

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR AUGUST 13, 2013

PORTSMOUTH CITY HALL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2013

TIME: 7:00 [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Board member LaPage requested that the recent passing of Mr. Tony Rahn be recognized. Mr. Rahn was an active member of the Portsmouth community developing programs, volunteering in Portsmouth schools and coaching several athletic teams. He will greatly be missed. Mrs. Marty Rahn, his wife, is the Data and Account Activities coordinator at Portsmouth High School.
- II. **ROLL CALL** LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR), ANN WALKER, KENT LAPAGE, MARY OLEA, MITCH SHULDMAN, CAROL CHELLMAN, ED MCDONOUGH, (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE 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. JULY 9, 2013
- MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of July 9, 2013 by Mr. Shuldman
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Assistant Mayor Robert Lister, 69 Diamond Drive. Mr. Lister announced that at the last council meeting, a discussion was held in how best to memorialize Mr. Tony Rahn. Mr. Lister invited the School Board to participate with the Recreation Department and City Council as they discuss how to memorialize Mr. Rahn's memory.
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** MR. TED COMSTOCK, NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION – Mr. Comstock, Executive Director, presented a lifetime achievement award to Mr. Kent LaPage for his service to both Portsmouth and the State of New Hampshire's School Board Association since 1994. Mr. LaPage thanked Mr. Comstock stating that he has been blessed to be a member of the Portsmouth School Board and NHSBA over the years.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
- i. BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR, JULY 2013 (August added)
 - ii. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE, AUGUST 2013
 - iii. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, AUGUST 2, 2013

- iv. MEMORANDUM RE: ENROLLMENT & LGC REBATES – Mr. McDonough addressed the question raised at the last School Board meeting regarding the declining enrollment of the senior class. The data reflected the decline due to a number of students graduating early in February.
 - v. SCHOOL BOARD MEETING CALENDAR & PROPOSED ADVANCEMENT DATE
 - vi. CONCUSSION PANEL DISCUSSION, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 – Mr. Shuldman is working with Mr. Rus Wilson and Principal Jeff Collins to create an informational event for student athletes. Several guest speakers will be in attendance including a former NFL player who has had multiple concussions.
- b. CORRESPONDENCE
- i. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT AWARD – The Portsmouth School Department has been awarded \$50,000.00 in a matching grant.
- c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
- i. FINANCIAL REPORT, BUSINESS ADMINSTRATOR BARTLETT – Mr. Bartlett reported that several pressure points were addressed and funds were still available to work on the district’s extra needs. In summary, recommended security upgrades are now being implemented, RJLA, now restructured is sustainable and technology needs at Portsmouth High School have been met. New regulation from the state and federal government surrounding School Nutrition states that a district’s general fund must cover any bad debt charged to the lunch program at the end of the year. This, among other factors facing the Nutrition Director, had a tremendous impact on the budget. Mr. Bartlett also commended the Special Education Department for their efforts to maximize state and federal grants and economize staff while still able to meet the needs of all students within the system.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ONE YEAR LEAVE OF ABSENCE – EMILY HEALY
- MOTION: Motion to approve a one year leave of absence of Ms. Emily Healy, Grade 3 teacher at Dondero by Ms. Chellman
 SECOND: Ms. Walker
 DISCUSSION: None
 VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT
- i. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR, ONE YEAR ONLY, PEEP - Holly Brown
 - ii. GRADE 3, ONE YEAR ONLY, DONDERO - Shauna Macy
- MOTION: Motion to approve one year contracts for both Ms. Holly Brown and Ms. Shauna Macy by Ms. Chellman
 SECOND: Mr. Shuldman

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

- iii. LIBRARY MEDIA TEACHER, PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL - Kate Brunelle
- iv. SOCIAL STUDIES, PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL - Kathleen Curtin
- v. SOCIAL STUDIES, PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL - Cynthia Young

MOTION: Motion to approve contracts for Ms. Kate Brunelle, Library Media Teacher at Portsmouth High School, Ms. Kathleen Curtin, Social Studies teacher at Portsmouth Middle School and Ms. Cynthia Young, Social Studies teacher at Portsmouth High School by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Shuldman

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

- c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

MOTION: Motion to approve the Department of Homeland Security grant by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Ms. Chellman

DISCUSSION: The Ogontz group made upgrade recommendations at the elementary and middle school level for shades, hardware and panic buttons in order to buy time to connect with the police department in the event of an intruder. Superintendent McDonough stated it was good fortune that the grant came when it did and that Portsmouth was well positioned to receive the grant.

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

- d. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICY EEAA, VIDEO AND AUDIO SURVEILLANCE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY AND BUSESSES (FIRST READING) – The recommended policy is adapted from NHSBA. Video is currently installed and available at the high school, the middle school and all busses.

MOTION: Motion to approve Policy EEAA, Video and Audio Surveillance on School Property and Busses, (first reading) by Mr. Shuldman

SECOND: Ms. Chellman

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

X. COMMITTEE UPDATE

- a. JBC – Mr. Bartlett reported Gilbane to be on schedule, that furniture is being delivered and the debris around the building would be cleared before opening day. Students will use the temporary entrance used last year until the connector is complete. It was requested that Mr. Bartlett check to assure that parking spaces have been assigned to employees.
- b. POLICY – The next meeting is scheduled for September 3rd. The committee continues to review old policies and recommended policies from NHSBA.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. **PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC/THEATRE UPDATE), OCTOBER 22, 2013** – Performing Arts personnel will be invited to participate in this discussion.
- b. Chair Stevens recommended that the Board begin to check on weekends for a School Board Advancement. Community members interested in running for School Board are encouraged to attend.
- c. **IT UPDATE, PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

XII. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn by Mr. Martin at 8:02 and seconded by Ms. Chellman. Unanimously approved.