

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR AUGUST 16, 2011**

LITTLE HARBOUR ELEMENTARY CONFERENCE ROOM

PORTSMOUTH, NH

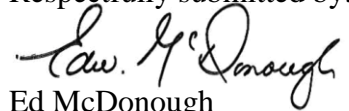
DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011

TIME: 7:30PM [or thereafter]

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Shuldman called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.
- II. ROLL CALL** - MITCHELL SHULDMAN (BOARD CHAIR), ANN WALKER (VICE CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG, REBECCA EMERSON, TOM MARTIN, KENT LAPAGE, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), AND LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE).
- III. INVOCATION**
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Shuldman led in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT** – The following community members addressed the Board during public comment: Mr. Patrick Ellis - 235 McKinley Road, Mr. Michael Barker - 5 Hancock Street, Mr. Martin Cameron - 469 Ocean Road, Ms. Michelle Gauron - 85 Aldrich Road, Ms. Amy Thompson - 98 FW Hartford Drive and Ms. Zelita Morgan - 39 Richards Avenue.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
- a. **SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP** – “SCHOOL CHOICE” – Superintendent McDonough summarized a PowerPoint presentation provided to parents on August 11, 2011 explaining state policy and guidance on *School Choice* regulations. Assistant Superintendent Zadravec addressed the progress made at all three elementary schools in school improvement and professional development. All data shows that historical differences are closing. After a lengthy discussion, the following motion was made:
- MOTION: Motion to approve school administration’s request to hire six (6) paraprofessionals at Little Harbour Elementary to support increased sizes by Mr. Legg  
SECOND: Mr. Martin  
DISCUSSION: Board members noted four areas: First, Little Harbour needs to effectively absorb 36 students by adding paraprofessional support. Second, the Board needs to aggressively seek a waiver for SINI. Third, the Board needs to understand exactly what is going on at Dondero and come up with an action plan to resolve the issue. Fourth, the Board needs to look more carefully at redistricting and reaffirm that, indeed, the Portsmouth School Department does not need to redistrict.  
VOTE: Roll Call 6 Aye, (LS, RE, CH Absent)
- VII. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 8:32 pm by Mr. Martin, second by Ann Walker. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Ed McDonough  
Superintendent of Schools