

Portsmouth School Committee Minutes

April 26, 2005

Public Session

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

Dr. Roy Twaddle, Chair

Mr. Terrence Kavanagh, V. Chair

Ms. Sylvia Wedge

Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk

Mrs. Terri Cortvriend

Ms. Karen Gleason

Also Present: Timothy Ryan, Colleen Jermain, Cynthia Brown, Rick Elmasian, Rick Updegrove, Patti Cofield, and Julia Beebe (PHS).

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Twaddle announced that a budget workshop with the Town Council is scheduled for May 3rd, 7:00 PM, at the Town Hall. He urged all Committee members to attend. Dr. Twaddle also announced that Mr. Ingraham resigned from the Committee. As a result, Dr. Twaddle appointed Ms. Wedge as the chair and Ms.

Cortvriend as a member of the Superintendent Selection Subcommittee. Mr. Kavanagh will proceed as the chair of the Negotiations Subcommittee without further appointments to the subcommittee.

Ms. Gleason objected to Ms. Cortvriend's appointment to the Superintendent Selection Subcommittee, stating that she has seniority, and her request to be appointed to the subcommittee should've been honored. She stated that she questions Dr. Twaddle's ability to sit on the School Committee. Mr. Kavanagh objected to Ms. Gleason's negative comments. Referring to Section 43 of Robert's Rules of Order, Mr. Kavanagh made a motion that the Committee sanction Ms. Gleason for stating that Dr. Twaddle is incapable of continuing his role as the Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Cortvriend seconded the motion. So voted 5-0.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Supt. Ryan announced that the annual PHSO Book Awards Ceremony is being held on April 27th at PHS, and the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony is being held on April 28th at PHS. The Wall of Fame Ceremony is scheduled for May 12th at PHS. Julie Beebe announced that the Senior Silent Auction is being held on May 4th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at Wanumetonomy Country Club.

a) Teaching and Learning: Asst. Supt. Jermain reported that

discussion are on-going regarding the science curriculum. Staff development is continuing to be arranged for the middle school grades. She also reported that PLPs are in the second phase and that professional development for math and literacy are being coordinated for next year.

b) Finance and Operations: Mrs. Brown reported that she was able to finalize additional budget reductions and will present them under the Subcommittee reports.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the minutes of the meetings held April 12, 2005, and April 19, 2005, as presented. So voted 5-0-1. Ms. Gleason abstained.

Item d) on the Business Agenda was addressed at this time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Recision of Termination. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to rescind its action of February 22, 2005, non-renewing the teaching contract of Teacher B-2/22/05. So voted 5-0-1. Ms. Gleason abstained.

5. BUSINESS AGENDA

a) Report on Prudence Island Meeting. Mr. Wilkey reported on the meeting held at the Hope Brown Education Center on Saturday, April 16th. Six residents of Prudence Island attended the meeting, as well as Mr. Wilkey, Mrs. Cortvriend, and Asst. Supt. Jermain. Areas of discussion included goals of the subcommittee and its reasons for keeping a school open on Prudence Island; how to support the beliefs and goals to keep public education services on Prudence Island; and next steps. Mr. Wilkey stated that he is an advocate for the Prudence Island School. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st, 8:45–10:00 AM, at the Hope Brown Center on Prudence Island. An agenda will be distributed prior to that meeting.

b) Review of Portsmouth School Department Newsletter. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve publication of the Portsmouth School Department Newsletter. So voted 6-0.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Finance. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to approve the reductions to the 2005-06 proposed budget, as presented. So voted 6-0. The reductions total \$31,000; the revised budget request is \$29,490,575, which represents a 7.83 percent increase. Mrs. Brown reported that \$508,460 has been reduced since the original budget request was sent to the Town Council.

b) Superintendent Selection. Ms. Wedge gave an update on the search process. Three candidates have been interviewed, and five more will be interviewed on April 27th. The team will meet to review the scoring on Thursday, April 28th.

Mr. Kavanagh made a motion that the School Committee be allowed to review the applications of the top three finalists and that every member of the School Committee sign a confidentiality statement. Ms. Gleason amended the motion to allow the School Committee to review each and every application and other documents pertaining to the position. There was no second. The motion fails. The original motion was seconded by Ms. Cortvriend and was passed 5-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.

1) Charter Timeline, Item 2.d. Screen applications and complete Subcommittee inter-views of screened candidates no later than the second meeting in April 2005. The Committee agreed to take no action on this item as the interview process will be completed just one day after the charter timeline.

c) Policy. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve as a second reading and adopt the revisions to the By-Laws. The motion was amended by Ms. Gleason to change Item A) 2. on Page 7 to state, “all Committee members” instead of just “Committee members.” There was no second to the

motion. The original motion was approved 5-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.

d) Buildings and Grounds. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the Portsmouth High School Gymnasium design, as presented. So voted 5-1. Mrs. Gleason was opposed.

e) Negotiations. Mr. Kavanagh stated that negotiations are on-going, and they are moving forward. The next meetings will take place on Thursday, April 28th, and Friday, April 29th. A report will be given to the Committee on May 10th.

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Wilkey 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 6-0. Public Session recessed at 9:33 PM and resumed at 9: 38 PM.

Dr. Twaddle stated that the Executive Session was held to discuss a student discipline issue. A vote was taken to ratify the discipline that was imposed by the school department. The vote passed 6-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. Public Session adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk