

July 19, 2005

Public Session

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kavanagh, at 7:03 PM. The following members were present:

Mr. Terrence Kavanagh, V. Chair

Ms. Sylvia Wedge

Mr. David Croston

Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk

Mrs. Terri Cortvriend

Ms. Karen

Gleason

Also Present: Dr. Susan Lusi, Colleen Jermain, Cynthia Brown, Rick Elmasian, Patti Cofield

1. VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a) Mr. Kavanagh announced the resignation of Dr. Roy Twaddle, Chair. The Committee agreed to address Item a) on the Business Agenda at this time.

a) Election of Chairman: A motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend to nominate Ms. Wedge to the position of Chair of the School Committee. Seconded by Mr. Wilkey. So voted 5-1. Ms. Gleason was

opposed.

Ms. Wedge assumed the position of Chair and announced her plans for the Committee. She would like to increase the number of meetings during September so that Committee members have the opportunity to meet school personnel and parent-teacher groups. She would also like to conduct meetings at the school buildings on the second and fourth Tuesdays and Wednesdays in September instead of the regular meeting schedule on the second and fourth Tuesday at Town Hall. In addition, Ms. Wedge would like Dr. Lusi to invite the individual PTO leaders to a meeting in October. Beginning in September, she would like the Administrators to select a student to receive an award

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lusi congratulated Ms. Wedge on her appointment as Chair of the Committee. Dr. Lusi reported on the following:

- The 2005 Open Government Summit will be held on Friday, August 5th, from 9:00 – 12:30 PM, at Roger Williams University School of Law. Mrs. Cofield will attend on Dr. Lusi's behalf.**
- A letter from former PMS student, Ben Ricci, was referred to the Committee by the Town Council, recommending a schoolwide recycling program. Dr. Lusi will discuss the matter with the**

Principals early in the year and report back to the Committee.

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- **Dr. Lusi stated that she received an additional letter from Mr. John Vitkevich regarding the West Main Road northbound school signal, which was put in the Committee's mailboxes.**
- **Dr. Lusi stated that she has been meeting with a variety of elected and appointed officials and other members of the Portsmouth Community, and one theme that has consistently emerged is the need for on-going communication with all parties, including parents. Dr. Lusi will make reaching out to the parents and parent-teacher organizations a priority in the fall.**
- **Effective August 1st, the new Regional Director of Special Education for Newport County Regional Special Education will be Patricia McGrath, who has over 17 years experience in the special education field and most recently held the position of Coordinator of Special Education in Newport. Ms. McGrath has also worked as an administrator for Meeting Street School.**

- **Dr. Lusi stated that a state review of the new PHS gym design was done by Mr. Torrado and Ms. Bilotti at the Rhode Island Department of Education earlier in the year, and the gym is fully approvable for state reimbursement.**

a) Teaching and Learning: Asst. Supt. Jermain reported on the following:

- **A 2-week RITTI training on PDAs and assessment is in progress at Portsmouth High School.**

- **Asst. Supt. Jermain attended an EBEC School Improvement workshop with Dr. Lusi and the Principals. They are hoping to bring in the RIDOE instructor to meet with our School Improvement teams to provide professional development.**

- **Two teachers are going to New York for DIBELS training (kindergarten and pre-school).**

- **We are looking at our School Improvement plans. The Principals will be bringing them forward early in the school year.**

- **The Principals will approach their PTO groups in September regarding the purchase of AEDs.**

- **New Teacher Orientation will take place on Wednesday, August 10th.**

b) Finance and Operations. Ms. Brown announced that the 2004-05 budget will come in with expenditures exceeding its revenues by approximately \$330,000. She attributes the deficit to a number of

variables, including rising fuel costs, unforeseen healthcare expenditures, the extreme winter weather, and out-of-district special education costs. The issue will be discussed at an upcoming Finance Subcommittee meeting.

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Mr. Croston made a motion to hold our next School Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 10th, at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 6-0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded Mr. Croston to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 28, 2005. So voted 6-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Lusi removed Item a) from the agenda.

a) Appt. – Modern Language Teacher, PMS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School

Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-7/19/05, to the position of Modern Language Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 29, 2005."

b) Appt. – Math Teacher, PHS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-7/19/05, to the position of Math Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective August 29, 2005."

c) Appt. – Modern Language Teacher, PHS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-7/19/05, to the position of Modern Language Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective August 29, 2005."

d) Appt. – Modern Language Teacher, PHS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-7/19/05, to the position of Modern Language Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective August 29, 2005."

e) Appt. – Social Studies, PHS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #5-7/19/05, to the position of Social Studies Teacher at Portsmouth

High School, effective August 29, 2005.”

f) Appt. – Social Studies, PHS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #6-7/19/05, to the position of Social Studies Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective August 29, 2005.”

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g) Appt. – Physical Education/Health Teacher, 2/5 time, Hathaway. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #7-7/19/05, to the position of Physical Education/Health Teacher, 2/5 time, at Hathaway School, effective August 29, 2005.”

h) Appt. – Reading Specialist, Elmhurst. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #8-7/19/05, to the position of Reading Specialist at Elmhurst School, effective August 29, 2005.”

i) Appt. – Custodian, Category A, PMS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #9-7/19/05, to the position of Custodian, Category A, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective immediately."

j) Appt. – Custodian, Category A, PHS. The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #10-7/19/05, to the position of Custodian, Category A, at Portsmouth High School, effective immediately."

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and seconded by Mr. Kavanagh to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item a), as presented. So voted 6-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following appointments:

b) David West, Math Teacher, PHS – Step 9

c) Lynn Hoegen, Modern Language Teacher, PHS – Step 2

d) Rosie Sosnowski, Modern Language Teacher, PHS – Step 1

e) Shannon Booth, Social Studies, PHS – Step 1

f) Kimberlee Johnsen, Social Studies Teacher, PHS – Step 1

g) Christine King, Physical Education/Health Teacher, 2/5 Time, Hathaway – Step 1

h) Janet Barton, Reading Specialist, Elmhurst – Step 10 M+30

- i) Pete Mueller, Custodian, Category A, PMS**
- j) Kevin LaBonte, Custodian, Category A, PHS**

Dr. Lusi described the process by which step is determined for new hires.

5. BUSINESS AGENDA

- a) Election of Chairman (see above)**

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b) Agenda Item Request – Movement of School Traffic Lights.
Requested by Mr. John Vitkevich. Mr. Croston made a motion to seek legal counsel opinion on this issue. Seconded by Mr. Kavanagh. So voted 6-0. Dr. Lusi will refer this item to Atty. Upde-grove for review.

c) Agenda Item Request – Change in By-Laws, Section IV, Paragraph

F, Meeting Place. Mr. Wilkey made a motion to amend the wording in Section IV, Paragraph F) of the School Committee Bylaws to read: “The meetings shall be held in the Council Chambers of the Portsmouth Town Hall or other appropriate conference rooms of the Town Hall unless otherwise decided by a simple majority of the members for a particular meeting. In case of overflow of visitors and spectators, the Chair may adjourn and reconvene the meeting in another location.” Seconded by Mr. Kavanagh. So voted 6-0.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Kavanagh stated that period for the invitation to bid for a contractor for the PHS gymnasium project is still open and will be closing on August 2nd. The subcommittee will bring a recommendation forward at a future date.

A motion was made by Mr. Kavanagh and seconded by Mr. Croston to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. Public Session adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk