

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 14, 2014

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
 - II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG (VICE-CHAIR), ANN WALKER, PATRICK ELLIS, LENNIE MULLANEY, JEFF LANDRY, NANCY NOVELLINE-CLAYBURGH, GARY EPLER, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE) JULIA ADLER (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE) & 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. SEPTEMBER 23, 2014
MOTION: Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 23, 2014 by Ms. Walker
SECOND: Ms. Mullaney
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
 - VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**
 - VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
 - a. S2S MENTOR PROGRAM, DEB HEATH-BARLOW –Daniel O’Leary, (PHS Junior) along with three other students, traveled to San Antonio to participate in a program funded by the *Military Child Education Coalition*. This program identifies unique challenges facing military-connected children, increases awareness of these challenges in military and helps them succeed academically and acclimate to a new school. This particular conference encouraged students to return to their own schools and put into practice what they had learned. After returning, Daniel met with Principal Collins who suggested combining the program with a request he had received from a separate committee looking to begin a freshman mentor program. Student planning resulted in seventy-nine (79) mentors attending a one-day training in August and being trained on relationships, “finding your way” and academics. Twenty (20) staff advisors now work with mentors in matching students up.
 - b. INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES EXCURSIONS TO COSTA RICA, FRANCE, SPAIN AND ROME BY DEPARTMENT HEAD NANCY MODERN AND STUDENT PARTICIPANTS – Ms. Nancy Weaton-Modern introduced students who recently traveled to four countries. Ms. Modern commented how fortunate the district is to have seasoned teachers willing to work fundraisers and that have worldwide connections, saving students thousands of dollars towards travel costs and making it affordable for all. Students shared their difficulties traveling in a

foreign country and communicating in a foreign language as well as the life changing experience of living with a host family. Board members followed up with questions and commented on the articulation of each student and what a pleasure it was to see and hear their enthusiasm.

Students who traveled to each country:

SPAIN	FRANCE	ITALY	COSTA RICA
Asleigh LaPorta	Zoe Sprankle	Ivey Telles	Molly Flagg
Nora Dicesare	Bridget Keavney	Mark Hunter	Ginger Ruesswick
Natalie Tague		Sai Narra	Ashley Jurus
Danielle Egeland			
Gerty Flagg			

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 19, 2014 & OCTOBER 9, 2014
- ii. SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE, OCTOBER 2014

b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. THANK YOU LETTER FROM PHS TEACHER, LYNDA BETTCHER

c. ADMINISTATOR REPORTS

- i. PRINCIPAL GEORGE SHEA, NFS – Principal Shea welcomed one paraprofessional and two new staff members in special education and ESOL this year. New boilers are in place for winter and LED lights are soon to be installed. New Franklin is in its second year of the 21st Century Grant with close to 40% of the students (roughly 97 students) participating in at least one after school enrichment class. Principal Shea reported that several local companies have reached out with programs or monies to support students. A local grocery chain provided equipment for students to go “mining” and invited everyone to tour the store to learn about eating healthy. A local building supply store awarded the school with grant funds which allowed students to create a nature trail, providing kids an opportunity to be “hands on” with ecology. The back playground breaks ground this week and equipment delivered next week. Principal Shea thanked New Franklin’s active parent group who raised \$55,000 in one year to install the new playground. School Board members followed up with questions and comments.
- ii. PRINCIPAL KATE CALLAHAN, DO – Principal Callahan welcomed new hires to third grade and kindergarten. Last spring Principal Callahan met with kindergarten teachers who felt that kindergarten students and their parents might benefit from an orientation day. This fall, Dondero conducted its first kindergarten orientation with 100% of parents participating. Principal Callahan stated that results are already visible in parents who are engaged and part of Dondero’s culture. Ms. Cheryl Harrington (Grade 3) wrote a grant

providing Dondero students with a greenhouse. Students are learning about winter hardy vegetables such as kale and will harvest and prepare the vegetables. Principal Callahan finished with the school's new initiative *Donero Gives Back*. Students and teachers are giving back to the community by: cleaning beaches, collecting clothing for Crossroads and collecting canned goods for the Seacoast Food Pantry. This year Professional Development is focused on identifying what students know, setting individual goals, and how to meet those individual needs while teaching the entire classroom. School Board members followed up with questions and comments.

- iii. PRINCIPAL CHARLIE GROSSMAN, LHS –Principal Grossman will report at the next regularly scheduled School Board meeting.
- iv. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR STEVE BARTLETT, FINANCIAL – Mr. Bartlett reported that fluctuations in the first three months are typically due to changes in steps and tracks. Mr. Bartlett's budgetary concerns continue to be energy and special education. With reports stating that energy costs could soar 40%, Mr. Bartlett stated that it is important to continue putting efficiency measures into place such as the one at New Franklin. The city and school have applied for an energy grant, which would offset energy costs greatly if received.

IX. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (2nd READING):
 - i. (GBAA) SEXUAL HARASSMENT- EMPLOYEE/STAFF– Chair Stevens clarified the committees continuing work on updating all policies. The update on policy GBAA is not in direct response to any events that may have occurred. It is simply time for review and renewal.

MOTION: Motion to accept policy GBAA – Sexual Harassment, Employee/Staff by Ms. Clayburgh
SECOND: Mr. Legg
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
 - ii. (GBAA-R) SEXUAL HARASSMENT- EMPLOYEE REPORT FORM

MOTION: Motion to accept policy GBAA-R – Sexual Harassment, Employee/Staff Report Form by Ms. Mullaney
SECOND: Mr. Ellis
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved

X. **NEW BUSINESS**

- i. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (1st READING):
 - 1. (JKAA) USE OF RESTRAINTS AND SECLUSION –

MOTION: Motion to accept the first reading of policy JKAA – Use of Restraints and Seclusion by Mr. Ellis
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION: Board members requested clarification surrounding SRO's and the policy's limitations.
VOTE: Unanimously Approved

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. POLICY

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. K-12 ART, TBD
- b. ELEMENTARY/PMS GUIDANCE UPDATE, MAY 26, 2015
- c. STRENGTHENING STEM INITIATIVES, TBD

- XIII. ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn at 8:51 pm by Ms. Clayburgh and seconded by Ms. Mullaney. Unanimously approved.