

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MARCH 13, 2012

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012

TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** - LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE-CHAIR), PATRICK ELLIS, KENT LAPAGE, MARY OLEA, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, ANN WALKER, EDWARD MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE), ELIZABETH BOYNTON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - a. FEBRUARY 14, 2012
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of February 14, 2012 by Mr. Shuldman
SECOND: Mr. Ellis
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimous
 - b. FEBRUARY 16, 2012
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of February 16, 2012 by Ms. Walker
SECOND: Mr. Ellis
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimous
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
- VII. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
 - i. MARCH ELEMENTARY LUNCH MENU
 - ii. SAVE THE DATE: PROJECT SAFETY "RYAN'S STORY" APRIL 9, 2012 – Community members and parents are invited to hear a presentation at Portsmouth High School sponsored by Project Safety and Portsmouth Regional Hospital regarding bullying. Parents are also invited to join students during the day.
 - iii. NEW FRANKLIN GAZETTE
 - iv. *BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR*, FEBRUARY
 - v. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, FEBRUARY 23, 2012
 - vi. CELEBRATION GRADUATION SUPPORT LETTER
 - vii. DRAFT FY 2013 BUDGET & PERFORMANCE REPORT (SHARED 3/13)
 - viii. MEASURES OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING (MET PROJECT): *WORKING WITH TEACHERS TO DEVELOP FAIR AND RELIABLE MEASURES FOR EFFECTIVE MEETING*
 - ix. REMINDER OF FACILITIES TOUR AND JOINT JBC MEETING ON MARCH 14

b. CORRESPONDENCE

i. LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

1. REBEKAH RADER, REGISTERED NURSE
2. ROBERT DUCHARME, PHS SOCIAL STUDIES

c. DISTRICT REPORTS

- i. PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL STOKEL – Mr. Stokel stated that in every grade level students have scored above the norm in NWEA MAP testing. MAP testing is conducted at the beginning of the year and again in January and is different from the NECAP testing in that results are instantaneous for students. Students attitudes are positive and they are actively involved in comparing their scores from the beginning of the year and in January. The test will be administered again in May. Each student has been given a goal of increasing by one point. NWEA MAP testing is a test by “ability”. If students continue to answer correctly, the test increases in difficulty. 75% increased their score in reading and 85% increased their score in mathematics.

Mr. Stokel highlighted points of pride including the Geographic Geo-Bee, Young Historian’s Club, the NH Spelling Bee, New Department Heads and a new mathematics program now being offered. School Board members followed up with questions.

- ii. PUPIL INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT, DIRECTOR SIMONS – Director Simons reported that Special Educators of the high school have been focusing on transition goals, including post-secondary goals. Sophomore skills are being developed using a 20 minute prep time where assessment tests are administered. MAP testing is administered at the middle school to track student progress. The middle school has developed a web site highlighting programming, the special educational staff and links to different opportunities available to families. Ms. Simons updated Board members on the PEEP transition to Dondero stating that she is in constant communication with Mr. Linchey and Mr. Bartlett regarding space needs and an upcoming site visit from the licensing bureau. Board members followed up with questions including Medicaid reimbursement and the steps that administration is taking to ensure that all reimbursement due the district is being received.
- iii. ROBERT J. LISTER ACADEMY, PRINCIPAL ROY – Principal Roy recently toured several alternative schools throughout the state and commended the Board for RJLA’s clarity in mission and purpose.

Principal Roy stated that the district is soon going to feel the impact of juvenile justice system budget cuts in its graduation rates. The “net” to help with student attendance is no longer available.

Fund raising for Puerto Rico is complete but student behavior will need to be completed and maintained in order for a student to be eligible to travel.

- iv. FINANCIAL, MR. BARTLETT - The focus for the rest of the year will continue to be Special Ed out of district, maintenance and transportation expenses. These three areas fluctuate the most based on factors that are the hardest to predict and control. Staffing and benefit levels continue to track as expected. The district is ahead on Medicaid reimbursement year to date. Board members commented that due to budget cuts made over several years, any potential issue that may rise now cuts into educational goals set by the district.

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL CALENDAR 2012/2013 (SECOND READING)**

MOTION: Motion to approve school calendar 2012/2013 by Mr. Shuldman

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: 6 Aye, 1 Opposed (KL)

- b. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICY BBBHR, ORGANIZATION (SECOND READING)**

MOTION: Motion to approve Policy BBBHR, Organization by Mr. Shuldman

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous

- c. **UPDATE ON CENTRAL OFFICE & LITTLE HARBOUR RENOVATIONS** – Mr. Bartlett provided an update on the move to the municipal complex as well as the process for renovating the current Central Office area at Little Harbour into kindergarten rooms. Ricci Construction has been selected to renovate the space at city hall and pre-construction conferences will begin as soon as legal has completed the paperwork. A review committee consisting of Board member Martin, the Superintendent, Mr. Ken Linchey and Mr. Bartlett, will now review the 6 RFQ's received for renovating the old central office space at Little Harbour.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **DISCUSSION OF *GENERATE 4 SCHOOLS* OPPORTUNITY** –Based out of Newburyport MA, the focus of Generate 4 Schools is to find alternative methods of fund raising for schools. The concept of the company is: When a business accepts a credit card, a portion of the consumer's money spent is captured through a fee by the business to who processes the credit card. Generate 4 Schools brokers an agreement between a local business and banks, resulting in better rates for the business. In addition, the bank who processes the transaction agrees to share 25% of the profit with local schools; their contribution now becomes a charitable deduction for their business. Five businesses are participating in a pilot program and Mr. Martin is working with the city legal department and the Trustees of Trust to draft guidelines for the program. Once the pilot program is up and running, representatives from Generate 4 Schools will be invited to make a Board presentation.

MOTION: Motion to donate \$500.00 to Celebration Graduation if the budget allows right before graduation

SECOND: Mr. Shuldman

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous

X. **COMMITTEE UPDATE**

- a. **JBC** – Roofing is complete, windows are being installed and masonry work has been completed along the back. FF&E – selections and concept have been approved by the committee.
- b. **POLICY** – The committee will meet on the 22nd of March and will be looking at state requirements.

XI. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. **RETREAT: MARCH 20, 2012**
- b. **“ATTRACTING, DEVELOPING AND RETAINING TALENT,” MARCH 27**
- c. **ELEMENTARY FACILITIES REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS, MAY 8**

- XII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Walker at 9:10 p.m.