

Portsmouth School Committee Minutes

November 23, 2004

Public Session

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Gleason, Clerk, at 7:00 PM.

The following members were present:

Mr. Roy Twaddle

Mr. Douglas Wilkey

Ms. Karen Gleason

Mr. Terry Kavanagh

Mrs. Terri Cortvriend

Mrs. Sylvia Wedge

Absent: Mr. Duncan Ingraham

Also Present: Timothy Ryan, Colleen Jermain, Cindy Brown, Rick Updegrove, Rick Elmasian

ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA

Ms. Gleason welcomed Portsmouth High School Student Council representative, Julia Beebe, and announced that the Town Sergeant, Raylene Allen, was present.

a) Election of Chairman

Mr. Kavanagh and Mr. Wilkey nominated Mr. Twaddle to the position of Chairman. Mrs. Wedge nominated Mr. Kavanagh. Mr. Kavanagh respectfully declined the position. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh to elect Mr. Twaddle to the position of Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Wilkey. So voted 4-2. Mrs. Wedge and Mrs. Cortvriend voted against the motion.

Mr. Twaddle assumed the position of Chairman.

b) Election of Vice-Chairman

Mr. Wilkey nominated Ms. Gleason to the position of Vice-Chairman. Ms. Gleason nominated Mr. Kavanagh. A motion was made by Ms. Gleason to elect Mr. Kavanagh to the position of Vice-Chairman. No second was requested. So voted 5-1. Mr. Wilkey voted against the motion.

c) Appointment of Clerk

Mr. Twaddle appointed Mr. Wilkey to the position of Clerk.

d) Adoption of By-Laws

A motion was made by Ms. Gleason to table the adoption of the by-laws until a future meeting. No second was requested. So voted

6-0.

e) Establishment of Meeting Date and Time

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh to continue holding the School Committee meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, with the exception of December (one meeting), and special meetings in July and August. Seconded by Ms. Gleason. So voted 6-0.

f) Appointment of Legal Counsel

Mr. Twaddle stated that the School Committee should exercise options to review other candidates. Mr. Kavanagh made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. No second was requested. So voted 4-2. Mrs. Cortvriend and Mrs. Wedge voted against the motion.

g) Schedule Training Workshops

Mr. Ryan announced that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC) has scheduled a workshop for School Committee members and Superintendents to review roles and responsibilities. The workshop will be held on December 11th, 8:30-11:30 AM, at the Foreman Center at Rhode Island College. There is no charge for this workshop.

A motion to table this item was made by Mr. Kavanagh. No second was requested. So voted 6-0.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Twaddle mentioned that the School Committee has several important matters to deal with in the upcoming months, including the new PHS gymnasium, the budget process, negotiating with NEA, and the superintendent search. He stated that the Committee needs to begin to stick together.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ryan reviewed correspondence received and upcoming events. He reported that the food service workers for Chartwells are interested in forming a union and have requested to be put on a future agenda, as the School Committee oversees the administration of the food service contract. Mr. Ryan also reported that Council 94 voted to request a contract extension, which will need to be reviewed by the School Committee. He mentioned a complaint received by a Little Compton resident regarding student data availability. In addition, he stated that a student hearing may be scheduled in the near future.

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 9, 2004. Seconded by Mr. Wilkey. So voted 6-0.

BUSINESS AGENDA

a) Gymnasium Project Committee (GPC) Report/Action. Presented by Mr. Gene Love, GPC Spokesperson. Ms. Gleason distributed a packet containing general information on architectural services, recommendations of the GPC, and the recommended Scope of Services for the new high school gym. Much discussion took place. School Department Attorney, Mr. Updegrave, stated that the GPC must go out to bid for Phase II of the gym project. There are procedural requirements established by the Rhode Island legislature that require going out to bid. Not going out to bid would be a violation of the Municipal Bidding Statute and Section 714 of the Charter. Mr. Twaddle passed the chairmanship to Mr. Kavanagh, Vice Chair, for a brief period so he could debate with Mr. Updegrave. Upon resuming his position as Chair, Mr. Twaddle suggested that the Committee take a ten minute recess to discuss the issues informally. A motion was made by Ms. Gleason to recess for ten minutes. Seconded by Mr. Wilkey. So voted 6-0. The meeting recessed at 8:25 PM and reconvened at 8:35 PM. A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey to table these items until the next meeting so the Committee could review the information. No second was requested. The motion failed 2-4. Mr. Wilkey and Mr. Kavanagh voted in favor of the motion. Mrs. Cortvriend, Ms. Gleason, Mrs. Wedge, and Mr. Twaddle voted against.

1. Ms. Gleason made a motion that the School Committee accepts and approves the GPC recommendation to extend the contractual agreement with the architectural firm, Robinson Green Beretta, with Executive Vice President Jeffrey A. Hatcher, AIA, NCARB, as the architectural team project manager, to provide complete and comprehensive architectural services for Phase II, which is the design development and construction phase of the high school gymnasium project, in order to proceed forward with this project. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. The motion failed 3-3. Mrs. Gleason, Mr. Twaddle, and Mr. Wilkey voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Kavanagh, Mrs. Cortvriend, and Mrs. Wedge voted against.

2. Ms. Gleason made a motion that the School Committee accepts and approves the GPC recommended Scope of Service for the complete and comprehensive architectural services for the high school gymnasium project. She amended the motion to include that any identifiable information to any companies in the Scope of Services be deleted. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. The motion failed 3-3. Mrs. Gleason, Mr. Twaddle, and Mr. Wilkey voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Kavanagh, Mrs. Cortvriend, and Mrs. Wedge voted against.

3. Ms. Gleason made a motion that a well-defined, detailed set of protocols and procedures be implemented for Phase II of the high school gymnasium project; further recommending that the GPC (working with the School Committee, School Administration, as well

as others directly involved in this project), drafts these protocols and procedures for School Committee approval. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. The motion failed 3-3. Mrs. Gleason, Mr. Twaddle, and Mr. Wilkey voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Kavanagh, Mrs. Cortvriend, and Mrs. Wedge voted against.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Kavanagh. Seconded by Ms. Gleason. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk