

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR JANUARY 31, 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012

TIME: 6:30 [or thereafter]

-
- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (BOARD CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG, PATRICK ELLIS, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, KENT LAPAGE, CAROL CHELLMAN, MARY OLEA, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), LINDA BRIOLAT (EMP. REPRESENTATIVE) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE)

III. **INVOCATION**

- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.

V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- a. JANUARY 24, 2012

MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of January 24, 2012 by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Mr. Shuldman

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

Superintendent McDonough requested that the Board add an item to the agenda under New Business: Consideration and approval of a contract offer from the Association of Portsmouth Teachers.

Mr. Zadavec reported out on newly released NECAP scores, showing higher levels of performance well above the state average in both reading and math at the elementary level. Elementary schools increased their percentages in both reading and math at level 4, the highest score possible on the NECAP test. While math scores at the middle and high school dropped this year, Principal Collins reported that a particular prevention program being piloted last year resulted in higher levels of student growth for those student who participated and will be expanded next year.

VII. **WORKSHOP SESSION ON FY 2013 BUDGET**

- a. SPECIAL EDUCATION

- i. **DIRECTOR REQUESTS** – Ms. Simons highlighted the essential needs for Special Education next year:

- Special Educator @ PHS will be increased from 4 days to 5 days/week
- Out of District costs have increased
- Replace retiring ESOL teacher with 2 half-time positions

- ii. SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATION AT ELEMENTARY LEVEL – Ms. Simons explained that the new Assistant Principal position being proposed at Little Harbour Elementary would also assist Ms. Simons in delivering special educational needs at the elementary level. This position would oversee student IEP’s and work closely with Ms. Setear and other special education coordinators to assure that all special education instructional needs are met.
- iii. PROPOSAL TO MOVE PEEP TO DONDERO ELEMENTARY – Ms. Simons, Ms. Setear and Ms. Stokel agreed that moving the PEEP program to Dondero would help build community at Dondero, realize cost savings, and educate a child from preschool on. Principal Callahan, who has a background in Montessori education, believes that both her school and PEEP students will benefit from being part of Dondero and she is excited to apply her expertise in early education wherever necessary. Ms. Stokel reported that Community Campus would be willing to provide two lead teachers. The district will provide one special education teacher. An Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist will split their time between the PEEP program and Community Campus.

Ms. Setear recommends that some identified children in the PEEP program be given the option of staying at Community Campus if other services are necessary. A second district funded special educator will support the students at Community Campus.

Other short term and long term cost savings will be realized through efficiencies and no longer a need for a rental agreement. Mr. McDonough discussed necessary renovation costs with the City Manager and believes that the city will assist through CIP funding.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: Motion to extend the Portsmouth Teachers negotiated contract for one year on the basis that teachers agree to freeze one year of COLA and step advances over a two year period by Mr. Legg

SECOND: Mr. Martin

DISCUSSION: Mr. McDonough reported that the district would realize \$364,011 in savings through the teachers offer in FY 2013 and similar savings in FY 2014. Board members thanked teachers for their offer. Mr. LaPage stated that he hopes that this is the last year that the teachers are asked to concede a part of their contracted agreement.

VOTE: Roll Call: 7 YES 1 NO (KL)

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. by Mr. Shuldman and seconded by Mr. Legg.