

Portsmouth School Committee Minutes

September 28, 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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Cassese stated that an Executive Session was held at 6:30 PM. One vote was taken. The Assistant Superintendent's contract was approved by a 5-1 vote. Dr. Twaddle voted against. Mr. Cassese introduced Mrs. Colleen Jermain, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ryan reported on the Department of Education's Student Information System Consortium, which will be required by all districts in the future. Mr. Ryan will provide more information in the near future.

On September 15th, the Town Council voted to approve Mr. Ryan's request that the 2003-04 fire details be paid out of the Town's contingency fund.

Mr. Ryan reported on the plans for minor construction at the Central Office, which will be done by School Department maintenance staff and will be paid for out of the maintenance budget. Future School Committee meetings could be held at the PHS Library. Ms. Gleason suggested meeting in the Town Council's chamber. She also stated she would like to think about the proposal for construction. No action was requested or taken by the Committee regarding this issue.

Mr. Ryan announced that a Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 30th, 6:30 PM, at the Administration Building.

A motion was made by Mr. Seveney and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 14, 2004. So voted 5-0. Dr. Twaddle abstained.

SPOTLIGHT

a) Introduction of New School Committee Member - Roy Twaddle. Mr. Cassese introduced and welcomed Dr. Roy Twaddle to the School Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item b) was removed from the agenda at the request of the principal of Hathaway School.

a) Coaching Appts - PHS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirm the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2004-05 school year, as presented."

b) Appt. – General School Aide, Hathaway School. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-9/28/04, to the position of General School Aide at Hathaway School, effective October 1, 2004."

c) Appt. – General School Aide, Elmhurst School. The

Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-9/28/04, to the position of General School Aide at Elmhurst School, effective October 1, 2004."

A motion was made by Mr. Seveney and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to approve Items a) and c) as presented. So voted 6-0. Mr. Ryan announced the following appointments:

- Andrew Benn, Asst. Football Coach at PHS**
- Jesse Pimental, Asst. Football Coach at PHS**
- Jallah Leonard, Asst. Football Coach at PHS**
- Kristina Morgan, Asst. Girls Soccer Coach at PHS**
- Erin Polselli, Asst. Girls Soccer Coach at PHS**
- Alice Newcomb, General School Aide at Elmhurst**

BUSINESS AGENDA

a) Agenda Item Request - Discussion on PMS Athletics. Requested by Mrs. Ethier. Mr. Ryan stated that a plan was developed to transfer funds from certain accounts to cover PMS athletics. A motion was made by Mr. Seveney and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to transfer \$12,000 from the listed accounts in Mr. Ryan's memo dated September 28, 2004, to PMS athletics. So voted 6-0.

b) Report on Options for Superintendent Search. Mr. Ryan

distributed a packet containing information on superintendent searches. He will provide additional information on associated costs at a future meeting.

c) Gymnasium Project Committee Report. Mrs. Gleason reported that the Gymnasium Project Committee continues to get the information out to the public. They set up information tables at the schools' open houses, and they are scheduled to present to the Portsmouth Concerned Citizens on October 5th and at a Public Forum on October 13th. She reported that the Gymnasium Project Committee is still looking for volunteers. She also reported that there is only one gymnasium plan that has been endorsed by the School Committee. Ms. Nancy Fitzgerald, Physical Education Teacher at PHS, stated that there is paperwork circulating around Portsmouth that contains false information. She stated that the Physical Education staff at PHS fully endorses the Gymnasium Project Committee's plan and that it is the only plan on the table.

d) Update on PMS Septic System. Mr. Ryan reported that we are awaiting the completed design from Mt. Hope Engineering and will go out to bid for construction once it is received. It is our hope that the system can be installed prior to the ground freezing.

e) Update on School Department Use of Coggeshall School. Mr. Ryan stated that the School Department has a pressing need for a storage area and maintenance shop, and had intended to use space

at Coggeshall School for these purposes. However, he received a letter from the Portsmouth Fire Chief regarding a number of fire code issues at Coggeshall School. Mr. Ryan will delay any reacquisition of Coggeshall School until the fire code issues are resolved. Mr. Kavanagh requested that Mr. Ryan receive written confirmation from Mr. Driscoll that the School Department has Town Council approval to use the space at Coggeshall School once the fire code issues are dealt with.

f) Report on Financial Issues. Mrs. Brown stated that the School Department has received word from the League of Cities and Towns that the pension contributions we make will be increasing, which will have a \$500,000 impact to next year's budget. She also reported that the reduction in Kindergarten students has necessitated the busing of some students to other schools, and the School Department may need to add another bus to alleviate the time-constraints in getting students to school on time. The cost for a full year for one bus is \$42,000. Mrs. Brown also reported that the School Department went out to bid with the East Bay Education Collaborative for fuel oil, however, the results were unsatisfactory, and we are in the process of re-bidding in cooperation with Portsmouth Abbey. Mrs. Brown was concerned with increasing prices of fuel oil and the impact this will have on the current year's budget.

g) Update on Warrant Projects. Mr. Elmasian gave a thorough report on warrant projects and summer maintenance projects. Mr. Cassese

commended Mr. Elmasian and his maintenance and custodial staff for the outstanding job they have done. Ms. Gleason mentioned a safety concern she has with the video monitors at Hathaway School. She feels they are too small. Mr. Ryan will look into it.

h) Update on Summer Maintenance Projects. See g) above.

A motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to adjourn the meeting. So voted. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Karen Gleason, Clerk