

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge, at 6:03 PM. The following members were present:

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair
Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk

Ms. Karen Gleason
Mrs. Marjorie Levesque
Mr. David Croston, V. Chair

Mrs. Terri Cortvriend
Mr. Richard Carpender

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Mrs. Cofield, (Mr. Elmasian and Mrs. Brown – Public Session)

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters; and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 7-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:04 PM and resumed at 6:36 PM. Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held at 6:04 PM to discuss a personnel matter, and one vote was taken. A motion was made by Mr. Croston and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to seal the minutes. So voted 7-0.

Public Session

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** : Ms. Wedge said the Gala was wonderful and well attended. She thanked the Fundraising Committee members for all their hard work.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** Dr. Lusi stated that Mrs. Brown distributed the February financials, and they will be addressed at the March 28th meeting.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the minutes of the meetings held February 14, 2006, and February 28, 2006. So voted 7-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the requests to provide home schooling for the 2005-06 school year for students HS#21-3/06, as listed in the confidential memo dated 3/7/06, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2."

- b) **Teacher Resignation, PHS** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee accepts the resignation of Laura A. Gavlik from the position of science teacher at Portsmouth High School at the end of the 2005-06 school year.”
- c) **Coaching Appt. - PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the coaching appointment at Portsmouth High School for the 2005-06 season as presented.”
- d) **Coaching Appts. - PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the coaching appointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2005-06 season as presented.”

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced that Mr. Charles Simeone was appointed as Varsity Golf Coach at Portsmouth High School; and Mr. Ryan Moniz and Miss Melinda Colagiovanni were appointed as Head Coach and Assistant Coach, respectively, of the track team at Portsmouth Middle School.

5. BUSINESS AGENDA

- a) **Discussion/Action – 2005-06 Budget.** Dr. Lusi stated that she is seeking direction as to how to proceed with this year’s budget. She reminded the Committee that approximately \$135,000 still remains to be found in budget adjustments. She distributed a set of proposed revisions to the current budget, which totaled just over \$87,000. She is very confident we can manage the \$135,000 paper deficit, assuming we don’t have additional students who need tuition placements, and that the revenue for the Group Home aid is funded. Ms. Gleason asked Dr. Lusi to give an update on the Group Home aid to date. Dr. Lusi stated that when we recalculated the 2006 budget, we assumed that four boys’ town homes would be completed before the end of 2005. At that point, it was estimated that all 5 homes would be complete by the end of the calendar year. However, only three homes were actually completed by the end of the year. The fourth home needed licensing from DCYF so that it could officially open as a group home. Dr. Lusi stated that supplemental budget requests tend to be voted on very late in the session, and they are not guaranteed. Therefore, our legislative delegation has been working very hard lobbying to get us that aid. Ms. Gleason asked how much aid we could anticipate. Dr. Lusi said approximately \$360,000. Dr. Lusi said it would be in the supplemental request. Mr. Croston and Mr. Carpender recommended that at this time, on the purchase services accounts and supply accounts where there are balances currently, that you may want to put administratively put a policy together to freeze those accounts and in order to spend money against them, the supt would have to approve them, out of an abundance of caution. Dr. Lusi said we could bring the \$87,000 back as budget adjustments. Mr. Croston made a motion to accept the proposed revisions to the 2005-06 budget as presented. So voted 7-0.

- b) **Request for Approval/Adoption – Proposed Policy #4340, Employment Contracts, 1st Reading and Adoption.** Mr. Croston made a motion to approve proposed Policy #4340, Employment Contracts, and that the second reading be waived and the policy be adopted. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend for discussion. Mr. Wilkey asked that the second reading not be waived. Mrs. Levesque stated that second readings were waived in the past, but only when the issue was of an emergency nature. She would like legal counsel to take another look at the policy. Much discussion took place. Mrs. Gleason stated that the issue of releasing the contracts to the public has been going on since September, and she thinks the Committee should vote on the motion. Mr. Croston thinks the integrity of the Committee is at stake, and he asked that the motion be moved. He stated that the employees are paid with public dollars. Mr. Carpender was not comfortable waiving the second reading or changing the language of the proposed policy. Mrs. Cortvriend echoed Mr. Carpender's position. Mrs. Gleason reminded the Committee that the Policy Subcommittee voted 2-1 to make the contracts public, and she supports releasing the documents. The motion failed 2-5. Ms. Gleason and Mr. Croston were in favor of the motion. The policy will be sent back to the Policy Subcommittee.
- c) **Approval – 2006-07 School Calendar.** Mr. Croston made a motion to approve the proposed calendar for the 2006-07 school year, as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Finance.** Mr. Carpender stated that another Finance Subcommittee workshop is being held immediately after this meeting. A special School Committee meeting to discuss the budget has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st, at 6:00 PM, at the Town Hall.
- b) **Fundraising:** Mr. Croston reported that the proceeds from the Gala were a little over \$50,000. He deeply thanked Sheila Pedrotty, Laura Novak King, Debbie Oliveira, John Wojichowski, and Terri Cortvriend for helping to organize the event. We are going to provide a substantially complete gym in June and a fully complete gym in September. He will bring a full report to a future meeting.
- c) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC)**
- 1) **Approval of Payment to Architect for Gym.** Mr. Croston made a motion to approve the payment of Invoice #05 in the amount of \$14,400.00 to Luis Torrado, L.A. Torrado Architects, for architectural services for the PHS gymnasium. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 6-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.

Mr. Croston stated that a GCOC meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2006, and that construction is a little bit ahead of schedule.

Mr. Croston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk