

The meeting 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  
Mr. Richard Carpender

Mrs. Terri Cortvriend  
Ms. Karen Gleason

Absent: Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Marissa Mello

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Patti Cofield, Rick Updegrove, Rick Elmasian

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: Ms. Wedge reported that Mrs. Levesque has been ill and is home recuperating. She announced that Mrs. Adriana Trevino, High School Spanish Teacher, is inviting everyone to Hispanic Heritage Night tomorrow from 6-8PM in the PHS cafeteria.
2. **SPOTLIGHT**: A motion was made by Mr. Croston and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to commend Mr. Richard Price for being inducted into the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame. So voted 6-0.
3. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**: Dr. Lusi stated that she attended the Governor's Safe School Summit this morning, along with Mr. Elmasian, Mr. Goss, Ms Dunning, Dr. Olson, Mr. Wilkey, Chief Hebert, and another member of his force. The meeting was informative and featured remarks from the Governor, the Superintendent of the State Police, a member of the Secret Service, staff from the Westerly Schools and Police Department who have a nationally recognized safety plan, Commissioner McWalters, Dr. Richard Gelles from University of Pennsylvania, Principal Sean Kelly of Cranston East High School, and James DiPrete, Chair of the Board of Regents. The meeting emphasized knowing your students and having each student in a meaningful relationship with at least one caring adult; having staff understand their roles and responsibilities both in preventing trouble and acting during a crisis and taking a team approach at both these levels; and securing the perimeters of our buildings. The next steps here in Portsmouth are to have our Administrative team meet with Chief Hebert and his staff tomorrow and to appoint a small committee to revisit all of our emergency plans with the Police Department so that everyone continues to be aware and prepared.

Dr. Lusi reported that work with B&E continues, and she hopes to have a special meeting next week to hear from them and Attorney Robinson. She stated that the request to the Town Council that will be voted on this evening is a procedural step that the School Department is obligated to take in light of the denial of our waivers by the State.

Dr. Lusi stated that she attended the Superintendents' Leadership Seminar, and it was very valuable. She needs a written evaluation in preparation for drafting new goals. She will provide the Committee with a written self-assessment by the end of this week and asks that an

individual or subcommittee be charged with pulling together a written evaluation for the full Committee. She will also draft goals to provide to the Committee at the next meeting.

- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain stated that the NECAP testing is still continuing at the elementary schools, and the middle school has completed the first round. The math lead teachers had professional development last Wednesday, and they're having discussions about math nights at the elementary and middle school levels. Professional development is continuing at the middle and high school levels for co-taught classes and assessments this Friday and next Thursday. Elementary teachers are beginning their 1/2 day Math Investigations training sessions this week. Elementary teachers will also begin the Thinking Strategies and LAB classroom training next Wednesday. The elementary teachers will have six ninety minutes sessions after school throughout the year.
- b) **Finance and Operations:** See above.
- c) **High School Liaison, Marissa Mello:** Absent.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Croston to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 26, 2006. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 6-0. Ms. Gleason was opposed.

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the requests to provide home schooling for the 2006-07 school year for students HS#9-9/06 and HS#10-9/06, as listed in the confidential memo dated October 10, 2006, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2. So voted 6-0.

#### 6. BUSINESS AGENDA

- a) **Agenda Item Request – Bus Stop Concern.** Requested by Mr. Mario Andrade. Mr. Croston made a motion to deny the request by Mr. Andrade to change the bus stop, based on the communication from Chief Hebert. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 5-1. Mr. Wilkey was opposed.
- b) **Presentation on PHS and Implementation of the State High School Regulations.** Presented by Mr. Littlefield.

c) **Discussion/Action – FY'07 Budget.**

- 1) Mr. Croston made a motion to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Town Council notifying them of a projected budget deficit for FY'07 and the need to request additional funds. Seconded by Mr. Carpender. Much discussion took place. Dr. Lusi explained that she was requesting that the letter be sent at this time because of the procedural requirement in State law. She further explained that the letter made clear that the School Department continues to work with B&E and that the \$1.1 million figure might well change as a result of that. The motion passed 4-2. Ms. Gleason and Mr. Wilkey were opposed.
- 2) Mr. Croston made a motion to approve the formal opening of the new PHS gymnasium with recognition of the attendant costs for utilities and custodial services. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. Mr. Croston said that we have operational issues, and we have the potential of using private funding for operational costs for a limited period of time. Therefore, he amended his motion to add that it be referred back to the GCOC and provide up to \$25,000 of GCOC funds in operations of the gym for the next 90 days. Much discussion took place. Mr. Carpender called for a short recess. The meeting recessed at 9:35 PM and resumed at 9:42 PM. Mr. Croston withdrew his amendment, and the original motion passed 4-2. Ms. Gleason and Mr. Wilkey were opposed.

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Policy:** Mr. Wilkey stated that a policy meeting took place prior to the meeting to discuss Policy #5127 regarding graduation requirements. He stated that the changes were put into the policy in order to be in compliance with regulations. Ms. Gleason suggested adding “going before the School Committee” to the last sentence. The policy will be on a future agenda as a first reading.
- b) **Finance:** See above.
- c) **Prudence Island School Working Committee:** No report.
- d) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC):** Mr. Croston distributed a revised balance sheet. Mr. Croston stated that we were carrying bond costs that did not exist. The bond was actually sold at premium and we had cash left over. The total expenditure against the bond balance is \$3,440,809.09. Available to us for Phase 2 is \$372,488.68. Mr. Croston made a motion that the Committee approves the progress payment of Invoice #05-095-00011 from Advanced Building Concepts as presented in the backup. So voted 5-1. Ms. Gleason was opposed.
- e) **Fundraising:** No report.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkey and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk