

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR JANUARY 8, 2013

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013

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

- 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) ANN WALKER, KENT LAPAGE, PATRICK ELLIS, DEXTER LEGG, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, CAROL CHELLMAN, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE).
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance. Board members took note that recent Board member Frank C. Hayward was dealing with some health issues and wished him a speedy recovery.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - a. DECEMBER 11, 2012
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of December 11, 2012 by Mr. Shuldman
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT- NONE**
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: SUPERINTENDENT’S PROPOSED FY 2014 BUDGET** – Mr. McDonough presented a PowerPoint highlighting the proposed budget for FY2014. Through his PowerPoint, the Superintendent shared School Board strategies and goals for the 2012/2013 school year and highlights for the current year including: continued improvement in NECAP and SAT scores and a low dropout rate, quality and dedicated staff statistics, four facility upgrades resulting in energy and staff efficiencies, technology upgrades and a major increase in district bandwidth capabilities, increasing teacher effectiveness and finally impressive student accomplishments in academics, athletics and the arts. Mr. McDonough discussed historic enrollment projections and how the district will be affected over the next few years as a current enrollment bubble at the elementary level works its way through the middle school and finally on to the high school. All budget maker requests have been accounted for and Mr. McDonough recommended that a second resource officer be added back into the budget with the support of the Chief of Police. Not only will this increase security, but will help with truancy issues that the Board has had recent concerns about. Board members followed up with comments and questions and pleased that there will be no reductions in staff. Board members commended the Superintendent in presenting a budget that reflects the ability to look beyond a 12 month budget cycle and thanked the teachers union for once again being part of the process. Board members had questions about the retirement system. Now that towns are funding the system 100%, why don’t towns have more say into the funds chosen? Board members requested more information to better understand the decision made by the court. Mr. LaPage requested that the Superintendent pull the amount of building permits awarded this year.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATOR, JANUARY 2013
- ii. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 3, 2013

b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. MEMO TO SCHOOL BOARD ON SCHOOL SAFETY PLANNING
- ii. LETTERS OF RESIGNATION
 1. ANN O'CONNELL, DO
 2. SHERRY WESTON, PMS
 3. DANIEL UNSINN, PHS

c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- i. FINANCIAL REPORT, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BARTLETT – Salary and benefit lines are tracking according to plan. The substitute line continues to run slightly higher compared to last year and operating expense lines continue to run ahead of plan in individual. (Approximately 10 %.) Although spending levels to date vary from historical patterns, they remain in reasonable shape when compared to total departmental budgets for the year. Staffing and benefit levels continue to track as expected. The district is still ahead on Medicaid reimbursement and the current catastrophic aid report from NHDOE indicates Portsmouth will receive more than budgeted which will be reflected in a future report.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (2nd READING)

i. SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS (BE) –

MOTION: Motion to table policy SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS (BE) by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Mr. Shuldman

DISCUSSION: Mr. LaPage stated that he believes City Council has not adopted this practice and does not allow members to access remotely. He also stated that Attorney Dwyer used wording provided from the state legislature and he believes this is a public decision whether they want the Board to participate remotely. Mr. LaPage believes that wherever the Board member is participating in the meeting becomes a public domain. Mr. LaPage challenged the following language: "Each member participating electronically must be able to simultaneously hear and speak to each other during the meeting." Mr. LaPage would not be able to participate in this way. Ms. Walker stated that City Council has adopted this policy and utilized it in the past. Board members support the policy but request that the wording be checked by Attorney Dwyer to see if the word "simultaneously" has specific legal importance and if so, what it might be.

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

ii. CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES (JLCJ)

MOTION: Motion to table policy CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES (JLCJ) by Mr. Shuldman

SECOND: Mr. Martin

DISCUSSION: Mr. LaPage requested that the policy be tabled to allow the district's physician an opportunity to review. Mr. LaPage also questioned the legality of nurses reporting a concussion to a doctor's office under HIPPA rules. Ms. Chellman suggested a

possible waiver be created that all athletes sign, stating they understand that information will be shared in the result that they sustain a concussion.

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

- b. UPDATE ON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS – Mr. Martin reported that the committee met with police department representatives and the city’s traffic planner to finalize the proposal which is due to be submitted on the 16th of this month. A number of programs will focus on structural updates around the elementary schools and middle school to entice people to walk and bike more frequently. Ms. Chellman commented on the number of students at the high school level that drive to school in cars singly. Mr. Martin reported that the ECO Club is looking at how to get students to carpool together more often.

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATE

- a. JBC – It had been requested that Mr. Legg give a report on seismic codes. Mr. Legg reported that all seismic activity of the new addition and all renovations of the 1930’s building are following all current building codes. Mr. Legg reported that building codes changed in 2009. As part of the new code, any parts of existing buildings were grandfathered, even when being renovated. Mr. Legg will provide the Board with the verbiage that was changed in the coding. Mr. Legg reported that over the past several weeks a sub group has been receiving and reviewing pricing for options to address the pilings. After the Joint Building Committee reviews the findings and makes their decision, Mr. Legg will report back to the Board. Mr. Legg noted that the JBC decided not to renovate the middle school as a sheltering facility, which would have had cost implications. Portsmouth High School is already a designated shelter for the City of Portsmouth.
- b. POLICY – The committee will next meet January 25th.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. WORKSHOP SESSION: SCIENCE, TBD
- b. WORKSHOP SESSION: TRUANCY TBD

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn at 8:32p.m. by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Legg. Unanimously Approved.