

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MARCH 8, 2016**

EILEEN M. FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – School Board Chair Leslie Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** Chair Leslie Stevens, Tom Martin, Lennie Mullaney, Gary Epler, Ann Walker, Nancy Clayburgh, Patrick Ellis, Roseann Vozella Clark, Jeff Landry, SAU50 Representative Ann Mayer, Superintendent Steve Zdravec, Assistant Superintendent George Shea
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Stevens led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
  - a. FEBRUARY 9, REGULAR MEETING  
MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of February 9, 2016 by Mr. Martin  
SECOND: Ms. Walker  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously accepted
  - b. FEBRUARY 16, BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of February 16, 2016 by Mr. Martin  
SECOND: Ms. Walker  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously accepted
  - c. MARCH 1, BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of March 1, 2016 by Ms. Walker  
SECOND: Mr. Martin  
DISCUSSION:  
VOTE: Unanimously accepted
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no one wishing to speak.
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
  - a. PHS PRINCIPAL REPORT  
Principal Mary Lyons reported on the many activities at Portsmouth High School.

There were 3 students who are finalists for the National Merit Scholarship.

Splash showcasing the artistic work of our students is now on display for the month of March beginning Sunday, March 13, 2016 at the Portsmouth Public Library.

Sports programs are seeing great results. Ms. Lyons participated in the Penguin Plunge with students and are Division II in raising the most money for Special Olympics.

82% of seniors have applied for either a 4 year or 2 year program.

Eighth Grade students participated in Step Up Day with great results. They were able to attend both core classes and electives and had a question and answer session with students. The feedback was positive.

The SAT implementation was March 2, 2016 with all students taking the SAT exam, not just those heading to college.

The high school students are working on the WHO WE ARE now program working with local artists and businesses.

The Youth Behavior Risk Survey is being reviewed now and current programs will be evaluated based on the results. John Halligan will be speaking at PHS about suicide and cyber bullying on April 19, 2016. The results of this should be brought to the board in March or April.

The scheduling committee is looking at a Task Block program that is currently being used at ConVal Regional High School. This program will allow students time each day to meet with staff on academic or health issues. The committee is also looking at areas such as exam day, skinny blocks, and athletic dismissals. They hope to have a school board member join the committee.

Open House will be March 17, 2016. Information on the Clipper Academy summer program will be available that evening.

The Drama Regional competition is March 11th and 12th.

b. CTE REPORT

CTE Director Diane Canada enlightened the board on the exciting things happening at PHS which will meet the needs of the community. These programs include a new 2 year business program, entrepreneurship, with the opportunity to experience different career interests such as teacher training programs, what a welder can do, and working with local colleges and technical schools, and opportunities to earn college credit for some high school courses. An important class added is Careers in Business which is to introduce 9th and 10th grade students to these programs.

Competition season is in full swing with both awards and achievements earned. Pro Start curriculum was implemented by Chef Long and a National Certificate of Achievement was awarded to one of our students.

The Construction Trades students are working with Star Island Corporation to help restore their rowboats. They are building sheds to order including one for the Farm to School Project.

New members of the National Technical Honor Society will be inducted at the CTE Awards Ceremony on May 19, 2016 beginning with a reception at 5:00 followed by the ceremony. An invitation will be sent out soon.

c. **GRADE 6-12 MATH COURSE ALIGNMENT**

Assistant Superintendent George Shea and Portsmouth Middle School Math Department Head Chrissy Kwesell spoke about the Math Program adjustments being made to realign some courses to meet the competencies. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade math curriculum comes close to covering the topics of Algebra 1. PMS is looking to expand 8<sup>th</sup> grade math to cover all of the Algebra 1 topics. Grade 8 students will take the PHS Algebra 1 final this year to see where they stand with Algebra 1 competencies.

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

- i. **POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, FEBRUARY 11**
- ii. **FEBRUARY CO UPDATE**
- iii. **FUTURES NEWSLETTER**
- iv. **PMS POST**

b. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- i. **BUSINESS/COMMERCE PROGRAM APPROVAL**  
This was the letter Diane Canada mentioned in her presentation.
- ii. **INVITATION FROM THE CLIPPER FOUNDATION**  
An official invitation will be sent via email  
**DISCUSSION:** The level of writing in the PMS POST is sophisticated in language, humor, with high level of writing.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

a. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE FY 17 BUDGET**

**MOTION:** Motion made to approve by Mr. Martin

**SECOND:** Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: Thank Mr. Bartlett for his updates

VOTE: Roll call unanimously approved

b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF JUNE 10, 2016 GRADUATION DATE

MOTION: Motion to approve made by Mr. Ellis

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: The instructional hours meet the state requirement

VOTE: Unanimously approved

c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (REAFFIRMED)

This is being done as part of the approval requirements for the IDEA Grant. The DOE wanted us to review them to insure our policies are current with the updates in laws.

i. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS- IKF

MOTION: Motion to approve by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Landry

DISCUSSION: This is not changing, just a reaffirmation.

VOTE: Unanimously approved

ii. FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)- JRA

MOTION: Motion to approve by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Epler

DISCUSSION: This is not changing, just a reaffirmation

VOTE: Unanimously approved

d. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (REVISED)

i. INSTRUCTIONAL NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT TALENTS- IFA

MOTION: Motion to approve by Mr. Ellis

SECOND: Ms. Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously approved

ii. ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS- JFABD

MOTION: Motion to approve by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Landry

DISCUSSION: "A dispute as to transportation shall delay....." will be checked with legal

VOTE: Unanimously approved with clarification

iii. CHILD FIND POLICY- IHBAC

MOTION: Motion to approve by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously approved

e. **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (FIRST READING)**

i. **PROGRAMS FOR PUPILS WITH DISABILITIES- IHBA**

MOTION: Motion to approve by Ms. Walker

SECOND: Ms. Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously approved

**XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

a. JBC, waiting for City Council Vote

b.

Mr. Ellis said the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sustainable Practices Committee will have two student member openings

Mr. Shea is working on board member emails

The first Middle School Performance will be March 9th.

The performance at Portsmouth High School is next week.

**XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

a. ELECTRONIC TEXT BOOK POLICY

b. STEM

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. by Mr. Martin

SECOND: Mr. Landry

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously approved