

**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MEETING FOR MAY 24, 2016**

PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL, LIBRARY

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
  - a. MAY 10, REGULAR MEETING
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
  - a. PORTSMOUTH- NICHINAN EXCHANGE CLUB
- VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
  - a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
    - i. *BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR*, MAY 2016
    - ii. PHS AREA REPORT
    - iii. PHS GRADUATION WEEK ACTIVITIES
    - iv. CO UPDATE
  - b. CORRESPONDENCE
  - c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
- IX. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES
  - b. NEW CASTLE STUDENTS
- X. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. PHS SOLAR PROJECT PPA
  - b. 1<sup>ST</sup> NH INDICATORS
- XI. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**
  - a. BEC
  - b. FARM TO SCHOOL
- XII. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
  - a. ELECTRONIC TEXT BOOK POLICY
  - b. STEM
  - c. FUTURE STATE OF ARTS
- XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

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**PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR MAY 10, 2016- DRAFT**

EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER-** School Board Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL-** Chair Leslie Stevens, Lennie Mullaney, Gary Epler, Ann Walker, Nancy Clayburgh, Patrick Ellis, Roseann Vozella Clark, 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. **APRIL 12, REGULAR MEETING**

MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of April 12, 2016 by Mr. Epler

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT-** None
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
  - a. **YRBS PRESENTATION-** Superintendent Zdravec introduced Wellness Coordinator Laura Burbine. Ms. Burbine works primarily at the middle school but provides outreach to the high school and elementary schools. PSD received a two year extension in the grant which funds the Wellness Coordinator and Substance Abuse positions. The grant allows continued prevention efforts for students with substance abuse. The YRBS results show some positive trends in the areas the grant was written to address.

Ms. Burbine provided highlights of the programs/ curricula that support the drug and alcohol prevention/intervention efforts taking place within the schools. Ms. Burbine explained the holistic manner which they approach prevention and intervention. Highlights were provided of the results from the YRBS.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:** Positive feedback in the holistic approach being utilized. It is a community wide issue and there is “no quick fix”. An explanation was provided on how to identify higher risk students. It was requested that to see the data from the YRBS. Questions regarding what drug abuse was reported in the high school. PBS’s Frontline program offers an informative podcast regarding Opium.
  - b. **FOOD SERVICE REPORT-** Director of School Nutrition Deb Riso gave an overview of the Food Service Program News:
    - Clippers Farm to School logo was designed by a PHS student and the van was detailed with the logo today
    - List of local food distributors

- School Nutrition Association Spring Conference
- PHS salad bar delayed opening to the fall 2016
- Results from the State Administrative Review

Farm to School Program Manager Kate Mitchell provided a progress update of the Clippers Farm to School Grant. PSD was awarded a two year \$100,000 USDA Farm to School Implementation Grant. Ms. Mitchell shared the mission statement and the objectives that must be met by December 2017. Also, she shared some of the efforts that have materialized that were not outlined in the grant. Information and notes from the Clippers Farm to School Steering Committee March meeting were provided. Upcoming Market Booth Dates: June 14, July 23 and October 1 (National Farm to School Month Celebration)

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:** There might be an opportunity for funding through the Clippers Foundation. Ms. Mitchell reported the Clipper Foundation has already funded two greenhouses. Also, possible additional funding opportunities might be available through Rotary. Volunteers will maintain the gardens during the summer months. Possibly explore additional help through garden clubs or students with Capstone Projects.

#### VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

##### a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR, APRIL 2016
- ii. POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES, MAY 4
- iii. FIELD TRIP- CAMP CALUMET
- iv. BEN FRANKLIN LOAN TO THE PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- v. PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL WATER TEST RESULTS
- vi. PHS STUDENT PERSUASIVE WRITING LETTERS
- vii. 1<sup>st</sup> IN NH STAFF SURVEY- Results will be shared at the next meeting.

##### b. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. ROBERT J. LISTER LETTER

##### c. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- i. FINANCIAL- Financial Report Narrative & Financial Report Month End April 2016 provided.

#### IX. OLD BUSINESS

##### a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (SECOND READING)

##### i. WELLNESS- JLCF

MOTION: Motion to approve policy JLCF by Ms. Clayburgh

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: It is a wielding policy. A clarification was provided regarding the number of representatives in the Wellness Advisory Committee.

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

#### X. NEW BUSINESS

##### a. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT

- i. SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER, PMS
  - ii. SCIENCE TEACHER, PMS
  - iii. SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER, PMS
  - iv. TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATOR, PMS
- MOTION: Motion to approve by Ms. Walker  
 SECOND: Mr. Ellis  
 DISCUSSION: PSD is very lucky to have such great candidates.  
 VOTE: Unanimously accepted
- b. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE
- MOTION: Motion to approve Leave of Absence by Mr. Ellis  
 SECOND: Ms. Walker  
 DISCUSSION:  
 VOTE: Unanimously accepted
- c. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES (REVISED)
- i. FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM – EF
- MOTION: Motion to approve policy EF by Mr. Ellis  
 SECOND: Ms. Clayburgh  
 DISCUSSION: Clarification provided on the revision.  
 VOTE: Unanimously accepted

**XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. POLICY- Chair Stevens provided a brief update. Currently, the committee is working on the discipline policy.
- b. JBC- Superintendent Zadavec provided a brief update.
- c. BEC- BEC meets tomorrow and will provide an update at the next meeting.

**XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. ELECTRONIC TEXT BOOK POLICY
- b. STEM
- c. FUTURE STATE OF ARTS

*Upcoming Events:*

May 11- City Council Public Hearing 6:30 p.m.

May 10- Opening Reception of Power of Voice: Past, Present and Future Special Exhibit, an art exhibit by PMS students in grades 6-8, at the Seacoast African American Cultural Center

May 18- All City Spring Concert

May 19- CTE Awards Ceremony Invitation

May 26- PMS Spring Showcase

- ❖ Congratulations to the PHS Band! The PHS band travelled to Disney over April vacation and had a very successful trip. They scored silver second overall and best in their class.
- ❖ PMS travelling to Great East Competition on Friday, May 13.
- ❖ 2016-2017 School Board Proposed Meeting Dates will be added to the next agenda. A request to possibly consider moving the second November meeting date.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. by Mr. Ellis

**SECOND:** Ms. Walker

**DISCUSSION:**

**VOTE:** Unanimously accepted

# Board & Administrator

FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

May 2016 Vol. 30, No. 1

Editor: Jeff Stratton

## Board use of social media: Rules for sound communication apply here, too

Today's tech tools make it easier than ever for school districts and board members to engage community members and stakeholders. But trustees should think before they press "send" with their social media communications, said attorney Peter Fagen of Fagen, Friedman & Fulfroft LLP.

Fagen advises board members to avoid getting swept up in the ease of use technology offers and remember that all trustee communication should be mindful that the same rules that apply to any form of board communication should apply to social media as well.

The board does not need policies for each communication tool that becomes popular, Fagen said. "I don't like the idea of device-specific policies or media-specific regulations," he said. "The technology will always be changing, and your policies won't be able to keep up with the technology," he said.

The best way to approach the issue is through training and consistency. "Embed the principles of the way people are supposed to behave and interact, and apply them across all communication platforms," Fagen said.

The need for established principles can play out with social media just like it does in other areas of communication that can potentially create violations of open meetings law. "You want to guard against even the slightest perception that you are conducting work, deliberating, and discussing items through social media," Fagen said.

"There is nothing wrong with having a Facebook page and being friends with board colleagues," he added.

Problems can arise for board members when two or more trustee-colleagues are followers and someone attempts to influence a school board vote, he said.

"It's all about board member judgment," Fagen said. Board members should understand their potential audience, and concepts such as that when a trustee posts, she loses control of the message.

For example, when a board member posts something on social media and a follower or friend of the board member shares it, the information gets moved on to others. "This could potentially be a violation," Fagen said.

Communication about the schools should be left to the superintendent. The administrator should publicize news about education, great programs at the elementary schools, and pictures of classrooms. "Districts do that all the time, but that should be left to the staff, not board members," Fagen said. He explained that the overarching theme when posting on social media is to use good judgment. Think about what you post, he said.

"Even if I 'like' something, I am very conscious about it," he explained.

Proofread a post several times before you submit the item. "And when doing this, consider how your message will be received," he said.

This holds doubly true these days for public officials and the superintendent, too, Fagen said. Across all forms of communication, thoughtfully consider your messages and be mindful that you can build or compromise confidence in the school district, he said.

For information, visit [f3law.com](http://f3law.com). ■

### 'Best practice' is for superintendent to start job in May

When Superintendent Eugene Schmidt took a new job with the Farmington, N.M., Municipal Schools, the board asked him to start in May.

"I consider this a national best practice," he said.

It allowed Schmidt to meet with principals, walk the classrooms, and speak at three graduation ceremonies.

"This enabled me to build rapport, participate in the budget process, jump right into the restructure of central office, and select four new principals," Schmidt said.

"Building trust works two ways as the school board must extend a hand as well," he said. "In this case, the extended hand gave me two months' head start on superintendents that traditionally start on July 1." ■

### Agree to these points in a board-superintendent relationship policy

In order to foster an effective relationship, the board and superintendent need to come to agreement on how they will interact and engage. Many school boards put this into writing, in the form of a board-and-superintendent relationship policy. Here are the key points the board and superintendent should consider when developing this type of policy:

- The board governs, while the superintendent manages the day-to-day affairs of the district.
- The board should respect the superintendent's knowledge of educational matters.
- The superintendent should respect the board's responsibility to stakeholders.
- Both parties should honor confidentiality requirements.
- Both parties should seek to create an environment of openness, honesty, and trust.
- The superintendent works for the full board, not the board president or any other individual member.
- Decisions made by the full board at a board meet-

ing are the only ones that bind the superintendent.

- Board members request information through the superintendent. When one board member requests information, the superintendent copies all board members on the response.
- The superintendent treats all board members equally.
- When the board sets goals for the district, it considers available resources.
- The superintendent manages the district's staff.
- Individual board members do not "give orders" to district staff.
- The board evaluates the superintendent each year.
- The board evaluates itself every two to three years.
- Stakeholder concerns and comments are handled at the appropriate level in the district, and not by board members. Board members should pass citizen concerns on to the superintendent. ■

### Most boards use operating principles

A set of operating principles can go a long way in helping the board and superintendent agree on matters of who does what.

The role of the school board is to:

- Prioritize and keep district resources focused on student learning.
- Set policies.
- Approve the budget.
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent.
- Listen to and represent the community.
- Be an advocate for public education.
- Be supportive of students, staff, and administration.
- Support participation and involvement in decision-making.
- Direct concerns or criticisms to the superin-

tendent in a timely manner.

- Support actions taken by the board and clearly differentiate personal opinion from board decisions when speaking in the minority.

The role of the school board is not to:

- Carry out policies or micromanage.
- Create surprises.
- Abdicate board responsibility.
- Press narrow personal agendas.
- Make promises as an individual board member that would appear to be binding upon the board and/or district.

In the *Board & Administrator* network, nearly 90 percent of boards are using operating principles, according to data from *B&A's Survey on School Boards* conducted late last year. ■



## Portsmouth High School News

### **End of the Year Activities**

- Junior Prom - Saturday May 21. Grand March is set to kick off at 5:45 PM in the PHS Gymnasium.
- Senior Prom - May 27, 7:00 PM, Sheraton Harborside.
- Baccalaureate Ceremony - Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 PM, PHS Auditorium.
- Awards Assembly - Thursday, June 9, 1:00 PM, PHS Gymnasium.
- Graduation - Friday, June 10, 5:30 PM, PHS Gymnasium.

Baccalaureate is a beautiful ceremony and we encourage board members to attend. All are invited to the Awards Assembly as well. Invitations to graduation will be mailed to board members in late May. Parents have planned a great celebration graduation and we look forward to a full night of festivities.

### **Continuing Education Update**

- 85% of seniors have applied to college for a total of 1,520 applications. Currently seniors are updating their decisions and waiting to hear back on local scholarships. The senior class is estimated to be awarded \$200,000 in scholarships from the local community. Final numbers will be available the week of graduation.
- Planning is already beginning for next year's senior class. Thirty percent of the junior class have had met for college planning. Evening programming for next year is almost finalized with some new events in the works. More details will be available in June.

### **National Merit Semi – Finalists**

- Congratulations to seniors Robert Freeman, Isabelle Halle, and Matthew Harrison for being named National Merit semi-finalists. In addition to our two finalists, PHS had three commended students, Justin Messmer, Addison Mueller, and Jacob Naimark. Hats off to all for their distinguished recognition!

### **Clipper Grants**

- The Physical Education Department received a Clipper Foundation award this spring to build a new Low-High elements course that will become part of the freshman PE I course. When students climb, they will be able to see the other high elements they could potentially climb when they enroll in our Project Adventure elective. Putting students in a non-traditional physical education setting in which they can succeed will entice some of them to take Project Adventure and Project Adventure II. Not only does giving freshmen this opportunity help our enrollment for electives, it also allows students to participate in Experiential Learning. Our adventure curriculums are built around the Experiential Learning philosophy, or learning by doing. We are constantly encouraging our students to step outside of their comfort zones, relaying the message that it is acceptable to make mistakes during learning as long as you can correct the mistake in the future. This is a concept our freshmen physical education students are taught their first year. We echo these beliefs when they take Project Adventure, an excellent example of multi-grade learning. We have discovered that when students take our adventure electives, many times they have done so because they enjoyed their experience freshman year and are familiar with our philosophies.

- Dee Barrett, Science Department Head, received a Clipper Foundation award to monitor our living saltmarsh. The Living Saltmarsh will become an ongoing study of the salt marsh adjacent to Sagamore Creek. Data collection and analysis will be performed by ecology students at Portsmouth High School. Data will include water quality information, sea-level rise data, and invasive species and threatened species mapping. Data will be shared online and will be available to the public. It is the hope that from this study, a historical database will be in place which will in turn help local scientists and community members make decisions regarding initiatives needed to deal with climate change.
- The final award this year to PHS from the Clipper Foundation went toward the collaborative efforts of Nancy Modern, International Languages Department Head and Amy Brnger, our Futures Coordinator. Nancy and Amy will support Mindfulness and Resilience practices of students to help bolster coping skills, confidence, and teach stress management skills, through yoga and other trainings.

### **The American Regions Math League (AMRL)**

- Five PHS math team members have qualified for the ARML held at Penn State University in State College. In order to qualify, the competitors had to participate in monthly practices on Saturdays at Southern New Hampshire University, our sponsor, and be recognized as a top performer in a math league or the state meet. Portsmouth competes in the Tri-State Math League which consists of thirteen schools, approximately 220 competitors. This year's qualifiers are sophomore Ginny Church, and seniors Tim Kammerer, Selina Ni, Robbie Freeman and Kai Ergin. They will participate in a two day, overnight competition beginning on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and returning on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all five students. Additionally, Tim Kammerer was recognized last year as the best public school math student from New Hampshire.

### **John Halligan**

- All PMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 9-12 high school students attended a presentation by John Halligan on April 18<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by Project Safety Association and Portsmouth Regional Hospital. Mr. Halligan lost his son, Ryan, to suicide on October 7, 2003 at the age of 13. At the time of his death, Ryan was a student at a middle school in Vermont. It was revealed in great detail after Ryan's death that he was ridiculed and humiliated by peers at school and on-line. In memory of his son, Mr. Halligan spearheaded the Vermont Bullying Prevention law in 2004 and led the passing of a law in 2006 pertaining to suicide prevention education in public schools. He has been outspoken about the need for more education and prevention of bullying, cyber bullying and teen suicide throughout the United States, Canada and Latin America. Mr. Halligan shared Ryan's story with students and staff during the day and met with parents in the evening to share useful tips on internet and social media safety.

### **School Counseling Update**

- The PHS School Counseling Department completed the process of on-line scheduling via Infinite Campus with 8–11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Eighth grade PMS parents and 9-11<sup>th</sup> grade PHS parents were also able to log on to the portal and make changes to the student's course selections during a two week course selection window. Next year all students 9-12 will complete the on-line scheduling process in a new infinite campus program called 4-year course planner. In this new program teachers

will also have the ability to input all of the course recommendations. The benefits to on-line scheduling include: encouraging students and parents to log on to the infinite campus portal; providing students with experience that will assist them in college on-line course selection process; helping to ensure accurate teacher recommendations; and of course saving trees by preventing the need for so much paper.

### **Futures 2016**

- Thirty-two students participate in the Futures Program at Portsmouth High School. Eight will graduate in June and all have been accepted to colleges. Students will be attending Keene State College, University of New Hampshire, Roger Williams College, Fitchburg State College, and Purdue University.
- Seven Futures college students will also graduate this spring. Students will graduate from the University of New Hampshire, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Southern Maine, New York University (NYU), Plymouth State University, and Keene State College.
- Futures seniors attended Discover UNH Day in October 2015, and freshman and sophomores attended a similar program in April 2016. Both programs are geared toward encouraging first generation, multicultural and/or low income students to prepare for and attend college. Students participated in student panels, took a tour of UNH, and learned about the college admissions process.
- With the support of the Clipper Foundation funds, interested juniors will work with coordinator Amy Brnger this summer to pilot a resiliency program for Futures students to help bolster coping skills, confidence, and teach stress management skills, especially as they pertain to the college application process and high school achievement.

### **Career Technical Education**

- PHS culinary student, Carson Crisp, will participate in Skills USA National Competition in Louisville Kentucky. Carson won the State gold medal last year and this year. He will be returning to Nationals in June, with the goal of improving his top ten finish from last year, to bring home a medal with a finish in the top three.
- CTE is working with Great Bay Community College to develop a Computer Science Pathway. This year we offered two Great Bay Community courses and next year we will be offering four.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> annual CTE Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup>. This evening of celebration will highlight student achievement, industry certifications, two-year program completion and the induction of the ten nominees to the National Technical Honor Society. Please join us at 5:30 PM in the Culinary Arts dining room for refreshments followed by the ceremony at 6:00 PM.

### **Points of Interests from the Athletic Department**

Fall accomplishments:

- Boys soccer team made the championship game for the first time in history.
- Girls soccer team made the championship game for the second time in history.
- Girls field hockey team made the championship game for the third time in history.

Winter accomplishments:

- Boys alpine ski team finished runner up in the Division I State Championship.
- Boys winter track team won the Division 2 State Championship for the second consecutive year.
- Boys basketball team entered the Division 2 playoffs as the #1 team in the State and won the state championship finishing an undefeated season 22-0.

Current Spring Sports:

- All of our spring sports teams are doing very well. Both boys and girls tennis teams are currently undefeated with a record of 8-0 in baseball and boys and girls lacrosse are at the top of their respective standings.

**Approximately 80%-85% of our student athletes are on the honor roll!**

### Performing Arts Department Update

#### May 2016

##### All City Concerts

- Wednesday, May 11 featuring PHS Percussion Ensemble, PHS String Ensemble, PHS Concert Choir & PHS Jazz Band
- Wednesday May 18 featuring PHS Winter Guard, PHS Madrigal Singers & PHS Concert Band  
Both concerts begin at 7:00 in the PHS auditorium
- Kudos to the cast and crew of the Working and their director, Alden Caple. The show ran this past weekend with performances on Thursday, Friday, Saturday evening and a matinee performance on Sunday.
- PHS Woodwind and Brass Ensemble and the PHS Marching Band will perform at various Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday, May 30.

#### April 2016

- Eight PHS Musicians, Julia Adler, Luke Choi, Spencer Wirth, Mary Jardine, Hadley Pope, Sarah Melanson, Jake Nairmark, and Victor Carrillo Tracey, represented PHS at the NHMEA state festival in Concord.
- PHS Drama advanced and performed at the New England Drama Regional Festival at Camden Hills Regional High School in Rockland, ME.
- The PHS Band Traveled to Orlando, Florida for a fun packed week of performances, which included both a band and winter guard clinic, a concert band performance at the Disney Magic Music Days Festival, and march down Main St. at the Magi Kingdom in front of thousands of spectators. The Clipper Band received superior awards for both the parade and concert band festival, where they also captured a best in class award.

#### March 2016

- Music in Our Schools Month featured concerts by the PHS Jazz Band, PHS Madrigal Singers, Concert Choir and the PHS Concert Band
- The PHS Percussion Ensemble completed another undefeated season with a Gold Medal finish at the New England Championship in Dartmouth, MA
- PHS Drama participated in the NHTEG Regional Festival at Coe-Brown and the NHTEG State Festival in Northwood.

- The PHS Concert Choir hosted a first time collaboration concert with the Worcester Youth Symphony building community through performance.

### **Summary of Upcoming Events**

- May 11 – All City Concert #1 (7:00 PM)
- May 14 – Interact Day of Giving, Rye Beach (9:00-11:00 AM)
- May 16 – National Honor Society Blood Drive (7:30 AM-2:30 PM)
- May 18 – All City Concert #2 (7:00 PM)
- May 18 – Career Technical Education Awards Ceremony (6:00 PM)
- May 21 – Junior Prom (5:45 PM)
- May 27 – Senior Prom (7:00 PM)
- June 8 – Baccalaureate (7:00 PM)
- June 9 – Awards Ceremony (1:00 PM)
- June 10 – Graduation (5:30 PM)

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# June 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><b>6 SENIOR EXAMS</b> BLOCK 4 (7:30-9:00) BLOCK 3 (9:10-10:40) Regular Lunch Block Block 1/1B-- (11:20-12:35) Block 2--(12:40-1:55)</p> <p><b>2:00-YEARBOOK ASSEMBLY</b> Faculty Recognition/ Yearbook Dedication</p> <p>Senior Yearbook distribution <i>following</i> the yearbook assembly</p> <p>Senior Scholarship Reception, 6:00 PM Cafeteria - By Invitation Only</p>	<p><b>7 SENIOR EXAMS</b> BLOCK 1/1B (7:30-9:00) BLOCK 2 (9:10-10:40) Regular Lunch block</p> <p><b>10:40 AM - SENIOR MEETING/Auditorium</b></p> <p><b>ALL SENIORS MUST BE PRESENT</b> Senior Clearance forms due to Grade Office by 3:30 PM</p> <p><b>All Grad Speakers and Class Officers will meet in the Administrative Conference Room immediately after the Senior Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>June 1</b> <u>Clearance forms distributed and sign up for Handicapped tickets in the Grade Office</u></p> <p><b>8 SENIOR FAILURE List due 7:30 AM GRADUATION SEATING/REHEARSAL at 7:30 AM ALL SENIORS MUST BE PRESENT</b> Distribution of Caps &amp; Gowns</p> <p><b>CLASS PICTURE</b> (approximately 10:30 AM) Regular Lunch Block - Grades 9-11</p> <p>Senior Celebration Lunch Provided</p> <p><b>11:20-SENIOR VIDEO</b></p> <p><b>11:40-BACCALAUREATE REHEARSAL</b></p> <p><b>5:30-Cafeteria-NHS</b> distribution of sashes</p> <p><b>LINE UP for Baccalaureate at 6:30 PM</b> <b>BACCALAUREATE at 7:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>GRADUATION REHEARSAL - 8:00 AM ALL SENIORS MUST BE PRESENT FOR REHEARSALS &amp; AWARDS ASSEMBLY - CAPS AND GOWNS REQUIRED</b> (6 Graduation Tickets distributed/student)</p> <p>Regular Lunch Block</p> <p><b>GRADUATION REHEARSAL</b> 11:20 AM</p> <p><b>SENIOR AWARDS ASSEMBLY</b> 1:00 PM (seniors will wear caps and gowns)</p> <p><b>GRADUATION SPEAKERS REHEARSAL</b> 2:30 PM</p>	<p><b>3 SENIOR EXAM</b> BLOCK 1A only</p> <p>Regular Block Schedule</p> <p><b>10 GRADUATION REHEARSAL 8:00 AM</b> <b>ALL SENIORS MUST BE PRESENT</b></p> <p>Regular Lunch Block</p> <p><b>LINE UP for Graduation</b> 4:30 PM</p> <p><b>GRADUATION</b> 5:30 PM</p> <p><b>CELEBRATION GRADUATION</b> to follow</p>
<p><b>Senior Class Meeting</b> 7:30 AM in the Auditorium - Mandatory ALL Graduates Attend Senior Prom (student only event) Sheraton Harborside 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM Senior Scholarship Reception, 6:00 PM Cafeteria - By Invitation Only</p> <p>Tuesday, May 17 - Friday, May 27 - Monday, June 6 -</p>				

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## Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Portsmouth Educators

### Advanced Wilderness First Aid

We are pleased to offer SOLO's Advanced Wilderness First Aid course this summer from on June 23 and 24th from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM in the library of Portsmouth High School. The course is offered as professional development to all SAU 50 and 52 staff members and to any community members at a cost of \$200. We will need twelve participants in order to run the class (eleven are currently registered).

Please read attached description for details and click [here](#) to sign-up.

### Studying Skillful Teaching:

**August 8-10, 10/14, 11/4, 12/2**

Nothing is more important to student learning than teachers—what they know, can do, and believe. Teaching is enormously complex; however, there is a knowledge base about teaching which is large, practical, and accessible. Through study of the various tools contained in this research-based compendium, teachers can broaden their repertoire to better meet the needs of their students.

As a result of taking this course, participants will be able to

Formulate clear and worthy, standards-based, mastery objectives and criteria for success

Collect and use formative assessment data to inform their planning and teaching

Use language and apply strategies to enable students to put forth effective effort

Look at diversity through the lens of a cultural proficiency continuum

Expand their repertoire of student-centered, active learning strategies.

Classes will include large and small group discussions, modeling of instructional strategies, videos, and minimal lecture. Teachers will have opportunities to share with other teachers, both at and across grade levels and subject areas.

The course is a total of 37 ½ hours. Assignments will give teachers opportunities to apply what they are learning and reflect on its effectiveness. Three graduate credits are available through an accredited university.

Skillful Teacher registration is [here](#).

### *The Living Classroom 2.0*

*Instructors: Kimberly Sanborn McGlinchey and Bert Cohen*

*Contact: [kmglinchey@portsmouth.k12.nh.us](mailto:kmglinchey@portsmouth.k12.nh.us)*

*PD hours: 40 (8:30-3:30 8/08- 8/12 plus one ½ day of celebration in the fall)*

This professional development workshop will utilize Peter Senge's five disciplines to inspire and engage teachers to create their own version of the "living classroom." The goals of the program will be for teachers to develop and enhance their own unique method of building a culture of learning, and developing community in the classroom. Participants will learn how to use a systems approach to understanding complex relationships in the classroom, PLC and school community. Throughout the program we will build a community of learners, provide practical, useful and inspiring information for your classroom community and enhance your understanding of systems thinking. It is hoped that we will construct together an appreciation for the complex systems that are active in our classrooms and understand how we can use creative approaches to build strong cultural bonds in the classroom that will ultimately improve student learning and success no matter what subject or grade level you teach. More information attached.

*Text: A Fifth Discipline Resource; Schools That Learn, updated and revised edition*

## Portsmouth School Department

May 2016



*Educating all students by  
challenging them to  
become thinking,  
responsible, contributing  
citizens who continue to  
learn throughout their  
lives.*

Central Office Update

## Spotlight on Danielson

### CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT OF RESPECT AND RAPPORT

An essential skill of teaching is that of managing relationships with students and ensuring that relationships among students are positive and supportive. Teachers create an environment of respect and rapport in their classrooms by the ways they interact with students and by the interactions they encourage and cultivate among students. An important aspect of respect and rapport relates to how the teacher responds to students and how students are permitted to treat one another. Patterns of interactions are critical to the overall tone of the class. In a respectful environment, all students feel valued, safe, and comfortable taking intellectual risks. They do not fear put-downs or ridicule from either the teacher or other students.

#### The elements of component 2a are:

Teacher interactions with students, including both words and actions

A teacher's interactions with students set the tone for the classroom. Through their interactions, teachers convey that they are interested in and care about their students.

Student interactions with other students, including both words and actions

As important as a teacher's treatment of students is, how students are treated by their classmates is arguably even more important to students. At its worst, poor treatment causes students to feel rejected by their peers. At its best, positive interactions among students are mutually supportive and create an emotionally healthy school environment.



## Danielson Continued

*Teachers not only model and teach students how to engage in respectful interactions with one another but also acknowledge such interactions.*

#### Critical Attributes- Unsatisfactory- Level 1

The teacher is disrespectful toward students or insensitive to students' ages, cultural backgrounds, and developmental levels.

- Students' body language indicates feelings of hurt, discomfort, or insecurity.
- The teacher displays no familiarity with, or caring about, individual students.
- The teacher disregards disrespectful interactions among students.

#### Basic- Level 2

- The quality of interactions between teacher and students, or among students, is uneven, with occasional disrespect or insensitivity.
- The teacher attempts to respond to disrespectful behavior among students, with uneven results.
- The teacher attempts to make connections with individual students, but student reactions indicate that these attempts are not entirely successful.

## Danielson Continued

#### Proficient- Level 3

- Talk between the teacher and students and among students is uniformly respectful.
- The teacher successfully responds to disrespectful behavior among students.
- Students participate willingly, but may be somewhat hesitant to offer their ideas in front of classmates.
- The teacher makes general connections with individual students.
- Students exhibit respect for the teacher.

#### Distinguished- Level 4

- The teacher demonstrates knowledge and caring about individual students' lives beyond the class and school.
- There is no disrespectful behavior among students.
- When necessary, students respectfully correct one another.
- Students participate without fear of put-downs or ridicule from either the teacher or other students.
- The teacher respects and encourages students' efforts.

**Please take a few minutes to  
complete this short CO Feed-  
back Survey!**

<https://>

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/)

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**Portsmouth School Board  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

**Proposed Meeting Dates/Locations 2016/2017**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
July 12	Council Chambers, City Hall
August 9	Council Chambers, City Hall
September 13	Council Chambers, City Hall
September 27	LITTLE HARBOUR
October 11	Council Chambers, City Hall
October 25	PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE
November 8	Council Chambers, City Hall
November 22	ROBERT J. LISTER ACADEMY
December 13	Council Chambers, City Hall
January 10	Council Chambers, City Hall
January 24	PORTSMOUTH HIGH
February 14	Council Chambers, City Hall
March 14	Council Chambers, City Hall
March 28	NEW FRANKLIN
April 11	Council Chambers, City Hall
May 9	Council Chambers, City Hall
May 23	DONDERO
June 13	Council Chambers, City Hall

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IX b



# PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

STEPHEN ZADRAVEC  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

GEORGE SHEA  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

STEPHEN T. BARTLETT  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent  
SAU 50  
48 Post Road  
Greenland, NH 03840

May 17, 2016

Dear Sal,

This letter is to confirm the willingness on the part of the Portsmouth School Department to accept students on a tuition basis from New Castle to Portsmouth Middle School. It is my understanding that New Castle students will be offered a choice in 2016-2017 to attend Portsmouth Middle School or Rye Junior High School with the New Castle district paying the corresponding tuition.

The tuition for Portsmouth Middle School for 2015-2016 is \$16,430. This figure will be adjusted for 2016-2017 according to the state DOE 25 financial report. Further, we agree to accept New Castle students for the 2016-2017 school year under the same terms of our current middle school agreement with Newington.

Please let me know if I can supply any additional information.

Sincerely,

Stephen Zdravec  
Superintendent

**“THE PURPOSE OF THE PORTSMOUTH SCHOOLS IS TO EDUCATE ALL STUDENTS BY CHALLENGING THEM TO BECOME THINKING, RESPONSIBLE, CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS WHO CONTINUE TO LEARN THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES.”**

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## What could/should Portsmouth Schools be a leader in?

The following are highlights from the staff survey on what leadership role Portsmouth Schools should play in the state, with responses representing indicators that can be “measured easily” as well as indicators that can’t. Responses have been roughly categorized against established School Board goal areas.

### Student Achievement

- Socio-economic achievement gap
- Special education achievement gap
- Student acceptance to “Top 100” 4-year colleges
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Literacy skills
- Reading at or above grade level
- Math and Science skills- STEM
- Test scores
- Focus on the “whole child”
- Community engagement
- Confidence, Resilience, Empathy

### Teacher Effectiveness

- Expeditionary learning
- Training and mentoring
- Low teacher to student ratio
- Low teacher turnover
- High expectations for curriculum and development
- Teacher leadership

### Accountability

- Early childhood education (opportunity gap)
- Readiness in college
- Students with defined career plans
- Internships/apprenticeships
- Graduation rate
- Every student publishes a piece of writing or artwork
- Service learning, good citizenship
- School spirit
- Parent involvement

### Stewardship of Resources

- Sustain extended day programs
- Healthy lunches
- Technology availability and use
- Variety of course offerings
- Energy efficiency