

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES FOR APRIL 13, 2010

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COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010

TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: DR. MITCHELL SHULDMAN (CHAIR), ANN WALKER (VICE-CHAIR), ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), DEXTER LEGG, KENT LAPAGE, CAROL CHELLMAN, REBECCA EMERSON, LISA SWEET, LESLIE STEVENS, TOM MARTIN, LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE) AND PHIL BOYNTON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

Absent:

**III. INVOCATION**

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Shuldman led in the pledge of allegiance.

**V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

a. MARCH 9, 2010 NON –PUBLIC (SEALED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE)

**MOTION:** Mr. LaPage

**SECOND:** Mr. Legg

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

b. MARCH 9, 2010 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

**MOTION:** Mr. LaPage

**SECOND:** Ms. Emerson

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

c. MARCH 23, 2010 NON-PUBLIC (SEALED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE)

**MOTION:** Ms. Walker

**SECOND:** Mr. LaPage

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

d. MARCH 23, 2010 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

**MOTION:** Ms. Walker

**SECOND:** Mr. Legg

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Zelita Morgan – 39 Richards Avenue. Ms. Morgan requested that all School Board meetings be televised. Ms. Morgan believes that by holding meetings at city hall, the Board will achieve its goal of better communication between the Board and the community.

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## **VII. SPECIAL/EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

- a. NANCY MODERN – INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE FIELD TRIPS – In February, Portsmouth High students participated in two trips abroad; one to France/Belgium and the other to Spain. Ms. Modern stated that all students showed to be fine examples of what a global citizen should be.

The students who traveled to Paris and Belgium were: Caroline Vorce, Casey Nulph, Lisa Harning, Nicole Milad, Joey McMahon, Darcy Peyser, William Clarkson, Linnea Kaye, Ben McCormack, Christina Helm, Elizabeth Harvey, Susan Harvey and Sachi Nagada.

Students who traveled to Spain were: Hannah Feintuch, Julia Vaillancourt, Eilee Foley, Emily Bates, Erin Hayes, Tessa Fagin, Kathryn Chisholm, April Kosefeski, Macy Howarth and Sam Allen. Students were welcomed into Spanish homes, traveled with families and attended local schools. Both groups shared pictures with the School Board and highlights of their trips.

- b. NAT HEARD – DAIRY COUNCIL COMMERCIAL – Kent LaPage and Nat Heard presented a commercial filmed at Portsmouth High School using track athletes to promote the consumption of milk. This commercial is sponsored by the New Hampshire Dairy Association. A student received a full scholarship to Emerson College, due to his work at PHS in Mr. Heard's TV Production/Media Technology Class. Mr. Heard's class has produced a motorcycle commercial that is now being televised on television and cable. (ESPN, Food Network, Nickelodeon and others)

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. ELEMENTARY LUNCH MENU
- ii. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE, APRIL 2010
- iii. PORTSMOUTH'S EDUCATION FUNDING UPDATE – PAT REMICK
- iv. DONDERO FIELD TRIP
- v. NOTIFICATION OF RESIGNATIONS
  1. ELIZABETH HUMPHREYS (PEEP)
  2. GWENDOLYN BAKER (PSD CHORAL DIRECTOR)
  3. DAVID COOK (HEAD CUSTODIAN, DONDERO)
- vi. MOLLY FRENCH – NOTICE OF MATERNITY LEAVE
- vii. NEW FRANKLIN GAZETTE
- viii. DONDERIFFIC! NEWSLETTER
- ix. NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BOARD LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN – Mr. McDonough drew attention to May 13<sup>th</sup>. "Greater Portsmouth Community Night" will be presenting a program at Portsmouth High School regarding cyber bullying.
- x. QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD FROM CITY COUNCIL-Answers to City Councilor's questions were shared in draft form. Answers are due Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McDonough encouraged Board members to read and provide input before the final draft is sent.
- xi. LETTER FROM DR. SHULDMAN TO CITY COUNCIL RE: FY 11 BUDGET

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- xii. LETTER TO THE EDITOR – ALISON FORBES
- xiii. LETTER TO THE EDITOR – SCOTT MCKEE
- xiv. FINANCE COMMITTEE CHARTER DRAFT
- xv. 2010 RETIREMENTS: 2010 Retirements were shared with Board members by Assistant Superintendent, Steve Zdravec.
- xvi. DISTRICT REPORTS:

- 1. NANCY ROY – PRINCIPAL, RJL ACADEMY – Principal Roy shared the following update with the Board:

The Robert J. Lister Academy had the honor of receiving the President's Community Partner Award from Great Bay Community College. This award and others are sponsored by the Campus Compact for New Hampshire, a consortium of NH colleges and universities. Bryan Mascio, (college transition course teacher), one of our students in the college transition program, and Principal Roy were treated to a wonderful luncheon and award ceremony at the Crown Plaza in Nashua. It was a nice affirmation of the work being accomplished.

RJL Academy's SMART Goal: All students will reduce the number of developmental courses required for them, as indicated by their pre/post accuplacer scores.

At the end of semester 1, staff re-assessed students using the accuplacer and found that 42% of students had reduced their developmental courses by one course. The Academy was also pilot testing the advancer learner program, which is aligned to the accuplacer test and compared accuplacer scores prior to the advancer learner program and after the advancer learner program. Principal Roy found a significant bump in scores, especially in math for 68% of students.

Unfortunately, even with that amount of point movement, 26% of students still were unable to make the cut score for the next level of developmental course. 32% made minimal movement on the accuplacer scores and had similar low scores in both math and reading. This group of students needs the most intensive skill intervention to move their learning forward.

- 2. JOHN STOKEL – PRINCIPAL, PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL – Principal Stokel shared the following information with the Board:

A letter was received from Johns Hopkins University:

*We'd like to share some good news with you. Portsmouth Middle School is a "Top 10 School" for the state of New Hampshire in the 2009 Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Talent Search. We hope this achievement will be a source of pride for you, your staff, students and families.*

*We're very thankful for your participation, of course, but we are also mindful of what this award says about your school. It means your academic program is producing a high number of high-achieving students. It also indicates that you look out for your students' best interests by recommending other resources (like CTY) for them and their families to investigate.*

Mr. Stokel then provided Board members with some school highlights and an update on PLC's (Professional Learning Communities).

3. PAULA WENSLEY – DIRECTOR, SPECIAL SERVICES – Ms. Wensley shared an update on PLC’s from elementary schools, the Portsmouth Middle School and Portsmouth High School’s Special Educational staff members.
4. S. BARTLETT – MARCH FINANCIALS – Mr. Bartlett provided the latest month’s financial update.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICY (GCO), EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

**MOTION:** Ms. Stevens

**SECOND:** Ms. Emerson

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Roll Call Vote, Unanimously Approved

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF 2010-2011 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

**MOTION:** Ms. Walker motioned that the School Board meeting dates, as listed, (second and fourth Tuesdays of each month) be approved. (July and August dates to be determined by administration)

**SECOND:** Mr. Legg

**DISCUSSION:** Chair Shuldman explained that School Board meeting dates, locations and whether or not to televise will be voted on in three sections.

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

**MOTION:** Ms. Chellman motions that the School Board tour each school once per year at a time selected to be convenient to that school’s community, such as a PTA meeting, open house or other event.

**SECOND:** Ms. Emerson

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Legg stated that this would qualify as a meeting if it contained a quorum. Ms. Briolat cautioned against planning a School Board tour on nights of other events. Ms. Sweet preferred to coordinate school tours or special student presentation into meetings already scheduled. Mr. LaPage stated that this would calculate to 28 or 29 meetings per year if this motion passed.

**VOTE:** Roll Call Vote: Yes: Ms. Emerson, Ms. Chellman and Mr. Martin. No: Mr. Legg, Vice Chair Walker, Chair Shuldman, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Sweet and Mr. LaPage. Motion Fails.

- b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ALL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS BEING TELEVISED

**MOTION:** Ms. Walker motions that all School Board meetings be either televised or recorded.

**SECOND:** Mr. LaPage

**DISCUSSION:** Cost to tape each meeting at off site locations will be discussed with Mr. Brady and Mr. Bohenko. The Board will also work with Mr. Brady to assess what times make the most sense to air the taped meetings on Channel 22. Audio quality will also be addressed.

**VOTE:** Unanimously approved

c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING LOCATIONS

**MOTION:** Ms. Walker motions that on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, the Portsmouth School Board hold a regularly scheduled Board meeting in one of Portsmouth's six schools.

**SECOND:** Ms. Stevens

**DISCUSSION:** There are 18 school board meetings per year and 6 will be held in school buildings.

**VOTE:** Roll Call Vote: Yes: Ms. Stevens, Ms. Sweet, Chair Shuldman, Mr. LaPage, and Vice Chair Walker NO: Ms. Emerson, Mr. Martin, Mr. Legg, and Ms. Chellman: Vote passes

d. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF MUSIC TEACHER NOMINATION: MS GINA CONNOLLY

**MOTION:** Motion to approve Ms. Gina Connolly by Mr. LaPage

**SECOND:** Ms. Stevens

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

e. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

1. DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY
2. DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL NUTRITION
3. TEACHER

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the above job descriptions as a block by Mr. LaPage

**SECOND:** Ms. Walker

**DISCUSSION:** Chair Shuldman requested that a correction to the Director of Technology title be changed within the body.

**VOTE:** Pending above change, unanimously approved

## XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS


- a. JBC – Committee is working on the schematic design, the Granite Street Field and PHS Turf Field. The JBC is on schedule to have Granite Street Field playable by the summer of 2011 and the turf field playable immediately following Labor Day of 2010. On April 28, there will be a public information session at PHS Little Theatre from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. where JCJ will preview the design not yet voted on. Mr. Legg encouraged Board members to attend. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, JCJ and Gilbane will present their phasing plan with several options and costs associated with each option. Mr. Legg requested that Board members attend this meeting.

At the Portsmouth School Board's regularly scheduled meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>, the JBC anticipated requesting that the full Board take action on the recommended phasing plan presented on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

- b. POLICY – The Policy Committee is in the process of reviewing a number of policies that will be presented in May for their first reading.
- c. FACILITIES – The Facilities Committee anticipated receiving the next \$25k from the City's CIP to fund the assessment of all three elementary facilities. Assessment of the three facilities will include: analysis, mechanical, plumbing, codes, whether the buildings are compliant and if spaces meet the Department of Education's specifications.
- d. Mr. LaPage requested that if necessary, the Board include a budget session at its next scheduled Board meeting.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Walker, Unanimous at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Ed McDonough  
Superintendent of Schools