

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MAY 8, 2012

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL, LIBRARY
DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
 - II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE-CHAIR), ANN WALKER, KENT LAPAGE, PATRICK ELLIS, MARY OLEA, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT) STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASST. SUPERINTENDENT) STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), ELIZABETH BOYNTON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE)
 - III. **INVOCATION**
 - IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**- Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance, asking for a moment of silent reflection for Mr. Rus Brightman, a former School Board member who recently passed away. Mr. Brightman’s daughter, Debra, is a teacher at Portsmouth Middle School.
 - V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - a. APRIL 10, 2012
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of April 10, 2012 by Ms. Walker
SECOND: Mr. Shuldman
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimous
 - VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
 - VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
 - a. 2012 STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP – COACH MULVEY RECOGNITION – Chair Stevens presented Coach Mulvey with a trophy and thanked him for his many years of service and dedication. Coach Mulvey stated that this past season was the most fun he has had coaching in his entire career, not because of the state title, but because of the young men themselves...men who were dedicated to a team goal, not to individual goals. Not only did they seamlessly get along on and off the court, but the entire team conducted themselves in school and throughout the community in a way that the coach and their school could be proud of them. Several of the coach’s players stood and thanked him for everything he has done and for the entire basketball program from middle school on. Players stated that “Portsmouth easily has the best coaching staff in all of New Hampshire.”
 - b. PHS FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT – Three trips were taken this school year: to France, Costa Rica and Spain. Ms. Nancy Modern, the Foreign Language Department Head, deeply thanked administrators, parents and chaperones who planned and organized all three trips. Students from all three trips shared PowerPoint presentations and their experiences from these trips.
 - VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
 - a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
 - i. ELEMENTARY LUNCH MENU – MAY
 - ii. *BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR* – APRIL
 - iii. PROPOSED MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS 2012/2013
 - iv. ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL – CAMP CALUMET TRIP

v. SUPERINTENDENTS UPDATE – MAY 2012

b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. CITY PLANNING OFFICE, PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL REVISION
- ii. PRIMEX - LETTER OF THANKS
- iii. US DEPARTMENT OF STATE – CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE RESPONSE
- iv. SUPERINTENDENT ZADRAVEC – Mr. Zadravec reported that AYP results have been released and Portsmouth Schools fared well comparatively to the rest of the state. In addition, the district pursued an appeal of New Franklin's AYP determination in Math. Through the appeal process to the Commissioner, the district was able to demonstrate New Franklin School has made AYP in math when considering the fact that the alternative assessment (NH ALPs) was changed this year, which resulted in a lack of comparability with previous scores. Therefore, New Franklin School is no longer a SINI (School In Need of Improvement).

c. DISTRICT REPORTS

- i. PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL COLLINS – Mr. Collins updated Board members as to where graduating students are attending college, the NEAS&C process and reported that Portsmouth High School has been invited to join a consortium of New England secondary schools designed to share best practices called the *League of Innovative Schools*.

Principal Collins highlighted different championships earned, graduation preparations, as well as upcoming events. A letter produced by the Chief of Police, and endorsed by the Superintendents of SAU 50 and 52 and Mr. Collins, was sent out to make parents aware of the concerns of underage drinking during these festive times. Board members followed up with questions and comments.

- ii. CAREER TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION, DIRECTOR CANADA – Director Canada updated Board members on the different programs offered at the center, awards received and ceremonies coming up at the end of the year. Ms. Canada ended her update stating that teachers continue to work to improve math instruction in the classroom; continuing to work on the center's Smart Goal.

Approximately 90% of all Portsmouth High School students take a career tech education class. To allow students to preview courses available, it has been decided that all two year programs have at least one 9 week exploratory course available.

Director Canada stated that recent employment trends show a need for more business classes. Accounting and Bookkeeping continue to grow with other business classes being added next year. The welding class continues to grow with more students signing up than the program can accommodate.

Director Canada continues to work with local businesses wherever program partnerships are a possibility, like a new hospitality program offered through a local hotel.

The Board requested that in the near future a workshop be scheduled to discuss how career technology classes are weighted.

MOTION: Motion to hold a work session on career technology class weighting no later than October, 2012 by Mr. LaPage

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous

- iii. FINANCIAL, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BARTLETT – Mr. Bartlett reported no significant changes and anticipates the budget will come in as expected.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (2ND Reading)
 - i. WELLNESS (JLCF)
 - ii. FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (EF)
 - iii. SCHOOL NUTRITION (EFE)
 - iv. FUNDRAISING (JJE)
 - v. ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOLS (KHB)

MOTION: Motion to accept the above policies (JLCF, EF, EFE, JJE and KHB) as a whole by Mr. Shuldman

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: JJE, Fund Raising; remove second “policy”.

VOTE: Pending above change, unanimously approved

- b. UPDATE ON LHS RENOVATIONS - Preliminary information has identified possible configurations. The next step will to be to meet with the superintendent and administration to discuss possible scenarios.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE
 - i. ELIZABETH SWEET, PMS
 - ii. MISA PIGNATARO, DONDERO
 - iii. WILLIAM MCELROY JR., PHS
 - iv. ANN O’CONNELL, DONDERO

MOTION: Motion to accept the above leaves of absence as a group by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Mr. Shuldman

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimous

- b. ELEMENTARY FACILITIES REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS – Committee members: Cliff Lazenby, John Shea and Tara Mickela reported to the Board that the committee has reaffirmed that the current K-5 model is the best model for the Portsmouth School Department. Advantages of this model were highlighted as well as the challenges that all three elementary schools face in the near future and further down the road. School Board members followed up with questions and commendations for the work put into the final report. A public hearing on the final report is scheduled for June 12th.

MOTION: Motion to accept the Elementary Facilities Report for the record and further study by Mr. LaPage

SECOND: Mr. Martin

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously approved

c. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2012**

MOTION: Motion to approve School Board meeting dates for 2012 by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously approved

d. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO DETERMINE PROPOSED LOT LINE REVISIONS AT 65 MARK STREET AND 82 COURT STREET ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR SCHOOL USE AND TRANSFER CARE AND CONTROL TO THE CITY.**

MOTION: Motion to approve proposed lot line revisions at 46 Mark Street, 65 Mark Street and 82 Court Street are no longer needed for school purposes and vote to transfer care, control and custody over to the City of Portsmouth by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: A letter was provided explaining that 46 Mark Street should have been included in the initial request.

VOTE: Unanimously approved

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATE

a. **POLICY** – The Policy committee will next explore a policy to provide guidance in the naming of buildings and school property.

b. **JBC** – Alumni Wentworth Field held a field dedication on April 27th, 2012. The middle school continues to track on schedule and within budget. A final review of technology phase 1 is being completed and all furniture has been ordered.

Although the middle school softball team has never been scheduled to play on Alumni Wentworth Field, Board members, Athletic Director Wilson, Superintendent McDonough and Principal Stokel agree that it would be beneficial to have the team experience playing on the new field. AD Wilson will work with Principal Stokel to arrange dates.

All parents of fifth graders are encouraged to attend an Orientation Night scheduled for May 17th at the Portsmouth Middle School. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. and is designed to help parents as they assist their child transition from elementary school on to middle school.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. **PUBLIC HEARING ON ELEMENTARY FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS; JUNE 12, 2012**

b. **RECOGNITION OF RETIREES; JUNE 12, 2012**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn at 9:40 pm. by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Ellis.
Unanimously Approved