

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

TIME: 7:00 [or thereafter]

- 
- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), ANN WALKER, TOM MARTIN, PATRICK ELLIS, JEFF LANDRY, LENNIE MULLANEY, NANCY NOVELLINE-CLAYBURGH, GARY EPLER, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE), JAMES SULLIVAN (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE) AND ANN MAYER (SAU 50 REPRESENTATIVE)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Stevens led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- a. JANUARY 14, 2014
- MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of January 14, 2014 by Ms. Clayburgh  
SECOND: Ms. Walker  
DISCUSSION: Ms. Walker was in attendance. Special Presentation: Section a. Sentence is incomplete.  
VOTE: Pending above changes, unanimously approved
- b. JANUARY 21, 2014
- MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of January 21, 2014 by Ms. Clayburgh  
SECOND: Ms. Walker  
DISCUSSION: None  
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- c. JANUARY 28, 2014
- MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of January 28, 2014 by Ms. Clayburgh  
SECOND: Ms. Walker  
DISCUSSION: None  
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY15 BUDGET** – Portsmouth residents Mr. Mark Brighton of 285 Union Street and Ms. Angela Pont of 133 Miller Avenue both addressed the Board during the public hearing.
- VII. **RECESS PUBLIC HEARING UNTIL MARCH 4, 2014** – Chair Stevens recessed the public hearing at 7:29 pm. The Public Hearing will resume on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**
- a. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**
- i. **SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – UPDATED**
- ii. **NHDOE HIGHLIGHTS FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION HB 1587 + 1586 TO LIMIT COLLECTION AND DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT AND TEACHER DATA**
- iii. **USDOE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS: 3 PHS STUDENTS NAMES SEMI-FINALISTS**

iv. "WHAT THE HECK DO PRINCIPALS REALLY DO?" GEORGE SHEA

v. RESIGNATIONS

1. MS. KATHLEEN BLAKE, PHS

2. MS. COLLEEN ST. HILAIRE, SPECIAL EDUCATION

3. MS. SARAH JONES, PEEP

b. CORRESPONDENCE

i. MEMO FROM CITY ATTORNEY SULLIVAN RE RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW – Board Members requested that Chair Stevens discuss a PowerPoint policy with the Policy Committee.

c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

i. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

1. CHARLES GROSSMAN, PRINCIPAL LHS – Principals Grossman, Callahan and Shea presented jointly their elementary schools update, reporting both goals and achievements being made in math, reading and science. Principal Grossman highlighted that elementary schools are revisiting units of study based on Common Core State Standards, that teachers are integrating Science and Social Studies through non-fiction and that students are increasing their depth of knowledge through this process. Principal Grossman shared an essay from a fifth grade student and a cross curricular unit surrounding the American Revolution.

2. KATE CALLAHAN, PRINCIPAL DON - Principal Callahan highlighted how teachers are reading units of study and breaking them down to assess what is being completed at what grade level and, if omitted, assuring it is implemented at the next grade level. Principal Callahan shared a sample of a fifth grader unit of study where students research travel destinations and the animals which live there. Students use the library to find materials, interview parents that have traveled to other countries, then record and share out their findings. Students are learning the process of implementing, revisiting and revising their writing process in a thoughtful manner. There are benefits and struggles that arise out of sharing best practices across all three elementary schools. Principal Callahan stated the collaboration and support between principals has increased every year. Teachers have attended late start professional training and summer institutions and brought best practices back to their cohorts.

3. GEORGE SHEA, PRINCIPAL NFS – Principal Shea reported out on advancements being made in math including: a unit called Unleashing the Power of Explanation, focus areas in math and their outcomes, common formative assessments for the elementary schools, adding *Smarter Balanced* assessments and report card revisions to align with Common Core State Standards. Students are not only expected to be able to problem solve but to explain their reasoning. Report cards, which were in need of being revised, will begin the process looking at math. Teachers are taking state standards, digesting and refining into parent/student-friendly language

ii. STEVE BARTLETT, FINANCIAL – Mr. Bartlett provided a summary report on the budget and provided an updated spreadsheet for Board members. The salary and benefit lines are tracking according to plan. February is when the second half of the teacher payroll will be adjusted for the six month cola delay. Some seasonal variations with maintenance and custodial salary lines can be attributed to overtime due to inclement

weather. The substitute line continues to run higher than last year but is partially offset by the regular teacher line. Spending levels to date vary from historical patterns but remain reasonable when compared to total departmental budgets for the year.

- d. PHS STUDENT UPDATE, JAMES SULLIVAN – FCCLA is in the process of collecting donations for David’s House. David's House provides a home-away-from-home and support for families with children receiving treatment through the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. At all three PHS basketball games tonight, donations are being collected to support Carter Snow and his family.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR (1<sup>st</sup> READING) – Superintendent McDonough presented an initial draft of next year’s calendar. APT prepared two drafts for administration to review. Superintendent McDonough requested that the Board approve the calendar without professional development days and administration will return in April/May with the final draft for approval.

- b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CELEBRATION GRADUATION REQUEST

MOTION: Motion to approve Celebration Graduation Request by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

**XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. JBC – Vice-Chair Legg will report out at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

**XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. UPDATE ON SOLAR PROJECT AT PHS, TBD
- b. ELEMENTARY/PMS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE, TBD
- c. COMMON CORE WORKSHOP FOR NEW MEMBERS

- XIII. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn by Mr. Martin at 8:34 p.m. and seconded by Ms. Mullaney. Unanimously Approved.