

Approved by the School Board August 12, 2008

Portsmouth School Board Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Minutes of the July 8, 2008 Meeting

A meeting of the Portsmouth School Board was held on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers, City Hall

Attendance **PRESENT:** Dr. Mitchell Shuldman (Chair), Mr. Brendan Ristaino (Vice-Chair), Ms. Rebecca Emerson, Ms. Sheri Ham Garrity, Mr. Kent F. LaPage, Mr. Dexter Legg, Mrs. Leslie Stevens, Mrs. Lisa Sweet, Mrs. Ann Walker

PARTICIPATING: Dr. Robert J. Lister (Superintendent of Schools), Mr. Stephen Zdravec (Assistant Superintendent), Mr. Stephen T. Bartlett (Business Administrator), Mrs. Helen Maldini (SAU 50 Representative)

Call to Order Chair Shuldman called the regular meeting of the Portsmouth School Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Moment of Silent Reflection and Pledge of Allegiance Chair Shuldman called for a moment of silent reflection, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Lister asked that during the silent reflection we remember Mr. John O'Connell who passed away, the father of Tony O'Connell and grandfather of Eddie O'Connell members of our maintenance, custodial and security staff.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the June 24th School Board meeting were presented for approval. Mr. LaPage made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Walker. The motion was unanimously approved.

The minutes of the May 20th Work Session were presented for approval. Mr. LaPage made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Walker. Mrs. Emerson made a motion to remove the last sentence under *Call to Order*. Ms. Garrity seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Garrity also added that she and Mr. LaPage should be noted as being present. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

It was also discussed that future Work Session minutes will only include those present, those participating and the topics.

Diana Anderson

Communications

Dr. Lister presented a letter from Diana Anderson thanking the board for inviting she and her family to the retirement reception.

*Committee
Assignments*

Dr. Lister presented the updated list of School Board Committee Assignments.

*Off-Campus
Parental permission
form.*

Dr. Lister presented a copy of the form that is signed by parents to allow Seniors and some Juniors off-campus privilege. At the August 12th School Board meeting Mr. Jeff Collins, High School Principal, will be present to answer any questions about off-campus privileges. He, along with Ms. Susan Birrell, Technology Director, will also be available to discuss the Technology Plan including Infinite Campus and Virtual High School. The lunch program will also be discussed. Dr. Lister asked that Board members submit questions to him in advance so Mr. Collins and Ms. Susan Birrell can answer these questions at the August 12th meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

Elections and resignations will be presented at the August 12th Board Meeting.

FINANCIAL

End of Year

Mr. Bartlett stated that it is too early to give a final report of the year-end financials. Maintenance was over spent about \$100,000 but this can be offset by savings in other areas. Heating costs were less due to the mild weather and a multi year gas contract. General fund and Grant funds are in good shape according to Mr. Bartlett. An audit is being completed tomorrow on the Food Service department with reports ready for the audit. Expenses are slightly above revenue. Mr. Bartlett is looking into ways to assist the Food Service Program expense relief. An area of concern is the fuel/gas costs. In addition there are on-going discussions with First Student on changing the buses to bio-diesel.

Mr. Bartlett also stated that the first report on the July expense will be in the new format as agreed on previously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY SESSION

There were no speakers signed up for the Public Commentary Session..

AGENDA

- Board Retreat:*** The date for the School Board Retreat will be August 2, 2009 in the Portsmouth High School Conference room from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Dr. Shuldman asked all Board members to send to Dr. Lister a list of short and long-term goals.
- Work Session:*** The date for the next work session will be Tuesday, August 5th at City Hall and it will be televised.
- School Board Meeting:*** The next school board meeting will be Tuesday, August 12th at City Hall and televised.
- Off-Campus:*** Ms. Emerson asked about the liability of students being off campus. Dr. Lister will ask for a legal opinion from our Legal Department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Athletic Field:*** Mr. LaPage thanked Dr. Lister, Maintenance Director Kenny Linchey, Athletic Director Rus Wilson for assisting in the placement of the long awaited Memorial Rock at the entrance to the High School Athletic Field. He and Dr. Lister also thanked Peter Anania for assisting in the purchase of this Rock which has a plaque honoring longtime teacher and track coach Mr. Mike Grogan.

NEXT AGENDA

Ms. Susan Birrell, Technology Director, will update the Board on the Technology plan, Infinite Campus, and Virtual High School.

Mr. Jeff Collins, Principal, will speak about the lunch privileges.

Ms. Garrity asked that Mr. Collins and Ms. Birrell be able to discuss the lunch program, including a survey that Ms. Pat Laska, Food Service Director, would like to distribute.

ADJOURNMENT

- Adjournment*** There was no further business to come before the Board. On a motion by Vice-Chair Ristaino, seconded by Ms. Garrity, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Robert J. Lister
Executive Secretary