

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 23, 2012

LITTLE HARBOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY
DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2012

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR) ANN WALKER, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, DEXTER LEGG, KENT LAPAGE, CAROL CHELLMAN, MARY OLEA, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), LINDA BRIOLAT (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE) AND EMILY FREGEAU (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - a. SEPTEMBER 25, 2012
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of September 25, 2012 by Mr. Martin
SECOND: Mr. Legg
DISCUSSION: Mr. LaPage not listed as in attendance
VOTE: Pending above change, Unanimously Approved.
 - b. OCTOBER 9, 2012
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of October 9, 2012 by Ms. Walker
SECOND: Mr. Shuldman
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
 - a. TOUR OF NEW KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM RENOVATION – Board members participated in a tour of the new kindergarten wing.
 - b. 3rd GRADE TEACHERS: STRENGTHENING WRITING INSTRUCTION – Little Harbour's Third Grade team: Ms. Jen Marden (absent due to illness), Ms. Charlotte Berndtson, Ms. Michelle Fijalkowski, Ms. Heather Perigny and Ms. Kate Arruda, prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the Board. The PowerPoint highlighted the different areas of the third grade writing study unit:
 - Purpose
 - Process
 - Benefits of the Grade Three Team's work
 - Samples of writing

Board members followed up with questions. Chair Stevens thanked the team for their time and presentation.

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- BOARD AND ADMINISTRATOR, OCTOBER 2012
- "AN INCURABLE DISEASE," ARTICLE IN THE ECONOMIST, SEPTEMBER 29, 2012
- DRAFT OF SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET MEETING DATES
- POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 5 AND OCTOBER 10, 2012

- CORRESPONDENCE

- MEMORANDUM FROM PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL RE: NEW LEGISLATION CONCERNING CONCUSSIONS AND REQUIRED SAFEGUARDS – Board members requested that the Superintendent discuss with Athletic Director Wilson the Board's concerns regarding follow through that each athlete participate in the base line test before competing in any sport. Are all students taking the test? How does the district encourage students to speak up if a fellow teammate is hurt and will not report it themselves? How do we change that culture? Although the Board agreed that the school district is legally covered, Board members encouraged the superintendent to go a step further and work with AD Rus Wilson to assure that all possible is being done to educate players and their parents about the dangers of concussions. Mr. Shuldman encouraged Board members to read the following periodicals; *Head Games* by Tim Downs or a DVD by the CDC called *Heads Up*. Board members requested that the information shared tonight be posted on the district's web site for parents to read.

- LETTER OF APPRECIATION RE: DONDERO STAFF AND SPECIAL ED PROGRAM
- LETTER TO SCHOOL BOARD RE: MOSQUITO BORNE DISEASES
- JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO MOSQUITO CONCERNS

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- WORKSHOP SESSION: FY 2014 BUDGET PROCESS AND PRIORITIES – Board members discussed the different approaches over the past few years in budget preparation. It was decided that administration working with each director and principal to assess the needs and wants of each school and program works best. Administration will then prepare a proposed budget to present to the Board in early January. Over the proposed budget meeting cycle, the Board will invite certain principals or directors to appear before the Board in order to articulate how certain budget requests meet the priorities agreed upon by the Board. Board members noted that it was also important to better articulate to the public and City Council what they are not able to deliver under such tight budget restrictions. Board members agreed that reducing staff in classrooms should not be the answer. Other significant cost areas will need to be studied to see if there might be alternative ways to fund the budget.

V. **COMMITTEE UPDATE**

VI. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT, HELAINE WEMPLE, NOVEMBER 5, 2012
- WORKSHOP SESSION ON COMMON CORE STANDARDS, NOVEMBER 27, 2012
- MIDDLE SCHOOL THIN CLIENT

VII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Martin at 9:04 pm. and seconded by Mr. Legg.