

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 25, 2016

PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

NOTICE OF NON- PUBLIC MEETING: THE SCHOOL BOARD HELD A NON- PUBLIC MEETING AT 6:45 P.M., IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) IN ROOM 117.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - School Board Chair Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL** - Chair Leslie Stevens, Ann Walker, Gary Epler, Kristin Jeffrey, Patrick Ellis, Jeff Landry, Nancy Clayburgh, Roseanne Vozella Clark, SAU 50 Representative Ann Mayer, Superintendent Stephen Zadavec, Assistant Superintendent George Shea, Business Administrator Stephen Bartlett
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Chair Stevens led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - a. **OCTOBER 11, REGULAR MEETING**

MOTION: Motion to accept the public minutes of October 11, 2016 by Ms. Vozella Clark

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**- None
- VII. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
 - a. **SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT**- Director of Pupil Support & Instruction Jeanette Souther gave a PowerPoint presentation focusing on Homeless, ESOL and Special Education. The presentation highlighted the District's student data (homeless student count - 30, English Speakers Other Languages (ESOL) student count - 88, IEP student count - 421), changes to the McKinney Vento Act, ESOL challenges ahead, ACCESS test, and Special Education areas to monitor, including possibly hiring a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst. Ms. Souther is continuing to build both community connections and parent involvement. Parent involvement includes parent meetings, a parent feedback tool and providing high quality trainings/presentations. There were no particular areas of concerns received from the parent feedback tool, however communication was a theme throughout the feedback tool. Ms. Souther shared information about the innovative program introduced in the Preschool program for students with hearing loss and limited formal sign language training. There are two identified preschool students. However, the whole preschool class is benefitting by receiving exposure to learning a second language. Research has shown that sign language is another language and

strengthens students overall language development. There are many hearing needs, whether they are hearing loss or hearing issues such as central auditory processing disorder.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: The transportation cost varies for homeless students depending on each situation. Last year, the homeless student count was 25 and the transportation cost incurred was approximately \$27-29k. The trend is about 6 months plus before permanent housing is obtained for homeless students.

The ACCESS test window is January through March and the test is required for all Special Education students.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- i. *BOARD & ADMINISTRATOR, OCTOBER 2016*
- ii. CO UPDATE
- iii. AREA REPORT

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- a. WORKSHOP: SCHOOL START TIME OPTIONS- Superintendent Zdravec provided an update on the process of the Start Time proposal. There will be two meetings in November. The Board will host a public hearing for the first meeting and at the second meeting the Board will deliberate and vote on the proposal.

Mr. Bartlett has sent Request for Proposals (RFP) for the new bus contracts and hosted an invitational meeting with prospective bus companies. Transportation cost and additional details will be shared at the first November Board meeting.

Forecasting later school start times for the middle school and high school students will be discussed, as well as, the high school schedule. There are some elements of the high school scheduling tasc block that will help mitigate some concerns about changing to a later start time. Superintendent Zdravec provided an update on Oyster River School District (ORS D), which is on a similar timeline and recently hosted a public hearing. There was a 50/50 split in the public feedback. ORSD is looking at moving the middle and high school times, but not moving the elementary times. ORSD own their busses and to help defray the transportation cost, are moving towards multi-level busses.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Concern was voiced about providing enough time for the Board to digest the start time options prior to a presentation for the public, as well as, the structure of the public hearing. The start time information will be included in the Board packet to allow time for review. SAU 50 has already added money to their budget in anticipation of the later start times.

❖ A Public Hearing will be held on November 15 in the Portsmouth High School Library.

- b. CTE UPDATE- Superintendent Zdravec provided 2016-2017 CTE student enrollment numbers, which represent 73% of the student body participating in a CTE course. Essentially, the goal for the CTE Center is to grow and to find ways to create additional pathways to engage more students in CTE Programs. Administrators evaluated the programs and their enrollments to determine what makes the most sense financially to have CTE grow. The Construction Trades Program doesn't have the enrollment numbers for the State to deem a viable two year program.

The recommendation is to close this Program and expand programming with Computer Science, Architecture & Engineering Design and the LNA Training. Administration is exploring ideas to establish viable pathways for students to enter the construction industry. PHS Principal Lyons is presenting at the November 15 Board meeting, with a plan to layout the vision of the pathways and primarily expanding what is already being offered in the Design/ Build Program.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: There was discussion of the timeline and the need for more communication regarding the termination of the Construction Trades Program. The public expressed disappointment regarding the termination of the Program. However, the student interest data does not support continuation of the Program. Concerns were shared about maintaining pathways which support the skill set gained in the Program. The barrier will be scheduling, which may prevent a student from attending either Dover or Exeter, should these schools offer a similar Construction Trades Program.

X. NEW BUSINESS

a. NOVEMBER 8 BOARD MEETING DATE CHANGE

MOTION: A motion to change the November 8 Board meeting to November 15 by Mr. Ellis

SECOND: Ms. Walker

DISCUSSION: The library at PHS is available on Tuesday, November 15

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

b. LHS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT

MOTION: A motion to approve contract adjustments for Erin Lawson & Stacey Weeks by Mr. Epler

SECOND: Ms. Clayburgh

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted

XI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. POLICY- Chair Stevens provided an update on the Policy Committee.

b. JBC- Mr. Bartlett reported the JBC voted to accept the tentative agreement.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. HOLIDAY DINNER- The holiday dinner will be held on Thursday, December 8.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion to adjourn 8:57 p.m. by Mr. Landry

SECOND: Mr. Ellis

DISCUSSION:

VOTE: Unanimously accepted