

## PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 12, 2013

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013

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

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** - LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), ANN WALKER, KENT LAPAGE, PATRICK ELLIS, MARY OLEA, CAROL CHELLMAN, MITCHELL SHULDMAN, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEPHEN BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), AND OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE).
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
  - a. FEBRUARY 5, 2013  
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of February 5, 2013 by Mr. Shuldman  
SECOND: Ms. Walker  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
  - b. FEBRUARY 7, 2013  
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of February 7, 2013 by Ms. Chellman  
SECOND: Ms. Walker  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION** - None
- I. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
  - a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
    - i. CELEBRATION GRADUATION REQUEST FOR DONATION –  
Superintendent McDonough stated that with consent from the Board, Mr. Bartlett would facilitate the budgeted donation amount. There was unanimous agreement from the Board to make a donation to Celebration Graduation, citing the benefits to the students of Portsmouth High School.
    - ii. THANK YOU CARD FROM SULLIVAN FAMILY
  - b. CORRESPONDENCE
    - i. LETTER TO CHAIR FROM PORTSMOUTH CITIZEN
    - ii. CHAIR RESPONSE TO CITIZEN CORRESPONDENCE

c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

- iii. LITTLE HARBOUR, PRINCIPAL GROSSMAN – Principal Grossman updated the Board on recent events such as a math workshop day, a recent lockdown drill and a new evening spelling bee. He highlighted math intervention data showing an increase in students scoring above 80% and discussed recently released NECAP scores. Board members followed up with comments and questions around assessment testing, the value of all-day kindergarten, smart goals and report cards.
- iv. DONDERO ELEMENTARY, PRINCIPAL CALLAHAN – Principal Callahan began by stating that on February 6<sup>th</sup>, Dondero held its first spelling bee and that interns are now working with kindergarten teachers. Professional growth continues to be supported through work with Ms. Cynthia Merrill twice a month. Ms. Ann Mordecai continues to co-teach with second grade teachers in math. Through this work, it was discovered that multi step problems and language in word problems were confusing to students. Teachers have now been able to better guide students in how to use the “white space” to better figure out problems. On the other side of the spectrum, the work has also allowed for teachers to extend work with students that need enrichment. Principal Callahan stated that March will be Literacy Month with a Barnes and Noble event, that students will be doing a character study and that the PEP program continues to thrive. Board members followed up with comments and questions around the following topics: common core standards, enrichment programs, collaboration between schools and the idea of teaching students how to better utilize “white space” on a page.
- v. NEW FRANKLIN, PRINCIPAL SHEA – Principal Shea began by sharing some recent events at New Franklin: “Zapped by a Compliment” by the NFS Climate Team, Grade 4 Mt. Washington Teleconference, Mid-Year DRA and NECAP analysis, School Wide Teaching and Learning Team, Science Curriculum Mapping and the Green Team New garden construction project. Principal Shea updated the Board on two of New Franklins team PLC implementations in Grade 4 and Grade 1 and concluded with upcoming events: the New Franklin Science Institute, a Great Vacation Book Swap, and upcoming an ice cream social and talent show.
- vi. FINANCIAL REPORT, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BARTLETT – Mr. Bartlett provided a month end report with narrative on the FY13 budget. Board members inquired about where the district stood with the latest winter storm. Mr. Bartlett reported that the district does have standing pre-bid agreements with storms over a certain depth, which this one certainly qualified. So far, due to the mild winter over all, snow removal remains on budget.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES
  - i. SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS (BE)

MOTION: Motion to accept SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS (BE) by Mr. Shuldman

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: Ms. Walker stated that legal language questioned at the previous meeting was discussed with the school attorney and must remain in the policy. Concerns were raised around the legal meaning of what a quorum being physically present meant and the ability of being able to simultaneously hear and speak.

VOTE: After further consideration, it was decided to send back to the Policy Committee for consideration for rewording of what a quorum legally means and to assure that the policy does not violate any disabilities rights.

b. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FY 2014 SCHOOL BUDGET**

MOTION: Motion to approve the FY2014 budget in the amount of \$39,820,958.00 by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Shuldman

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Roll Call: 7 (YES) 0 (NO) (DL, TM Absent)

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

a. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

i. EMILY HEALY, DONDERO ELEMENTARY (GRADE 3)

ii. BRITT SANTAMARIA, LITTLE HARBOUR (GRADE 2)

MOTION: Motion to approve above leaves of absence as a group by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

b. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF 2013-2014 SCHOOL CALENDAR, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING** - Board members discussed the survey results from parents and staff members and will approve at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

**IV. COMMITTEE UPDATE**

a. JBC - Interior demolition, structure walls, staircase 3, door frames on second and third floors and pier restoration is complete.

b. POLICY – The concussion policy continues to be revised.

c. WORKSHOP SESSION: SCIENCE

d. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

e. PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC/THEATRE UPDATE)

V. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Ellis at 8:52 p.m. and seconded by Mr. Shuldman. Unanimously approved.