

Portsmouth School Committee Minutes

April 19, 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

Mr. Duncan Ingraham

Mrs. Terri Cortvriend

Ms. Karen Gleason

Also Present: Colleen Jermain, Cynthia Brown, Rick Elmasian, and Patti Cofield

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no Chairman's Report.

2. BUSINESS AGENDA

a) Buildings and Grounds – Presentation/Approval of PHS

Gymnasium Plan. Mr. Louis Torrado gave a presentation on the new plans and renderings of the PHS gymnasium. The proposed facility has been scaled back to 27,430 square feet and includes three 87-foot-long practice basketball courts (or one 94-foot-long court and an 87-foot-long practice court); seating for 1,130; an adaptive physical education room for special education students; smaller locker rooms; equipment storage space; a connector to the school building; and a 4,000 square foot unfinished mezzanine.

Mr. Kavanagh asked for each Committee member's opinion on the design. Mr. Ingraham stressed participation space but otherwise thought the design was good. Mrs. Cortvriend would like to hear from the Physical Education staff about the size of the basketball courts, stating that if they were fine with the size, she was fine with it. She thinks the shorter the connector is to the main building, the less expensive it will be. She is happy with the position of the gymnasium on the grounds and is fine with the overall package. Mr. Wilkey stated that he likes the design. He would like the connector to the high school to stay as short as possible and, therefore, likes the positioning of the building on the grounds. Dr. Twaddle stated that we should plan for the children that exist today, that this new design has everything contained within it, that there is a sense of oneness to the design, and it looks fine to him. Mr. Kavanagh stated he is still undecided about the storage space and length of the basketball courts and would like to hear from the Physical Education staff. He likes the entranceway and the masonry on the façade. He stated that

the Subcommittee was very impressed with Mr. Torrado's people. Ms. Gleason stated that the design is not what the voters voted for, so she will not approve it. She feels it will cost more than \$3.5 million. She is also concerned about the number of bathrooms and showers. Mrs. Wedge stated that the Physical Education staff informed the Subcommittee that students don't take showers in school. She thinks having a canopy over the entrance is important so that the students have a safe place to stand in inclement weather.

Ms. Gleason and Mr. Ingraham left the meeting early. The Committee agreed to postpone a vote on the design plans until the April 26th School Committee meeting, pending approval of the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee, which will meet at 5:00 PM on April 26th.

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to adjourn the meeting. So voted 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk