

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2015

CITY HALL, SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter].

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:02 am.
 - II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), ANN WALKER, TOM MARTIN, PATRICK ELLIS, JEFF LANDRY, LENNIE MULLANEY, GARY EPLER, NANCY NOVELLINE-CLAYBURGH, ED MCDONOUGH (SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE ZADRAVEC (ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT), STEVE BARTLETT (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR), OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE), JULIE ADLER (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 13, 2015 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MOTION: Motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 13, 2015 by Ms. Mullaney
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION: Ms. Walker noted that roll call is missing.
VOTE: Pending above change, Unanimously Approved
 - b. JANUARY 20, 2015 BUDGET WORK SESSION
MOTION: Motion to accept the budget work session minutes of January 20, 2015 by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh
SECOND: Ms. Mullaney
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
 - c. FEBRUARY 3, 2015 BUDGET WORK SESSION
MOTION: Motion to accept the budget work session minutes of February 3, 2015 by Ms. Walker
SECOND: Mr. Ellis
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
 - VI. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FY 16 BUDGET** - NONE
 - VII. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - NONE
 - VIII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT 101- Assistant Superintendent Zdravec updated the Board on the district's preparations for the Smarter Balanced Assessment test. Now that a vendor has been chosen, administrators have been able to preview what the test will look like. Assistant Superintendent Zdravec provided each board member with a Google Chromebook and

encouraged them to try the sample test for Grade 3. Board members discussed what the differences are between the new and old testing systems, how the test will be implemented, how students with IEP's will be accommodated, the timeframe for rolling out the new test and how parents can learn more about SBAC.

After taking the sample test, school board members followed up with comments and questions:

- Does the computer or a human assess the writing portion of the exam?
- Are we expecting test scores to be equivalent to the NECAP scores?
- How is administration preparing students for the new test without taking away from instructional time?
- Is a student's individual identifying information kept confidential?
- How does administration internally apply accommodations uniformly across schools?
- Is there discussion that maybe the PSAT scores will be used instead of SBAC at the 11th grade level?
- Are we prepared to proctor the test with the amount of Chrome Books available?
- Does the district have sufficient bandwidth to proctor the test?
- Is our IT staff prepared and capable to assist teachers who may have issues?
- If the district is not satisfied with SBAC, is it possible to switch to a different test or provide feedback to improve the SBAC test?
- Is there anything in the works to test for Science?

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATOR, JANUARY 2015
- ii. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 29, 2015
- iii. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT CONNECTION MEETING INVITE
- iv. COPY OF PORTSMOUTH SCHOOLS K-5 FACILITIES REPORT
- v. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
- vi. SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT, MARCH 3, 2015, 4 PM

b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. LETTER OF RESIGNATION, ERIKA LAMBERT, RJLA – The Board wished Ms. Lambert well and commented that her resignation is a huge loss to RJLA.

c. ADMINISTATOR REPORTS

- i. FINANCIAL REPORT, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BARTLETT-Mr. Bartlett highlighted that FY15 remains within a half percent of this time last year. Mr. Bartlett continues to monitor maintenance, transportation and the substitute lines.

X. OLD BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (2ND READING)

i. (JICD) SUSPENSION OF PUPILS

MOTION: Motion to accept JICD, Suspension of Pupils, by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

DISCUSSION: Does the policy reflect clearly in writing a student's right to a hearing?

VOTE: TABLED – Policy Committee will review for next regularly scheduled meeting.

ii. (ACE, IHBC) PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS: NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP/DISABILITY

MOTION: Motion to accept ACE, IHBC: Procedural Safeguards: Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability, by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

iii. (JIA) DUE PROCESS

MOTION: Motion to accept JIA, Due Process, by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF 2015/2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR (2ND READING)

MOTION: Motion to approve the 2015/2016 school calendar by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

- c. UPDATE ON PRINCIPAL SEARCHES- The Principal Search Committee for PHS Principal received 20 applications from a diverse pool of candidates. Finalists will visit on March 9th and 10th. The Principal Search Committee for PMS Principal received 26 applications and will begin to review applications on March 4th. PHS Principal Finalists are expected to visit the district March 9th and 10th and PMS Principal finalists will visit March 16th and 17th.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

i. BARBARA PORTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

MOTION: Motion to accept the Barbara Porter Memorial Scholarship Fund by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

SECOND: Ms. Mullaney

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

ii. TONY RAHN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

MOTION: Motion to accept the Tony Rahn Memorial Scholarship Fund by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICY (ECFE) SUSTAINABILITY (1ST READING)

MOTION: Motion to accept ECFE, Sustainability, first reading by Ms. Clayburgh

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ellis will provide the Policy Committee with a copy of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee's sustainability preamble for reference.

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LITTLE HARBOR THREE YEAR SPRINKLER AND ADDITIONAL UPGRADES PLAN-Mr. Bartlett provided Board members with a one sheet summary of recommended upgrades for Little Harbour Elementary. The list addresses all code issues, abates asbestos tiles and shows in detail how the work will be distributed throughout three summer breaks, fully abating the school of all hazardous materials.

MOTION: Motion to approve the sprinkler upgrade plan of Little Harbour Elementary over a three-year period, completing by 2017 by Mr. Ellis

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: Regular maintenance funding will continue to upgrade roofs, security and elementary playgrounds.

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

d. DISCUSSION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS LONG RANGE PLANNING - Chair Stevens requested that the Board discuss how best to create a timeline for future elementary school projects. Board members agreed that a subcommittee should be formed and that community members be provided an opportunity to contribute to the process through public hearings. This subcommittee will review the Dore & Whittier report and report back to the full Board with what minimum renovations and maximum renovations would look like for each elementary school over the next ten years. The subcommittee will use Mr. Bartlett's Little Harbour model. Vice-Chair Legg encouraged the subcommittee to devise a plan that allows for code improvements to be made now

and further renovations to be made without code upgrades needing to be redone. If the Board is successful, the public will clearly recognize each improvement made, making school improvements widely supported by the community. Minimal disruption to a child's education must always come first. The subcommittee will report their plan back to the full Board for final consideration and approval.

XII. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. JBC- Settling continues to slow. All backordered materials have been received. The committee is now in the process of completing all documentation in order to receive the 3% CHPS state reimbursement. An open house will be scheduled for some time in May.
- b. POLICY - The committee continues to update old policies.
- c. SAGAMORE CREEK – Ms. Mullaney reported that the committee has been charged with developing 66 acres for public use. The committee is in the beginning stages and recommendations run from leaving the land as is to developing into several athletic fields. Committee members walked the property and welcome community input on how the land is developed.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. by Mr. Martin seconded by Mr. Ellis.