

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 11, 2011

CITY HALL, EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011

TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

I. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL – MITCH SHULDMAN (CHAIR), ANN WALKER (CO-CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG, TOM MARTIN, CLAY HAYWARD, LESLIE STEVENS, KENT LAPAGE, REBECCA EMERSON, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR) STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT) AND ELIZABETH BOYNTON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

III. INVOCATION

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

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

a. SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 PUBLIC MINUTES

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of September 27, 2011 by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Emerson

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – Ms. Mary Olea of 379 New Castle Avenue introduced herself and announced herself as a School Board candidate.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

a. SUMMER LEARNING LAB PRESENTATION – Assistant Superintendent Zadavec presented a PowerPoint highlighting the program, followed by Ms. Joanne Simons who explained the operational part of the Summer Learning Lab. For a complete report on the summer learning lab please click [here](#).

b. RECOGNITION: LITTLE HARBOUR CHARITABLE FOUNDATION – Chair Shuldman presented foundation members with a plaque. Mr. Holloway stated that the foundation's motto is kids are our future and that the foundation is committed to supporting the program again next summer.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

i. *DOLLARS AND SENSE – THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF SMALL SCHOOLS*

ii. K-12 SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS – Despite a lower birth rate, the school district continues to see enrollment from in-migration. Enrollment at the elementary level is above projections by 57 students and down by 15 students in grades 6-12. The district enrollment is 2,688, up 42 over projections.

iii. DRAFT OF CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING – Mr. McDonough presented a draft between Chinese national officials and the University of New Hampshire. The MOU is still being reviewed by legal but Mr. McDonough is hoping to have a signed agreement by the end of this year's second semester to bring a teacher to PHS and by next fall to bring a teacher to the middle school. The program will be at no cost to the Portsmouth School Department.

iv. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, AUGUST

b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. DRAFT OF SCHOOL CHOICE REQUEST TO COMMISSIONER BARRY – If approved, Mr. McDonough will mail tomorrow and cc members of the State Board of Education.

c. DISTRICT REPORTS

i. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORTS

1. PRINCIPAL SHEA, NFS – Principal Shea highlighted the new Fresh Fruits and Vegetables program and its welcome by the students. Principal Shea has also invited the UNH Nutrition Cooperative in to provide supplemental education on healthy eating habits. New Franklin continues to receive improvements to its grounds, most recently a new fence. Mr. Shea thanked Mr. Linchey for his assistance in the improvements made over the summer. PLC teams are in the midst of their first intervention cycle in Mathematics and have established year-long SMART goals and a timeline of common assessments. Upcoming events include the Haunted Halls/Halloween Parade and November Family Math night. Board members asked questions, including the impact of losing an outreach counselor.
 2. PRINCIPAL GROSSMAN, LHS – Principal Grossman began by congratulating his staff and stating how lucky a principal he feels to have the staff that he does. From teachers and paraprofessionals to the 191 volunteers in the school on a daily basis, the challenges faced over the summer have been met with a synergy and collaboration Principal Grossman could only have hoped for. Mr. Grossman reported that math intervention and enrichment blocks have begun and teachers continue their literacy emphasis on small group instruction and responding to text. Principal Grossman thanked the PTA for funding two storytellers, Mr. Marc Levitt and Mr. Len Cabral, who provided student and teacher workshops on the art and importance of storytelling. Upcoming events included Fall Fest, October 22nd.
 3. PRINCIPAL CALLAHAN, DON – Principal Callahan reported on the changes in her staff and how all have come together as a team. Out of difficulty, great things are happening at Dondero. Staff members have come together to reflect on what needed to change and Dondero found parents arriving with welcome and open arms to help raise the morale of the school. A Math consultant has been hired to work with teachers to learn how to analyze data and Ms. Callahan is also distributing a survey to assess the remainder students, parents and staff on how to voice out the positive things happening within the school and to also see what can be done differently internally. Board members commended Principal Callahan on her professionalism and ability to weather such a challenge.
- ii. FINANCIAL, MR. BARTLETT – Mr. Bartlett shared beginning year financials, typical of last year and tracking as expected.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED 2011-12 SCHOOL BOARD GOALS – The School Board will hold a workshop to refine its goals on October 25, 2011.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. FIRST READING OF POLICY (KED) FACILITIES OF SERVICES GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (SECTION 504)

MOTION: Motion to approve first reading of (KED) FACILITIES OF SERVICES GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (SECTION 504) by Mr. Legg

SECOND: Mr. Hayward

DISCUSSION: Add "Principals shall communicate" and add "designee"

VOTE: Roll Call Unanimous

- b. FIRST READING OF POLICY (ILBA) ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS – unanimous as a block with one above.

MOTION: Motion to approve first reading of (ILBA) ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS by Mr. Legg

SECOND: Mr. Hayward

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Roll Call Unanimous

- c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL OFFER TO PROVIDE BIKE RACKS AT NEW FRANKLIN AND DONDERO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

MOTION: Motion to approve City Council's offer to provide bike racks at New Franklin and Dondero Elementary Schools by Mr. Legg

SECOND: Ms. Stevens

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Roll Call Unanimous

X. COMMITTEE UPDATE

- a. JBC –GMP #3 has received approval. Furniture and technology are now being researched to lock in pricing.
- b. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FACILITIES – The committee agreed to create a web site of materials that the group will be studying and a bibliography will be created. The next step is for the committee to come up with an executive summary.

XI. ADJOURNMENT– Motion to adjourn by Mr. Martin at 9:30 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Legg.

Respectfully submitted by:



Ed McDonough
Superintendent of Schools