

Portsmouth School Committee Minutes

January 11, 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

Ms. Karen Gleason

Mrs. Terri Cortvriend

Mr. Terry Kavanagh, Vice-Chair

Mr. Duncan Ingraham

Mrs. Sylvia Wedge

Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk

Also Present: Timothy Ryan, Cindy Brown, Rick Updegrove, Rick Elmasian, Patti Cofield, and Julia Beebe (PHS Student Liaison)

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a) Town Council Liaisons to the School Committee. Dr. Twaddle announced that the Town Council informed him by letter on December 15th that Mr. James Seveney and Mr. Peter McIntyre will be the two liaisons to the School Committee.

b) Gymnasium RFPs Held in Abeyance. Dr. Twaddle stated that both RFPs were suspended, primarily because of changes that had taken place in them. He felt that this would minimize legal exposure.

Dr. Twaddle stated that he received a letter from the Town Council dated January 11, 2005. The letter included the Town Council's position regarding the School Committee's actions on the gym bond.

Dr. Twaddle stated that Items 2 and 4 in Section 5.b. of the Business Agenda had been withdrawn by the requestor, Mr. Ingraham. The rest of Section 5 was then addressed.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a) Teaching and Learning. Mr. Ryan gave a brief overview of on-going activities regarding the K-12 School Counseling and Guidance Plan, budget analysis of Strategic Plan activities, objectives/goals from individual schools, technology, and the Rhode Island Foundation on the Bridges Grant.

b) Finance and Operations. Mrs. Brown gave a brief report on fire inspections, the 2004-05 budget, budget planning for 2005-06, the health care initiative, RIDE's upcoming audit of the lunch/breakfast programs at Melville and Portsmouth Middle School, and the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust's annual dinner meeting on January 20th. If any School Committee member would like to attend

the dinner, please RSVP to Patti Cofield.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to approve the minutes of the meeting held December 14, 2004. So voted 6-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Coaching Appts - PMS. A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to affirm the coaching appointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2004-05 school year, as presented. So voted 7-0. Mr. Ryan announced the appointment of Mr. Al Sweet as coach of the Boys' Basketball team, and Mr. Mark Ruscetta and Ms. Lisa Bagwell as co-coaches of the Girls' Basketball team.

5. BUSINESS AGENDA

a) Agenda Item Request – Pending Title IX Questions from OCR and RIDE. Requested by Mrs. Cortvriend. Mr. Ryan gave a brief recap of the Title IX findings. Questions were sent to Mr. Fred Dow at the Office Civil Rights on January 7th, and we are awaiting his response.

b) Gymnasium

Items 2 and 4 were withdrawn by Mr. Ingraham.

1) Recision of the action of the School Committee on 12/14/04, approving dissemination of a second RFP entitled, “A Better Option.” A motion was made by Mr. Ingraham and seconded by Ms. Cortvriend to rescind the action of the School Committee on 12/14/04, approving dissemination of a second RFP entitled, “A Better Option.” So voted 7-0.

2) Agenda Item Request – Authorization of RFP for “A Better Option” building proposal upon review and approval by School Committee Attorney and Superintendent. Re-requested by Mr. Ingraham. This item was withdrawn by Mr. Ingraham.

3) A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Wilkey that the School Committee assigns the final development of the RFP for Architectural and Engineering/Construction Services to the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee, in accordance with the charter. So voted 6-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.

4) *Agenda Item Request – A motion to rescind the School Committee’s action taken at the 8/24/04 School Committee meeting, Business Agenda Item A, regarding the gymnasium, Items 1, 2, and 3. Requested by Mr. Ingraham.

***The Chairman denied the following agenda item requested by Mr. Ingraham, who wishes to appeal to the Committee: “A motion to rescind the School Committee’s action taken at the School Committee meeting of 8/24/04, Business Item A, regarding the gymnasium (Items 1, 2, and 3).”**

This item was withdrawn by Mr. Ingraham.

c) Subcommittee Establishment & Charters. A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey that the following subcommittees and their respective charters be established. Seconded by Mr. Kavanagh. So voted 5-2. Mr. Ingraham and Ms. Gleason were opposed.

•Building & Grounds: Ratification of the Charter

Members: Terry Kavanagh, Chair; Karen Gleason; Terri Cortvriend

•Superintendent Selection

Members: Duncan Ingraham, Chair; Sylvia Wedge

•Negotiations

Members: Duncan Ingraham, Chair; Terry Kavanagh; Terri Cortvriend

•Policy

Members: Karen Gleason, Chair; Douglas Wilkey

- Finance

Members: Sylvia Wedge, Chair; Douglas Wilkey

d) Request for Verbatim Minutes. Ms. Gleason made a motion to request verbatim minutes of the December 14, 2004, School Committee meeting. There was no second to the motion.

e) Selection of School Attorney. This item was moved to Executive Session.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Policy.

- Status of By-Laws. Ms. Gleason stated that she did not have a report at this time.**

- Suggestions by Mr. Wilkey for Gym RFP Development/Review. A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to send Mr. Wilkey's suggestions for Gym RFP Development/Review to the Policy Subcommittee. So voted 6-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.**

b) Negotiations. This item was moved to Executive Session.

- NEA Portsmouth**

•Council 94

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Ingraham 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 6-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.

Public Session recessed at 8:31 PM and resumed at 10:07 PM.

Dr. Twaddle announced that one vote was taken in Executive Session to renew the contract with Mr. Updegrave as School Department attorney. The motion passed 6-0-1. Ms. Gleason abstained from the vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to adjourn the Public Session. So voted 7-0. Public Session adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk