

December 13, 2005

Public Session

The workshop was called to order by Ms. Wedge, at 7:10 PM. The following members were present:

**Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair
Cortvriend**

Ms. Karen Gleason Mrs. Terri

**Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk
Marge Levesque**

Mr. Richard Carpender Mrs.

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Cofield, Mr. Elmasian

Absent: Mr. David Croston and Miss Julie Monteiro

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Wedge reported that a GCOC meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15th, 6:00 PM, in the Planning Board Room at the Portsmouth Town Hall. A Fundraising meeting will take place at 7:00 PM. Mrs. Cortvriend is taking charge of Fundraising. Ms. Wedge stated that the gym construction appears to be going quite smoothly.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lusi reported that she met with Council 94 twice over the last two weeks to discuss the closing of school buildings at 6:30 PM. Letters will be distributed to all affected custodians tomorrow outlining redesigned shifts and the job fair process. The job fair will be held on December 20th. It is a mandatory job fair, as there may be bumping. The change will take effect after vacation. She has worked to maintain custodial hours and ultimately school cleanliness to the maximum extent. Modest adjustments were made to the original proposal in recognition of the needs of our schools. The modifications are keeping schools open until 6:30 PM for the PAY program and posting a shift that will work nights twice per month at each of the schools. She will also be sending a letter to staff regarding these changes and to organizations that use our schools, outlining the fee structure.

In regards to the Navy Tower at Melville School, work started on Monday, and it should take approximately three weeks to complete, weather permitting. The path between the school and Melville housing is closed during this period. The Navy is paying for a school bus to transport the students who live in Melville housing to and from school.

Dr. Lusi attended a meeting on Friday regarding the Rhode Island Scholars. Mr. Richard Diamond of Raytheon was also present. She expressed appreciation for the work they have done.

Dr. Lusi informed the Committee that the Administration Building will be closed during the Christmas vacation week. Staff will be using their regular vacation time.

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a) Teaching and Learning: Asst. Supt. Jermain reported that the elementary teachers have been participating in Investigations Math training, which is very challenging. She stated they are doing an excellent job implementing this Math program. In January, she will be sending to the principals and parents information on enrichment activities. There are websites available to parents to use as additional resources. The after-school literacy grade level meetings are continuing, and a lot of progress has been made in that area. The teachers are getting more adept in implementing the assessments and using the data.

At the middle school level, the team did a fine job reviewing data on professional development in the area of PLPs. Our teachers are doing a fine job and are ahead of the State implementation plan. She

praised the middle school's science department. Ms. Christine Committo and other PMS teachers attended training on science notebooks and are implementing them at the middle school. In the math area, Mrs. Lebel met with the high school's math department head to discuss consistency across the board, the transition years, and how we can offer more for our students.

At the high school level, Asst. Supt. Jermain has been meeting with the department chairs to discuss curriculum and professional development planning. She intends to have a plan completed by the end of January for the School Committee to review. Her goals at the high school level are to continue examining the level of classes we are offering in an effort to offer the best quality programs we can. She reported that Portsmouth was not one of the five districts chosen for Physics First. She is trying to convince the Governor's office that Portsmouth could serve as a model school for this program. She should know by mid-January. She also reported on a Portfolio grant, which is another pathway for our high school students to meet proficiency. News on that grant will be announced in early February.

b) Finance and Operations: Mrs. Brown reported that our Delta Dental contract expires in June of this year, and we are in the process of developing an RFP so we can go out for competitive bid for dental coverage. She has met with our healthcare consultant, and we're looking at sometime in March or April before we will have a final recommendation on that.

c) Miss Julie Monteiro, High School Liaison. No report.

3. SPOTLIGHT

a) National Board Certification. A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to commend Mr. Erin Escher, Portsmouth Middle School; and Ms. Lisa Murphy, Portsmouth High School; for achieving National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. So voted 6-0.

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4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 29, 2005. So voted 6-0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Appt. – Math Teacher, 2/5 Time, PHS. The Superintendent

recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-12/13/05, to the position of Math Teacher, 2/5 time, at Portsmouth High School, for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year." The Administration moved this item to the next agenda.

6. BUSINESS AGENDA

- a) Report on PHS Statistics for Class of 2005. See below.**
- b) Report on Upcoming NEASC Visit at PHS. See below.**
- c) Report on Commissioner's Review for High School Reform. See below.**
- d) Report on PHS Class Size. See below.**

Mr. Littlefield gave an informative Powerpoint presentation on the above agenda items. He reviewed the school's mission and expectations for student learning, as well as civil and social expectations. He reviewed the timeline and standards for accreditation for the upcoming NEASC Accreditation visit in April. The visit will officially begin on Sunday, April 2, 2006, at 1:00 PM, in the PHS Auditorium. Mr. Littlefield invited the School Committee and Administration to attend. Mr. Littlefield also reviewed the Rhode Island Board of Regents Reform on the High School Diploma System, and the plan being developed at PHS, which is subject to State review in February. In addition, Mr. Littlefield reviewed the Class of 2005

statistics, including the SAT and Advanced Placement results. He concluded his presentation by reviewing what is in store for the 2006-07 school year, as well as potential changes to the Program of Study.

e) Approval – Letter of Interest to Pursue 4-day School Week. A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the Superintendent and the Committee Chair to send a letter to the Commissioner of Education prior to December 31, 2005, regarding the School Department’s interest in exploring a 4-day school week. So voted 6-0.

f) Bid Award – High School Partial Roof Replacement. A motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend to award the contract for partial roof replacement at Portsmouth High School to Eagle Cornice Company, Inc., in the amount of \$52,222.00. Seconded by Mr. Wilkey. The motion was amended by Mr. Carpender to add, “contingent upon Town Council

approval of utilizing systemwide locker and carpet money in the amount of \$20,000.” Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 6-0.

The original motion passed 6-0.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Finance. Nothing to report at this time.

b) Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC)

1) Agenda Item Request – Charter Amendment re Voting Rights for Technical Advisors. (Requested by Mr. Carpender) Mr. Carpender made a motion that the Gym Construction Oversight Committee Charter be amended to provide voting status to the three Technical Advisors appointed by the School Committee, effective De-cember 13, 2005. After much discussion, Mr. Wilkey requested that this item be tabled for legal counsel review.

2) Agenda Item Request – Charter Amendment re Change Orders. (Requested by Mr. Carpender) Mr. Carpender made a motion that the Gym Construction Oversight Committee Charter be amended to allow the GCOC to approve a Change Order up to \$12,500, but not to exceed \$20,000, in a rolling 30-day period. Any Change Order approval that would exceed those limits must be brought forward to the full School Committee, effective December 13, 2005. So voted 5-0-1. Ms. Gleason abstained.

Mr. Carpender made a motion that lines 1 through 5 in Paragraph 4 of

the GCOC Charter be amended to read, “The HSGCOC shall have authority to approve individual change orders up to \$12,500 per change order with an aggregate limit of \$20,000 within a 30-day rolling period; such change orders shall be executed by the Chair of the HSGCOC after a vote of the committee. Individual change orders in excess of \$12,500 or that exceed the \$20,000 limit within 30 days shall require approval of the School Committee. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 5-0-1. Ms. Gleason abstained.

3) Agenda Item Request – Discussion re Engaging/Appointing a Clerk of the

Works. (Requested by Mr. Carpender) This item was withdrawn because the GCOC is moving forward and writing an RFP for a Clerk of the Works. Mrs. Cortvriend requested that Mrs. Brown send out the RFP prior to Thursday’s GCOC meeting.

4) Approval of Progress Payment for Gym. A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to approve the progress payment of Invoice #05-095-0002 from Advanced Building Concepts in the amount of \$206,024.03. Ms. Wedge indicated that the Invoice did not have Mr. Torrado’s signature on it. The motion was amended by Mr. Carpender to approve the progress payment pending Mr. Torrado’s signature. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 5-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed. The original motion, as amended, was passed 5-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk