

A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter to move into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. Seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 5-0. Executive Session was held at 6:30 PM.

The Public Session was called to order by Ms. Wedge at 7:00 PM. The following members were present:

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair
Mr. David Croston, V. Chair

Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk
Mrs. Marjorie Levesque

Ms. Karen Gleason
Mr. Richard Carpenter

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Cofield, Miss Julie Monteiro

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held at 6:30 PM pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. One vote was taken and was approved on a personnel matter. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Seconded by Ms. Gleason. So voted 5-0-1. Ms. Wedge abstained due to her absence from the meeting.

Ms. Wedge read a letter she received from the Jamestown School Committee regarding the repeal of Rhode Island special education laws that are more restrictive than federal laws. They are hoping that an endorsement by a majority of the State's school committees will trigger a statewide review of these laws and open a dialogue about legislative accountability for legislation that goes beyond federal mandates. This topic will be put on a future agenda for discussion and endorsement

2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi reported that this week is Teacher Appreciation week, and she thanked all of our teachers for their hard work and dedication. She announced that we now have a districtwide listserv, and anyone is welcome to sign up by contacting Mrs. Cofield. She announced that the Wall of Fame Ceremony will be held on Thursday at 7:00 PM for the Portsmouth High School students who have earned Honor Roll status all year. Asst. Supt. Jermain will attend for the district. Regarding the Title IX issues, the Office of Civil Rights has closed the weight room complaint. She thanked Mr. Lunney, Mr. Elmasian, and Mr. Littlefield for being instrumental in making that happen. The locker room complaint will report again in October, after completion of the new gym. Dr. Lusi foresees that complaint being closed as well. Regarding the DEM septic issue at Portsmouth Middle School, a motion will be heard in Newport Superior Court on June 5th. Dr. Lusi distributed a chart on tuition costs for the Newport Area Career and Technical Center. She stated that there is a possible dispute, and she will keep the Committee posted. Dr. Lusi stated that the budget presentation to the Town Council will be held on May 15th, and we

have sent extensive information to the Auditor General's office. She also stated that the Fire Code Board of Review hearing is scheduled for May 16th.

- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Asst. Supt. Jermain congratulated Elizabeth King, a teacher at Hathaway School, for being named a 2006 Horace Mann-Abraham Lincoln Fellow.
 - **Update on PMS Principal Search:** Asst. Supt. Jermain is chairing the Principal Search Committee. She stated that a meeting was held on Tuesday at Portsmouth Middle School to pull names out of a hat. The following individuals were selected to be on the committee: Christine Committo, Lisa Mello, Mary Surber, Erika Scargill, Jayna Lalli, Tanin Tickner, Joe Amaral, and Fran Faria. Asst. Supt. Jermain then pulled names of two community members out of a hat, which were Kathy Melvin and Beth Battay. She stated that the initial meeting will be held on Thursday evening. Attorney Updegrave will be present at the meeting to explain the confidentiality clause.
 - **Hathaway School Presentation:** Dr. Martin and the teachers of Hathaway School gave a wonderful Powerpoint presentation of the programs at their school.
- b) **Finance and Operations:** Mrs. Brown stated that the April financial statements would be reviewed at the next meeting.
- c) **Miss Julie Monteiro, High School Liaison:** Miss Julie Monteiro announced that a blood drive will be held tomorrow; the Wall of Fame Ceremony will be held on Thursday; the Modern World Languages Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on May 16th; and the 4th Annual Lance Cpl. Barton J. Carroll Memorial Road Race/Walk will be held on May 21st.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held April 25, 2006: This item was removed and will be presented on the next agenda.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Coaching Appts - PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2005-06 school year, as presented." A motion was made by Mr. Croston and seconded by Mr. Carpenter to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following appointments:

PHS Baseball: Ron Westmoreland, Volunteer Coach
PHS Softball: Steve Dopart, Assistant Coach
PHS Boys' Track: Mike Hoffshire, Assistant Coach

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Discussion on Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals.** Dr. Lusi explained that purpose for starting the discussion on rescission of teacher non-renewals and displacements, stating that no vote would be taken at this meeting. The union is planning to schedule the June Job Fair, and there is the issue of unemployment for teachers who are not recalled. She stated that the principals are in the process of verifying enrollment estimates for next year, and she will present her recommendation for rescissions on the next agenda. She stated that teachers are called back according to seniority.

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) **Finance:** Mr. Carpender stated that the Committee will be going before the Town Council on May 15th at 6:00 PM, to present the 2006-07 budget. They will also report on the Interim Budget Deficit Report, the NESDEC report, and the status of the current budget. Mr. Carpender and Dr. Lusi will be giving the major presentation, with input from Asst. Supt. Jermain and Mrs. Brown. The Council will decide on the provisional budget at their next meeting. The public hearing will take place some time in mid-June.
- b) **Policy:** Mr. Wilkey stated that a Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held tomorrow night at 6:00 PM at the Portsmouth High School Library, to discuss the policy on wellness. He stated that the Subcommittee is sending letters to the School Improvement Teams asking them to send in two goals regarding nutrition and physical activity. In September, the Subcommittee will present them with a timeline in order to report out to the state by spring of next year. The School Improvement Teams need to include this information in their School Improvement Plans.
- c) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC)**
- 1) **Status Report on Gymnasium.** Mr. Croston distributed a memo on the history and status of the gymnasium, which included the following information: In November 2004, the voters of Portsmouth voted to support a \$3.5M bond to build a 27,000 sq. ft. gymnasium at Portsmouth High School. After Bond costs of \$57,000 and architectural fees of \$200,000, the Gymnasium Oversight Committee had approximately \$3,243,000 to spend on the project. In August of 2005, a contract was signed with Advanced Building Concepts of Middletown, Rhode Island for \$3,140,000.

The base contract delivers three 87 foot courts, high school regulation, side by side; and, one Championship Court (NCAA/94 foot) cut through the center of courts one and two (closest to existing high school). The base contract includes all site, utility, fire protection systems, plumbing and electric, rough plumbing and electric for the proposed locker rooms, heat and ventilation and flooring. The base bid includes a 4,500 sq. ft. (rough) mezzanine space with a poured slab, but does not have any

monies to fit out this space. Finally, the base contract calls for the construction of complete public restrooms to enable occupancy of the building.

Construction alternates comprised the balance of the project needs. These include natural lighting features, a connector between buildings, entrance canopy, male and female locker rooms, athletic equipment (including bleachers), and entrance canopy. These extras total \$998,331 above the base contract.

Early in the Site Preparation phase, the GCOC voted to eliminate the connector in favor of a continuous Fire Lane between buildings. This was negotiated between the Committee and the Fire Chief to alleviate his concern about a 360 degree radius around the existing high school. The first Change Order (CO1) approved the natural light elements of Kalwall, skylights, and dormers for \$65,050. This was paid by Town Impact Funds. The second Change Order (CO2) approved the male and female locker rooms and the Booster Room at the north end of the locker rooms. The CO2 totaled \$309,157, and incorporated miscellaneous site work changes and the upgrade to a 10m rubber floor system by Mondo. The locker room upgrades were paid with \$122,000 in Town Impact Aid and the balance from fundraising proceeds. Next we approved the gymnasium equipment including: backboards, scoreboards, clocks, volleyball and two complete bleachers totaling \$190,853. The actual third change order (CO3) totaled \$191,749, and encompassed minor electric and equipment changes. Therefore, the total approved construction contract and changes total \$3,705,956. If the base contract \$3,140,000 is removed from that price, the change orders totals \$565,956. To date the School Committee and the Town Council have approved the use of \$187,050 in Town Impact Aid, which leaves approximately \$70,000 in the Impact Aid account. This is insurance as we culminate the Phase One fundraising and construction.

The initial public fundraising goal was set at a base of \$300,000. To date, we have received four large corporate gifts: Clements Marketplace (\$60,000), Bank Newport (\$60,000), Phoenix Bulk Carriers (\$100,000), and Bank 2 (\$10,000); these total \$230,000. We have run a three month campaign called "Buy a Brick" that has sold 350 bricks through April for a total of \$59,100 on costs of \$10,275, for a net of \$48,825. We will maintain this campaign through June and will culminate in a celebration at the Brick Alley Pub in June; we hope to raise another \$15,000. The March Gala netted the campaign \$54,000; and we have had miscellaneous gifts which total \$8,000, of which half has been earmarked to expenses. This leaves the funds raised at \$336,825. We have an unannounced pledge for \$10,000, and we conservatively expect to raise another \$10,000 in Brick proceeds. Finally, a cocktail party has been scheduled at Carnegie Abbey for a select group of donors on June 1st. We expect that reception to bring in over \$50,000.

Construction began with excess bond proceeds of \$103,000. To date, the GCOC has approved the payment of \$23,500 for water main work, which leaves a balance of \$79,500. The project is negotiating change requests between contractor and architect that in the aggregate do not expect to exceed \$50,000, and may have little expense to the project.

Mr. Croston hopes this provides a snapshot of what has been a difficult project but one which has been managed conservatively. The goal has been to assure the maximum participation space available. The project is on schedule and is on budget through April 2006. The GCOC expects to declare the gymnasium substantially complete by June 30, 2006. The remaining items after that date will be equipment installation (backboards and bleachers) and the floor. We have asked Advance Building Concepts to delay the installation of the floor until August to assure no damage to the floor surface during the final fit-out of the gym. While occupancy is expected for the start of school, the GCOC does not expect bleacher installation until mid-September. This delay is a function of lead time when we finally agreed on the purchase last month.

The second phase, the mezzanine, will require approximately \$350,000 to complete the infrastructure. This includes an external stairwell and lift, as well as an interior stair. Additionally, a wall or railing will need to be constructed, or a combination of both, on the external face of the mezzanine. It is expected this space will be used as a weight and fitness room, requiring specific platforms for free weights. Finally, they project fundraising for the fitness equipment itself, raising the Phase Two goal to \$500,000. They hope to have Phase Two start by the end of Quarter 1 of 2007 for occupancy in September 2007.

The Phase Two fundraising has already begun. In addition to private funds, they expect foundation support and hope for an additional \$125,000 in Town Impact Aid. This would leave their fundraising goal at approximately \$250,000.

d) **Fundraising:** See above.

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk

