

**Portsmouth School Board
Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 4, 2005

A special meeting of the Portsmouth School Board was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2005 in the Board Room at Little Harbour School.

Attendance

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

PARTICIPATING: Dr. Robert J. Lister (Superintendent of Schools), Mr. Stephen Zadavec (Assistant Superintendent)

Work Session

Prior to the special meeting, the School Board met in a work session with members of the Elementary Report Card Committee. The work session began at 6:15 p.m. and was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Call to Order

Chair LaPage called the special meeting of the Portsmouth School Board to order at 8:07 p.m.

Letters Accepted

The Board accepted a letter from Heidi DiPietro, Lisa Sweet, Leslie Stevens, and Xanthi Gray (Parent Representatives to the Little Harbour School Teaching and Learning Team) expressing support for the elementary progress report that is proposed to be piloted this year.

The Board also accepted a letter from Leslie Stevens, Chair of the Little Harbour School PTA, expressing the support of the PTA to pilot new report cards at the elementary level.

***Elementary
Progress Reports***

Mrs. Clayburgh moved the School Board, based on the recommendation of the Report Card Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, approve the one-year proposal and that it be reviewed in June 2006 with comments and suggestions to be forwarded to the Board for its July meeting. Mr. Hayward seconded the motion. After further discussion, Mr. Vaughn requested the motion be amended to read the piloting would be done in grades kindergarten through two only, and that it be a trimester report card.

***Elementary
Progress Reports
(cont.)***

Mrs. Clayburgh agreed to the amendment; Mr. Hayward also agreed to the amendment. The motion, as amended, was defeated in a seven to two roll call vote (Mr. Vaughn and Mrs. Walker voted for the motion; Mr. Bowles, Mrs. Clayburgh, Mrs. Craig, Mr. Hayward, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Tefft, and Mr. LaPage voted against the motion).

***Pilot Program
Approved***

A roll call vote on Mrs. Clayburgh's original motion (seconded by Mr. Hayward) to pilot the progress reports for grades kindergarten through five for the 2005-2006 school year was unanimously approved. It was decided that the issue of the frequency of report cards would be referred to the Policy Committee for discussion.

***NHIAA
Classifications***

The Chair reviewed a letter from High School Principal Forrest Ransdell and Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Mike McKenney to members of the NHIAA (New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association) outlining a proposal to develop a realigned classification system consisting of five classes.

The Chair also reviewed a letter that he would like to send to the Executive Director of the NHIAA from the School Board concerning a change in classifications in order to properly align schools for athletic competitions. Mr. Tefft stated this is a very complex issue, and he does not support sending a letter from the School Board; however, he does support the position taken by Mr. Ransdell and Mr. McKenney. Mr. Hayward said that if the Board should agree to send a letter, there should be a unanimous vote of the Board to do so.

Mrs. Clayburgh said the student athletes need to play teams from schools of similar size. She moved the Board authorize its Chair to write a letter to the NHIAA, specifically to its Director, Jim Desmarais, with copies sent to the School Board, the New Hampshire School Boards Association, and the New Hampshire School Administrators Association. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

The special meeting of the Board was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Lister, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary