

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 5, 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012

TIME: 6:30 [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** - LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR) ANN WALKER, KENT LAPAGE, PATRICK ELLIS, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, CAROL CHELLMAN, MARY OLEA, 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
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- a. JANUARY 29, 2013
- MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of January 29, 2013 by Mr. Shuldman
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- b. JANUARY 31, 2013
- MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of January 31, 2013 by Mr. Shuldman
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – NONE
- VII. **WORKSHOP SESSION ON FY 2014 BUDGET** – Mr. Bartlett shared adjustments to date including retirements which now allow the addition of an SRO with costs of the position being split budget wise with the police department. The FY2014 budget now represents a 3.9% increase. All health insurance costs and retirement costs have been finalized and locked in. Mr. McDonough shared that the City Council approved the three teachers opting to receive the retirement incentive.
- Clarification was sought regarding the position of the SRO. Mr. McDonough is working with the Chief of Police to iron out final details of sharing this position with the police, but the officer will work 180 days within the schools following the school year calendar.
- Mr. McDonough shared a memo highlighting elementary school enrichment programs and actions being taken to improve these programs in the future. As part of the budget review process, the superintendent looked closely at enrichment lines which the elementary principals used in the past to fund *Destination Imagination*. These funds will

now be reallocated to each elementary school for the principals to decide which programs will be successful for their school and students. There is approximately \$11,000.00 being divided between the schools. These funds are separate from PEP programming and funding, raised by Parent/Teacher organizations within each school.

Mr. McDonough shared a memo highlighting recent concerns surrounding the high school auditorium sound system. Mr. McDonough discussed the system with Mr. Cirillo, Mr. Tobey and Mr. Lotz. To replace the system, purchase wireless microphones and upgrade to the level makes sense, it would be a commitment of \$30,000.00. Mr. Cirillo requested that the Board allow the Music/Drama department time to research further before adding the cost to a budget. Mr. Cirillo is confident that the funds in budget for this year are sufficient to deliver the musicals and dramas planned successfully.

Mr. McDonough shared a memo regarding concerns surrounding student support services throughout district. In addition to the work that Amy Donovan is conducting with Seacoast Mental Health, the district is working with legal to create an RFQ that will be inviting other community agencies to provide services within the Portsmouth School Department. Mr. LaPage raised concern about the rising number of arrests and the recent death of a PHS graduate. While all tragedies cannot be averted, Mr. LaPage wonders recognizes that there has been a rise since the substance abuse counselor being cut from the budget. Mr. LaPage requested that administration break out costs of a .2 position being increased to a 5. position for counseling needs. How much would a full time position add to the budget as well? Board members were encouraged that administration was developing the RFQ to see if outside organizations would be able to provide services to our students. Superintendent McDonough explained that outside organizations such as SMH work with Healthy Kids and private insurance companies. Counselors make referrals and the student's insurance picks up the cost of services provided, leaving virtually no cost to the school district.

Assistant Superintendent Zdravec provided an update on professional development. This year's focus continues to be on what is effective teaching? What does it look like? Mr. Zdravec shared how the Board's goals were used in establishing teaching standards, which then were used to establish the district's evaluation system.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. by Mr. Martin and seconded by Ms. Walker at 8:12 p.m. Unanimously approved.