

Public Invited to Middle School Project Update

PORTSMOUTH –

The public is invited to learn more about the progress, process and timeline for the Portsmouth Middle School Building Project at an April 28 information session hosted by the PMS Joint Building Committee.

The information session will be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Little Theater at Portsmouth High School.

The public will be updated on the \$37.5 million expansion and renovation project; meet the Project Team, including the architects and construction manager; preview the design; and receive answers to their questions about the reconstruction that will add approximately 30,000 square feet to the current footprint of the 80-year-old Middle School on Parrot Avenue.

The information session will be taped and available afterward in the “webcast archives” section of the City’s website, www.CityofPortsmouth.com. The tape also will be broadcast, along with the Joint Building Committee’s planned May 5 meeting, on local government access cable Channel 22 on Saturday, May 8, beginning at 7 p.m.

Gilbane Building Company, one of New England’s largest providers of construction management services, will lead the building team for the project expected to be completed by September 2013. The company will work with Connecticut-based JCJ Architects’ Jim LaPosta and Doug Roberts, as well as local architect Lisa DeStefano, to create a “High Performance” school that is environmentally sensitive and substantially more energy-efficient while preserving the historic façade of the current building.

The City Council approved a \$37.5 million bond for the project last summer after a six-year decision-making process. Part of the project will involve Alumni Field land so a new softball field will be built on Granite Street and the Portsmouth High School football field will be upgraded to synthetic turf to accommodate additional usage from PMS athletes.

The nine-member Joint Building Committee is comprised of members of the City Council, School Board and local residents, and includes four additional ex-officio members from the City and School Departments. The JBC also has scheduled 6:30 p.m. meetings May 5 and May 19 in the Library’s Levenson Room.