

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR APRIL 8, 2014

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

TIME: 7:00 [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.
 - II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), ANN WALKER, PATRICK ELLIS, LENNIE MULLANEY, GARY EPLER, 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. MARCH 25, 2014 NON PUBLIC
MOTION: Motion to accept the non-public meeting minutes of March 25, 2014 by Ms. Mullaney
SECOND: Ms. Clayburgh
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
 - b. MARCH 25, 2014 REGULAR
MOTION: Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 25, 2014 by Ms. Mullaney
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
 - VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – NONE
 - VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
 - a. NEW FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY “PI” AWARDS PRESENTATION – Principal Shea and Mr. Tony Coviello, LHS parent and local business owner, presented this year’s PI winners with gift cards. Students then showcased their talents by reciting up to 64 place values of Pi.
 - b. FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT UPDATE, MS. RISO AND MS. MITCHELL – Nutrition Director Riso reported that Little Harbour students continue to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables through the support of the LHS Parent Teacher Association. Dondero students have joined the fresh fruits and vegetables program through the support of a program being offered by the Newburyport Bank and the local farmers market. Proceeds from this program will not only sustain the Dondero program but will bring the program to New Franklin as well. The Portsmouth Middle school continues to struggle with lunch participation due to construction but Ms. Riso is pleased to report that breakfast numbers have increased by 500%. Ms. Riso expects to see numbers for lunch dramatically increase when the new cafeteria opens after vacation. At the high school the nutrition department continues to try different packaging techniques that make it easier for students to grab lunch and go. The new packaging is resulting in “specials of the day” selling out. The Clipper Shack program, providing after school activity participants with sound nutritional choices, has doubled in participation.

In other news, the Nutrition Department joined a bulk purchasing group, which lowered paper goods and food costs. As more districts join, prices will continue to decrease. Concord School District’s Nutrition Director partnered with a local butcher to procure over 9,000 lbs. of beef. The director will not only store the beef but will deliver to any district interested. Through the Farm to

School grant, “try it” days can incorporate local corn, beef and fish products. Ms. Riso is pleased to offer local beef through this program if costs can be agreed upon. All Staff has received training in how to prepare local produce and is now safe serve certified. Ms. Riso recently met with local farmers to learn what local crops they will plant and plans to purchase juicers to further expand “try it” opportunities for students.

The state commended the Portsmouth School District for their Farm to School report recently submitted and plans to use Portsmouth’s report as an example. Ms. Kate Mitchell reported that survey results show most parents to be moderate gardeners with great interest in learning more about planting and gardening. Ms. Mitchell continues to identify areas to integrate gardening and the growing process into curriculum. All elementary teachers are scheduled to attend workshops, middle school teachers have expressed interest in utilizing the large windows in their new classrooms, students at the Career Technical Education Center are designing a greenhouse and Farm to School logo and Ms. Mitchell is hopeful to receive funding and support for two raised beds at Robert J. Lister Academy, resulting in every school being involved in the program. Meetings with community organizations have identified further partnering opportunities such as New Heights and the University of New Hampshire. Board members followed up with comments and questions.

- c. PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL MATH PLC WORK, PRINCIPAL COLLINS, MS. WAITE, MS. WADE AND MR. CHASSE– Ms. Wade shared how the entire math department continues to identify areas for improvement and how students are dramatically responding. Most recently, the math department identified a weakness in problematic statistics and is proud to report that students’ participation has now doubled, resulting in four classes now being offered with 100 students enrolled. Last year the department implemented Accuplacer topics to help seniors prepare for and pass college level classes. Math teachers who attended the Superintendent’s *How the Brain Learns* course reported back to their PLC group how understanding the differences between long term memory and short term memory can assure a student is truly learning and not just memorizing for a test. Students are now being taught how to explain their answers through mathematical writing. This year’s Math Department PLC work is focused on what is the purpose of homework and what should students get out of it? Board members followed up with comments and questions.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
 - i. NEW FRANKLIN NEWSLETTER
 - ii. CLIPPER FOUNDATION RFP
 - iii. LATIN CLUB TRIP TO ROME
- b. CORRESPONDENCE
 - i. NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES (NEASC) REVIEW LETTER
- c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS
 - i. PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL COLLINS
 - ii. FINANCIAL, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BARTLETT- Mr. Bartlett continues to monitor utilities due to weather conditions, market driven pricing and baseline for the middle school yet to be established.
- d. PHS STUDENT UPDATE, JAMES SULLIVAN- Mr. Sullivan reported out on current student club activities, athletics and the arts.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL REAFFIRMING EXISTING POLICY

i. BDF, AREA SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOTION: Motion to reaffirm Policy BDF by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Epler

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL REVISING EXISTING POLICIES: (SECOND READING)

i. BEC, EXECUTIVE SESSIONS (NONPUBLIC SESSIONS)

ii. BG, FORMULATION (AND ADOPTION) OF POLICIES

MOTION: Motion as a whole to approve the revision of Policies BEC and BG by Mr. Epler

SECOND: Ms. Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

X. NEW BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION: Motion to approve extended leave of absence for the 2014/2015 school year for Ms. Alyssa Bailey by Mr. Ellis

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. POLICY – The Policy Committee continues to review old policies for recommendation of revision, reaffirmation or deletion.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. CAREER & TECHNICAL PROGRAMMING, APRIL 22, 2014

b. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES AT PHS, MAY 27, 2014

c. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FACILITIES REPORTS AND ASSESSMENT, MAY 27, 2014

d. ELEMENTARY/PMS GUIDANCE UPDATE, TBD

e. ART, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, K-12 PROGRAM, TBD

f. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMMING, TBD

g. RE-EXAMINING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE, TBD

h. UPDATE ON SOLAR PROJECT @ PHS, TBD

i. STRENGTHENING STEM INITIATIVES, TBD

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. by Ms. Clayburgh and seconded by Mr. Ellis. Unanimously approved.