PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21, 2014

SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL   PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014   **TIME: 6:30** [or thereafter]

I. **CALL TO ORDER -** Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. **ROLL CALL –** LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG (VICE-CHAIR), TOM MARTIN, PATRICK ELLIS, NANCY-NOVELLINE CLAYBURGH, LENNIE MULLANEY, JEFF LANDRY, EDWARD MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT) AND STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR)

III. **INVOCATION**

IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –** Chair Stevens led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

VI. **WORKSHOP SESSION ON FY 2015 BUDGET**

  i. TECHOLOGY – Assistant Superintendent Zadravec, IT Director Thomas Lotz and Assistant Systems Manager Ryan Loughlin highlighted the district's technology vision including: virtual desktop interface, ability to conduct business more efficiently with the newly created position of Assistant Systems Manager, upcoming CIP funds, how the technology cycle will expand over the next two years, "Bring Your Own Device" policy and online course management systems. Board members followed up with the following comments and questions:

    a. **Does the district have securities in place to assure that all student data is protected? If not, what does the technology department need to assure student data remains secure?** Student data is secured through Infinite Campus. The system is built with levels of permission and each user receives a level of access to complete their job. Teachers cannot access a student's information if they do not have that student in a class. The network as a whole is secured by firewalls and is inaccessible from the outside.

    b. **Regarding BYOB, what about kids that don't have their own devices?** IPad carts are available to all students.

    c. **What are we doing to assist students in learning how to use devices effectively and assuring that they will be able to use them appropriately after graduation?** Labs have been expanded at all three levels allowing students more instructional time and more and more opportunities to use electronic devices are being incorporated into the classroom.

    d. **What is the functional life of a "dummy terminal"?** Approximately ten years.

e. **Who participates in monthly technology meetings?** When cloud computing and BYOD were being rolled out at the middle school, Mr. Zadravec, Mr. Lotz and Mr. Loughlin met weekly with Ms. Rhonda Johnson. These meetings resulted in better triage of implementation issues. Group members will change as the needs of the district change.

f. **Is the district to the point where a digital curriculum consultant should be requested?** Mr. Zadravec believes that the district is on the verge.

g. **Do we know how The Portsmouth School Department compares technology wise with other school districts?** The Portsmouth School Department was recently visited by Oyster River and Exeter. So far PSD is the only district in the entire state to implement VDI and remains on the cutting edge.

h. **How does the district handle social networking sites such as Facebook?** The district does not block Facebook. The goal is to teach students how to use social networking sites in a safe and responsible way. Ms. Terra Merry, technology coordinator at the high school, has worked tirelessly on instruction and education surrounding teaching students how to be responsible digital citizens.

ii. FUTURE WORKSHOP REQUEST – None.

iii. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – Chair Stevens provided Board members with new assignments.

iv. OPENED BOARD SEAT – Chair Stevens expects to receive official notice soon. A non-public session will be scheduled if the seat remains vacant.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT –** Motion to adjourn at 8:15 by Mr. Martin and seconded by Ms. Clayburgh.