

Portsmouth School Committee Minutes

December 14, 2004

Public Session

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Twaddle, at 7:00 PM. The following members were present:

Dr. Roy Twaddle, Chair

Ms. Karen Gleason

Mrs. Terri Cortvriend

Mr. Terry Kavanagh, Vice-Chair

Mr. Duncan Ingraham

Mrs. Sylvia Wedge

Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk

Also Present: Timothy Ryan, Colleen Jermain, Cindy Brown, Rick Updegrove, Rick Elmasian, Patti Cofield, Julia Beebe (PHS Student Liaison)

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no Chairman's report at this time.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ryan gave a brief overview on the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and Title 1 funding.

a) Teaching and Learning: Mrs. Jermain reported on the NCLB requirements, Personal Literacy Plans (PLPs), the New Reference Exam Assessment Analysis, Senior Project, Science, Lab Classrooms, Professional Development, Modern Language, Title 1, and the Portsmouth Task Force, as well as items she will be addressing in the upcoming months.

b) Finance and Operations: Mrs. Brown reported that she will give a recap of the 2003-04 year-end budget, a review of our financial structure (for new members), as well as an update on our year-to-date financial situation at a future meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Ms. Gleason to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 7, 2004, as presented. So voted 7-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Coaching Appts - PHS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the coaching

appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2004-05 school year, as presented.”

b) Appt. – General School Aide, Melville. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-12/14/04, to the position of General School Aide at Melville School, retroactive to September 1, 2004.”

c) Appt. – General School Aide, Melville. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-12/14/04, to the position of General School Aide at Melville School, retroactive to September 1, 2004.”

d) Appt. – General School Aide, Hathaway. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-12/14/04, to the position of General School Aide at Hathaway School, retroactive to October 4, 2004.”

e) Appt. – Computer Technician/Asst. Database Coordinator, PMS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-12/14/04, to the position of Computer Technician/Asst. Database Coordinator, Portsmouth Middle

School, effective January 5, 2005.”

f) Maintenance Retirement. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee accepts with deep regret the resignation for retirement of John S. Mello, Maintenance Department, effective with the last day of the December 31, 2004.”

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Ingraham to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 7-0.

Mr. Ryan announced the following appointments:

a) Coaching Appointments, PHS

•Cybil Pacheco, Gymnastics Head Coach

•Shannon Farrell, Gymnastics Assistant Coach

•Kyle Howard, Indoor Track Coach

•Joe Occhi, Boys Basketball Assistant Coach

•Randy Tavares, Boys Basketball Volunteer Coach

b) Lindora Lopes, General School Aide, Melville

c) Ronald Nielson, General School Aide, Melville

d) Cynthia Wynegar, General School Aide, Hathaway

e) Katie Fly, Computer Technician/Asst. Database Coordinator, PMS

5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Negotiations: Mr. Kavanagh reported that the Negotiations subcommittee has agreed with the Teachers' Union that there be no public comments until after the first of the year. The discussions are on-going, and they are moving in the right direction.

6. BUSINESS AGENDA

a) Agenda Item Request – Portsmouth School Lunch Employees Union. The food service employees informed the School Committee that they intend to pursue a union because many of their benefits were lost when the food service contract changed from Aramark to Chartwells.

b) Request for Extension of Non-Certified Contract – Council 94. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Ingraham to table this item. So voted 7-0.

c) By-Laws. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Ingraham to approve the By-Laws as currently presented with no changes, and for the new Policy Subcommittee, once appointed by the Chair, to review the Chair's notes on the By-Laws and present any changes to the School Committee no later than the second meeting in February. So voted 6-1. Ms. Gleason voted against the motion.

d) Ratification of the Appointment of the Clerk. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Ms. Gleason to let the

appointment of Mr. Wilkey as Clerk stand, as previously appointed by the Chair. So voted 7-0.

e) Report on Superintendent Search. A motion was made by Mr. Ingraham and seconded by Ms. Gleason to table this item until the next School Committee meeting in January. So voted 7-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to recess to the Town Council Chambers. So voted 7-0. The meeting recessed at 7:43 PM.

The meeting reconvened in the Town Council Chambers at 8:17 PM. Dr. Twaddle explained that the Committee would be deciding on which gym plan they would adopt. He also explained the factors of influence and procedures for deliberation, stating that Robert's Rules of Order would be relaxed for a 1-hour period during which time Ms. Gleason, Mr. Kavanagh, and Mr. Ingraham would present their items below, followed by a question and answer period. After 1-hour, Dr. Twaddle would hear from ten members of the audience for periods of 3 minutes each. The final phase will be the deliberation phase. Should an extension be necessary during the question and answer period, a motion would need to be made.

f) Gymnasium Project Deliberation.

1. The Gymnasium Project Committee requests that the Portsmouth

School Committee accepts and approves the Gymnasium Project Committee's recommended Request for Proposal (RFP), Full and Comprehensive Architectural and Engineering Services for Phase II (design development and construction), for the high school gymnasium project, so that this project may proceed as planned, previously approved, and presented to our community.

NOTE: Any delays in approval could potentially delay the start of construction until spring of 2006.

2. The Gymnasium Project Committee requests that the Portsmouth School Committee reaffirms all of the School Committee's previously approved recommendations by the Gymnasium Project Committee, and that the School Committee approve the Gymnasium Project Committee's recommendations that the high school gymnasium project proceed as planned, previously approved, and presented to our community; including maintaining the Gymnasium Project Committee intact through completion of the construction and allow the Gymnasium Project Committee to recommend any changes to its membership prior to the School Committee implementing such changes.

3. Agenda Item Request – Discussion/Action on Management Methods and Procedures for the High School Gymnasium Project.

4. Agenda Item Request – “A Better Choice.” Requested by Mr.

Ingraham.

Ms. Gleason presented Items 1 and 2. Mr. Kavanagh presented Item 3, suggesting that the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee of the School Committee oversee the high school gymnasium project instead of the Gymnasium Project Committee; and Mr. Ingraham presented Item 4, a gymnasium plan he developed and considers a better option than the plan that was approved by the voters on Election Day. A question and answer session followed the presentation.

After the 1-hour period, a motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend to extend the period for an additional 10 minute period. Seconded by Mrs. Wedge. So voted 7-0. Discussion continued, and a motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mrs. Wedge to extend the discussion for another 10 minute period. So voted 7-0. Discussion continued, and a motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to extend the discussion for an additional 10 minute period. So voted 7-0. Discussion continued, and a motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to extend the discussion for another 10 minute period. So voted 7-0.

Dr. Twaddle opened the floor to the public, hearing from the following residents: Mr. David Croston, Mr. Cook, Mr. Manny Demenezes, Miss Julia Beebe (PHS student), Mr. Jack Callahan, Mr. David Terry, Mr. Jeff Hatcher, Ms. Evelyn Shultz, Mr. Andrew Kittel, and Mr. Forest

Goldin. A motion was made by Ms. Gleason to hear from 25 more members of the audience. There was no second to her motion. Ms. Gleason amended her motion to hear from an additional 10 people. Seconded by Mr. Wilkey. So voted 4-3. Mrs. Wedge, Mr. Kavanagh, and Mrs. Cortvriend voted against. The following residents also voiced their concerns: Mrs. Kathy Melvin, Mr. Marlin Keefer, Ms. Judi Staven, Mr. Brad Sirois (PHS student and GPC member), Mr. Gene Love (GPC spokesperson), Mr. Jeff Hatcher, Mr. Bill McGlenn, Mr. David Crocket, and Mrs. Kelly Kittel.

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Ingraham to take a 5-minute recess. So voted 7-0. The meeting recessed at 10:55 PM and reconvened at 11:11 PM.

Discussion continued. Ms. Gleason made the following motion, “The Gymnasium Project Committee requests that the Portsmouth School Committee accepts and approves the Gymnasium Project Committee’s recommended Request for Proposal (RFP), Full and Comprehensive Architectural and Engineering Services for Phase II (design development and construction), for the high school gymnasium project, so that this project may proceed as planned, previously approved, and presented to our community. NOTE: Any delays in approval could potentially delay the start of construction until spring of 2006.” Mr. Ingraham amended Ms. Gleason’s motion to include an RFP for the “Better Option” gym proposal, the essence being that there are two RFPs: one for the actual construction of the

“Better Option,” and one for full and comprehensive architectural services. Seconded by Mr. Kavanagh. So voted 5-2. Mr. Wilkey and Ms. Gleason voted against the motion. The original motion, including the amendment, was then voted on and was approved 6-1. Ms. Gleason voted against the motion.

Ms. Gleason made the following motion, “The Gymnasium Project Committee requests that the Portsmouth School Committee reaffirms all of the School Committee’s previously approved recommendations by the Gymnasium Project Committee, and that the School Committee approve the Gymnasium Project Committee’s recommendations that the high school gymnasium project proceed as planned, previously approved, and presented to our community; including maintaining the Gymnasium Project Committee intact through completion of the construction and allow the Gymnasium Project Committee to recommend any changes to its membership prior to the School Committee implementing such changes.”

Seconded by Mr. Wilkey. The motion failed 2-4. Mr. Ingraham, Mr. Kavanagh, Mrs. Cortvriend, and Mrs. Wedge voted against the motion. Ms. Gleason and Mr. Wilkey voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Twaddle abstained stating that he must always be aware of the need for objectivity.

g) Establishment of Subcommittees. A motion was made by Ms. Gleason and seconded by Mr. Ingraham to table this item. So voted 7-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mr. Ingraham to adjourn the Public Session. So voted 7-0. Public Session adjourned at 11:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk