

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2012

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2012

TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
 - II. **ROLL CALL** LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE-CHAIR), PATRICK ELLIS, KENT LAPAGE, MARY OLEA, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, DEXTER LEGG, ANN WALKER, EDWARD MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REP)
 - III. **INVOCATION**
 - IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.
 - V. **PRESENTATION ON FY 13 BUDGET**
 - VI. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 13 BUDGET** – Superintendent McDonough presented a PowerPoint reviewing the budget process up to date. The following community members addressed the School Board regarding the FY 13 Budget:

Jill Capobianco - 130 Willard Avenue	Ms. Capobianco has felt the impact of increased enrollment at Little Harbour and believes it has affected her child’s learning. She encouraged the School Board to present a budget addressing the overcrowding issues at LHS.
Sage Clark - 582 Lincoln Avenue	Ms. Clark reported that Little Harbour is bursting at its seams. The school was not designed to hold as many students as currently enrolled and the staff is being stretched too thin. The strength of LHSs teachers are evident in test scores but teachers have breaking points and they are bending over backwards trying to meet all needs of kids. Especially in Special Education.
Jim Eiffe - 40 Sunset Road	Mr. Eiffe requested that the School Board be aggressive and present the budget necessary, whether it is 3% or 6%.
Jim Lamond - 84 Haven Road	Mr. Lamond is fully in support of the presented budget and is ready to advocate if necessary.
Mark Brighton - 285 Union Street	Mr. Brighton thanked the teachers association for forgoing pay raisers this coming year. He appreciates that teachers saw the wisdom in their decision.
Cliff Lazenby - 303 McKinley Road	Mr. Lazenby thanked the Board on their efforts over the past three years. Mr. Lazenby’s children have had their best year yet at

	<p>Dondero. He asked Board members to be mindful in moving the PEEP program to Dondero. Mr. Lazenby praised the teachers union and he encouraged the Board to reject any further cuts.</p>
<p>Claudette Barker - 5 Hancock Street</p>	<p>Ms. Barker encouraged the Board not to seek any further cuts. Each child needs individual attention and decreased staff numbers are making it difficult for each student to receive any one on one time with a teacher.</p>
<p>Andrea Ardito - 171 Park Street</p>	<p>Ms. Ardito understands the need for a lean budget in hard economic times but no more can be trimmed. While her daughter was ill and out of school, a teacher dropped homework off at home. Ms. Ardito recognized that this was not typical behavior and she encouraged the Board to remember that Portsmouth's teachers not only want to be here, but they want to invest themselves in students' lives and feel cherished.</p>
<p>Christine Callahan - 243 Wibird Street</p>	<p>The biggest challenge at Little Harbour is the facility itself. Open concept schools are very difficult environments for learning. The facility needs to be addressed.</p>
<p>Sandy Grey - 251 South Street</p>	<p>Teachers are working so hard and are stretched so thin. They are trying to reach each child but children are being impacted. Please continue to fight for our children.</p>
<p>Sage Clark- 582 Lincoln Avenue</p>	<p>Regarding the importance of class size; what people forget is not every child was educated from previous generations. The level of education received depended on race, creed and disability. There was no recognition of learning disabilities or integration. All Portsmouth students are future tax payers and we want them to continue to live in New Hampshire and reinvest. Don't make this a community for tourists only but a community that supports everyone across the age spectrum.</p>
<p>Thomas Rooney - 29 Spring Street</p>	<p>Mr. Rooney supports additional teaching resources at Little Harbour.</p>
<p>Jim Eiffe- 40 Sunset Road</p>	<p>Mr. Eiffe spoke on the importance of class size and stated that he was not thrilled with the teachers giving up their raise. He thought it to be a one-sided view and does not appreciate honoring what was signed.</p>

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