

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MARCH 10, 2015

CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** – LESLIE STEVENS (CHAIR), DEXTER LEGG (VICE 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) AND OLIN JOHANNESSEN (EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE)
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Stevens led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- a. **FEBRUARY 10, 2015 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of February 10, 2015 by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh
SECOND: Ms. Mullaney
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- b. **FEBRUARY 17, 2015 BUDGET WORK SESSION**
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of February 17, 2015 by Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION:
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- c. **MARCH 3, 2015 PUBLIC HEARING**
MOTION: Motion to accept the minutes of March 3, 2015 by Mr. Ellis
SECOND: Ms. Walker
DISCUSSION: It was noted that no one attended or spoke at the public hearing for the FY16 school budget.
VOTE: Unanimously Approved
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: PHS ATHLETICS** - Mr. Wilson highlighted three priorities of the athletic department: Academics, Conduct and Excellent Sports Teams.
- Academics: Students are to be considered athletes...not the other way around. 80-90% of Portsmouth High School athletes are scholar athletes (on the honor roll).
- Conduct: Eight years ago, the Board adopted an extra-curricular policy that spells out serious consequences for athletic misconduct of any kind year round.
- Excellence: Over the past eight years, 51 championships have been played and 21 state titles won. All coaches are coach certified, as well as first aid/CPR certified. Many are teachers.
- Mr. Wilson assured the Board that athletics should not be a barrier as they review school start times. Athletic team schedules would conform to a new start time, if approved.

Mr. Wilson also followed up on concussions, stating that every athlete must have a complete physical every two years and all athletes receive a brain “baseline” scan for comparison in the event of a concussion or at their two year physical.

Chair Stevens requested that Mr. Wilson set up an opportunity for the Board to honor the state champion alpine girls slalom team, as well as the track team.

Ms. Mullaney thanked Mr. Wilson for attending the Sagamore Creek meeting and for his invaluable input.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

i. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATOR, FEBRUARY 2015

ii. SPLASH INVITATION

iii. OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP – NEW YORK CITY

iv. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS JOB DESCRIPTION/SEARCH
TIMELINE/PRIORITIES

b. CORRESPONDENCE

c. ADMINISTATOR REPORTS

i. CTE – DIRECTOR DIANE CANADA - Director Canada reported that the Culinary team took first place in the state and will now travel to the nationals to compete.

Program updates included Architectural and Engineering Design, Automotive Technology, Business/Entrepreneurship, Business Hospitality, Construction Trades and the Career Center.

The Center is beginning its ten-year review by the New Hampshire Department of Education whose first site visit is March 25.

Board members commended Ms. Canada on the CTE Center’s ability to adapt to both student and industry needs.

ii. FOOD SERVICES – DIRECTOR DEB RISO – Ms. Riso thanked Superintendent McDonough for his support, for her personally and the nutrition department as a whole.

National Breakfast Week was a huge success, tripling the numbers sold at the middle school level.

Ms. Riso introduced each food service manager who shared a short bio of themselves and their schools. She ended her report by surprising each manager with plaques and banners, announcing their schools received the bronze medal by the USDA.

Board members recapped how in 2011 the district discussed outsourcing food services. Parents were asking for healthier, higher quality food. Board members and administration visited a number of school districts who had been successful creating a program in house where healthy nutrition programs integrated into the classroom curriculum and collaborated with local farmers. The Board recognized that Ms. Riso was the person who could transform the district. Board members thanked her for introducing her staff and for her efforts improving student nutrition.

Ms. Kate Mitchell, Director of Farm to School, reported that activities associated with the USDA Farm to School Planning grant year ended November of 2014. The district’s

implementation plan is complete with 10 modules guiding through all considerations for comprehensive farm to school programming. Goals for the next three years have been identified and a mission statement has been crafted: *To cultivate a strong farm to school program in the Portsmouth school District by focusing on personal community and environmental wellness through education, as well as growing and procuring healthy, fresh, and local foods for our classrooms, cafeterias, and consciousness.*

- iii. FINANCIAL REPORT, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR BARTLETT - The salary section is tracking as expected. Negative balances in the substitute and unclassified lines should be netted against the teacher line due to a number of leaves of absence. Other budget sections, taken as a whole, are in a similar position as last year, with the exception of the maintenance budget. Maintenance is over total allocation due to unanticipated equipment failures as well as snow removal. Snow removal costs have been submitted to FEMA for possible reimbursement.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FY16 SCHOOL BUDGET

MOTION: Motion to approve the Portsmouth School Department's FY16 budget in the amount of \$43,236,310.00 by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Vice Chair Legg

DISCUSSION: Board members commended administration on the entire budget process, finding it to meet the needs of all students and remaining mindful and responsible of tax dollars. Board members agreed that guidance from the newly created Joint Budget Committee was helpful and hoped it will become a permanent part of the budget process.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 9-YES 0-NO

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

i. (JICD) SUSPENSION OF PUPILS

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

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

- ii. (ECFE) SUSTAINABILITY – Mr. Ellis requested that a vote be deferred until the committee had the opportunity to review information in the city's sustainability proclamation.

X. NEW BUSINESS

a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (1ST READING)

i. (GBEBD) EMPLOYEE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES

MOTION: Motion to approve policy GBEBD, Employee Use of Social Networking Websites (first reading) by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Ms. Mullaney

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ONE YEAR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MOTION: Motion to approve a one-year leave of absence for Ms. Jena Bulger-Judd by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Martin

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

c. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF GRADUATION DATE**

MOTION: Motion to approve June 12, 2015 as the Portsmouth High School graduation date by Mr. Ellis

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

d. **REVIEW OF DRAFT SCHOOL BOARD GOALS FOR 2015-16** – Board members discussed the difference between Board goals and setting timelines on projects. Goals should be more encompassing whereas tactics and strategies should be timeline driven. The Board requested that Assistant Superintendent review the proposed goals and provide feedback prior to their consideration and approval tentatively scheduled for April 24th.

e. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 1, 2015-** Chair Stevens stated that the Board has been in preparation for Mr. McDonough's succession for quite some time. It quickly became clear to the Board that Assistant Superintendent Zdravec was the clear choice. Assistant Superintendent Zdravec has worn many hats during his time with the Portsmouth School Department and wears each one with skill, compassion, dedication and excellence.

MOTION: Motion to approve Stephen Zdravec as Superintendent of Schools, beginning September 1st, 2015 by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Ms. Novelline-Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES-9 NO-0

XI. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. JBC- A community Open House is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2-4 pm.
- b. POLICY- The Policy Committee is currently reviewing the wellness policy and new policies required by law.
- c. SAGAMORE CREEK – Ms. Mullaney invited the public to attend a meeting on March 18th in the School Board Conference Room beginning at 6:30 pm.

XII. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. NEXT MEETING, MARCH 24, 2015 AT PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
- b. K-8 GUIDANCE PRESENTATION, MARCH 24, 2015

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**-Motion to adjourn at 9:07 pm by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Landry