh reminded the Board, parents, students and teachers to come to a meeting of the PTSA (Parents, Teachers, and Students Association) that will be held on July 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library. They will meet with the new high school principal, Forrest Ransdell, about student issues. Mrs. Clayburgh said they will discuss how parents can get involved in the schools in working with drug and alcohol problems as well as other issues.

New PHS Principal

Mr. LaPage formally recognized that Mr. Ransdell has been on board for eight days. The Chair has found Mr. Ransdell to be extremely busy. He said the meeting on the 17th would be a good opportunity for people to meet Mr. Ransdell.

FINANCIAL

There was no financial business to come before the Board.

NEXT AGENDA

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Portsmouth School Board will be on Tuesday, August 12, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

OTHER

***Student Trip to
Costa Rica***

Mrs. Clayburgh reported her daughter is traveling in Costa Rica with the group of students from the high school's Environmental Club. She said her daughter has called home a couple of times. The students have been extremely busy and are having a wonderful time. She said the trip is indeed a scientific trip. The students are expected home on Saturday.

***High School and
Middle School
Graduations***

Dr. Lister said the end of the school year is very busy. He acknowledged the high school and middle school graduations. Dr. Lister said the High School graduated over 200 students, and it was a class event in this community. He said the administration, faculty, students and community came together for this event. He thanked the area merchants for their donations of raffle prizes for Celebration Graduation. Dr. Lister said the event at Portsmouth Middle School was also a class event due to the dedication of Principal John Stokel and his staff. He said this was a time for the community and families to come together for a very appropriate celebration. Dr. Lister said the middle school graduation is a great transition for the eighth grade students as they prepare to attend Portsmouth High School.

Mr. LaPage said he has had the honor of handing out the diplomas for the last four years. He said this year, every student that received a diploma said "thank you." Mr. LaPage said this shows the students are raised well in Portsmouth.

Adjournment

There was no further business to come before the Board. The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Vaughn moved, seconded by Mrs. Craig, the Board adjourn its meeting. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyonel B. Tracy, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary