

Portsmouth School Committee Minutes

October 12, 2004

Public Session

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

Mr. Ralph Cassese, Chair

Mr. Terrence Kavanagh

Mr. Jack Taylor

Mr. James Seveney

Ms. Karen Gleason

Dr. Roy Twaddle

Mr. Duncan Ingraham

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Cassese had nothing to report at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ryan thanked the following individuals and companies for their contribution to the Portsmouth High School Football Shed: East Coast Construction, Aquidneck Island Foundations, Grande Brothers

Construction, Dartmouth Building Supply, MPH Builders, Portsmouth Pop Warner, Rocky Kempenaar, and Dom Drago.

Mr. Ryan reported that the Rhode Island Scholars students were recognized at the October 8th football game.

Upcoming events include the Portsmouth Public Education Foundation's second annual Fall Social on October 21st at Green Valley Country Club, and the Homecoming Parade on October 23rd at Portsmouth High School.

A motion was made by Mr. Seveney and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 28, 2004. So voted 6-0. Mr. Ingraham abstained.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee approve the requests to provide home schooling for the 2004-05 school year for students HS#15 through HS#16-10/12/04, as listed in the confidential memo dated 10/04/04, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2."

b) Appt. – Advisors, PHS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee approve the appointment of the listed individuals to the Advisor positions at Portsmouth High School for the 2004-05 school year.”

A motion was made by Mr. Seveney and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 7-0. Mr. Ryan announced the following advisor appointments:

- Gary Vaspol – PHS Drama Club**
- Michelle Medeiros, Jennifer Fraser, and Mel Johnson – Freshman Class Advisors**
- Kaylin Johnson – Literary Magazine**

BUSINESS AGENDA

a) Agenda Item Request – Financial Status Report. Mr. Seveney had requested that Mr. Ryan give a report on the long-term budget performance and impact of reductions. Mr. Ryan reviewed the School Department’s operating budget in relation to the Town’s operating budget over the past four years. The information shows that consistent additional appropriations to the Town’s budget have been made once the approved budget has been passed. Also, on an annual basis, the percentage increases for the Town far exceed that of the School Department, which consistently stays within its actual

budget.

b) Enrollment Report – 10/1/04. Mr. Ryan reported on population trends in Portsmouth versus our neighbors in Middletown and Newport. Unofficial enrollment data shows that the elementary numbers have decreased by 86 students since October 2003. The middle school has decreased by 4 students, and the high school increased by 76 students. Mr. Ryan reported that this can be attributed to a number of factors such as the move of the Kindergarten age from December 31st to September 1st and the large Grade 4 moving on to the middle school. It may also be influenced by increased housing costs and lack of affordable rental property for our families.

c) Policy Subcommittee Report. Ms. Gleason reported that the Policy Subcommittee met on September 30th, per Mr. Kavanagh's request, to address the hiring process. Some minor confusion existed regarding the use of two different hiring forms. The issue was simply that on one recent occasion, a principal had used an old form instead of the revised form. Ms. Gleason stated that she would like qualified Portsmouth residents to be interviewed for positions. No motions were made nor votes taken.

d) Gymnasium Project Committee Report. Ms. Gleason reported that the Gymnasium Project Committee continues to get the information out to the public. The Committee met with the Portsmouth

Concerned Citizens group on October 5th, and they support the gymnasium plan. Ms. Gleason thanked the PCC for their support. She stated that an informational meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 13th, 7:00 PM, in the PHS gymnasium. She also stated that all Town Council and School Committee candidates have said they support the gymnasium plan. She stated that 8000 flyers need to be printed and mailed to residents before the November 2nd election, and the Committee is seeking donations to cover the printing and mailing costs. Committee member Brad Sirois reiterated Ms. Gleason's statements on the meeting with the PCC.

A motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Seveney to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a) (1) Personnel Matters, (a) (2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation; and (a) (8) Student Discipline. So voted 7-0.

Public Session recessed at 8:30 PM and resumed at 9:07 PM.

Mr. Cassese reported that a contractual matter was discussed in Executive Session. No motions were made nor votes taken. A motion was duly made and seconded to seal the Executive Session minutes. So voted.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the Public Session. So voted. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Karen Gleason, Clerk