

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 22, 2013

NEW FRANKLIN SCHOOL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2013

TIME: 7:00 [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), TOM MARTIN (VICE CHAIR), ANN WALKER, KENT LAPAGE, MITCH SHULDMAN, PATRICK ELLIS, DEXTER LEGG, MARY OLEA, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), JAMES SULLIVAN (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE) AND OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Stevens led in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- a. OCTOBER 8, 2013
- MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of October 8, 2013 by Mr. Martin
SECOND: Mr. Legg
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** 21st CENTURY LEARNING COMMUNITIES GRANT (*MC³: MAKING CLASSROOM AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS*) - Principal Shea presented a PowerPoint highlighting the benefits already being realized from the newly implemented programming provided by the 21st Century Learning Communities Grant. Board members followed up with comments and questions including how results will be tracked, how the district plans to sustain programming past the grant life, what are directors of the grant doing to work with PEAK programming and how do they plan on growing programming to the other two elementary schools. To view Principal Shea's PowerPoint in full, please click [HERE](#).
- VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
- a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
- i. BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR, OCTOBER 2013
- ii. SYNOPSIS OF *HAZELWOOD V. KUHLMEIER*, U.S.260 (1988)
- b. CORRESPONDENCE
- i. LETTER TO MR. C. DIEMER FROM CITY MANAGER BOHENKO RE: RECREATION BOARD'S DECISION TO NAME PEASE SOFTBALL FIELD IN HONOR OF MR. TONY RAHN
- IX. **OLD BUSINESS**
- a. WORKSHOP SESSION: PERFORMING ARTS – Mr. Steve Cirillo introduced staff in attendance and provided a quick overview of programming including vast, unexpected growth in band and chorus at both the high school and middle school levels. Funding that had been set aside

for instruments are now needed to provide student uniforms. Mr. Cirillo commended the performing arts faculty as the best Portsmouth has employed since his time in the district. Students are competing and taking home top prizes at local, state and national competitions. Teachers and students can regularly be seen performing at different venues around Portsmouth. However, teacher/student ratios have increased to 33/1 and the concern is growing in maintaining quality instruction if staff is not added in the future. Major equipment such as drums and larger horns has outlived their lifecycles by years. Planning to replace them has been set aside due to unexpected needs for uniforms as programs continue to grow.

Mr. Cirillo requested that Board Members begin to think about field needs, which have changed due to the volume of students participating in the marching band. Mr. Cirillo also requested that the Board think about budgeting staff to once again offer drama classes. Mr. Martin stated that every time he attends a spring play or concert he cannot believe the production isn't professionally done. The quality of work being produced by our students is on par with paid professionals. Mr. McDonough reported that some needs are being addressed immediately. Mr. Wilson assured Mr. McDonough that field issues are being addressed and will be ready in the fall. Maintenance will purchase a lift that can be used by both maintenance and the marching band. Lighting concerns have been discussed with the city manager and will be replaced over a three year period. Board members recognize that Mr. Cirillo has been incredibly successful with what has been given to his department. The Board recognizes that Portsmouth is committed in supporting athletics, academics and the Arts. Over the past few budget cycles, the Board has purposely protected the "core" which required some programming not to be supported at levels that members would have liked. Board members agree that these programs are growing and thriving; providing a level of competency that is on par with any programming in the state and New England and requested that Mr. Cirillo provide them with data tracking student performance academically while participating in one of the performing arts programs. This data will be used to support any future budget increases.

- b. **WORKSHOP SESSION: PROPOSED ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES AT NEW FRANKLIN SCHOOL** – Mr. Bartlett walked Board members through an updated spreadsheet provided by EEI. Mr. Legg inquired if Mr. Bartlett had been mindful of all proposed improvements. Will they be lost if, in five years, the Board decides to make changes at New Franklin? Mr. Bartlett reported that EEI is aware of the timeframe in which the elementary schools are scheduled for improvement. By enlarge; every improvement will be reusable during larger construction projects in 2016. Mr. Ellis commended water conservation efforts added to offset increased water rates expected next year. Mr. Bartlett will request final approval November 12th.

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. **WORKSHOP: PHS OPEN CAMPUS, NOVEMBER 26, 2013**
- b. **UPDATE ON SOLAR PROJECT AT PHS, TBD**
- c. **ADVANCEMENT: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2014** – Chair Stevens expects the date will be rescheduled.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Shuldman at 8:44 p.m.