

SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

School Board Retreat

8/2/2008 8:30 AM

PHS Conference Room

School Board Members Present: Dr. Mitchell Shuldman (Chair), Mr. Brendan Ristaino (Vice Chair), Ms. Rebecca Emerson, Ms. Ann Walker, Mr. Dexter Legg, Ms. Lisa Sweet, Ms. Leslie Stevens, Ms. Sheri Ham Garrity.

School Board Members Absent: Kent LaPage

Staff Present: Dr. Robert J. Lister, (Superintendent of Schools), Mr. Stephen Zadavec (Assistant Superintendent), Mr. Stephen Bartlett, (Business Administrator).

I. Call to Order

Dr. Mitchell Shuldman called the work session to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Introduction

Chair Shuldman said the purpose of the retreat was to update progress on the 2008 Board objectives and to consider new strategies in achieving them. The 2008 objectives below were discussed:

1. Developing a 5-year plan for program development and curriculum revision, guided by a vision of learner expectations for graduating 12th graders.
2. Develop a strategic plan in Technology focused on a vision for broad integration.
3. Create an Ad Hoc committee with representation from a variety of stakeholders to explore issues related to Special Education and report back to the school board with the goal of engaging the community in developing a shared knowledge of special education programs and clear recommendations regarding costs, funding, best practices and success in student achievement.
4. Communicate the educational needs and process associated with the renovation of the current middle school with clarity and transparency.
5. Develop a Quality Educational Metrics Index including, but not limited to per pupil ratios, class size, dropout rates, student assessments, and budget allocations as a way of creating a clear criteria for spending priorities.
6. Develop specific strategies for improving communication and community relations including frequent communication about Portsmouth schools and opportunities to engage the community in conversation about school related issues.

7. Collaborate with departments citywide to bring greater benefit to the community through maximizing efficiency and cost effectiveness of resources.

In addition to the update on Board objectives, there was discussion on the following items:

III. Administrative Vacancies

There was general discussion regarding the process and timeline for upcoming administrative searches.

VII. School Field Trips

There was discussion regarding the approval and reporting of field trips.

VIII. Teacher Evaluation

There was discussion regarding the process of teacher evaluation and the various roles of administrators.

IX. AREA Agreement

There was discussion about the timeline for clarifications to the existing AREA Agreement.

X. Lunch Program

The structure and sustainability of the lunch program was discussed.

XI. School Culture

There was discussion on how to support a positive school culture.

XII. Criminal Records Check

The process and requirements for criminal records checks was clarified.

XIII. New Teacher Orientation

There was an update on new teacher orientation.

XIV. Substitute Orientation

There was an update on substitute orientation.

XV. Summer Professional Development

There was an update on summer professional development.

XVI. Professional Learning Communities

There was an update on district work regarding professional learning communities.

XVII. Opening Day

There was an update regarding opening date.

XVIII. Adjournment

At 3:30 p.m., Dr. Mitchell Shuldman closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steve Zadravec
Assistant Superintendent