

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

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

Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Clerk
Mr. Richard Carpender
Mrs. Marjorie Levesque

Mrs. Terri Cortvriend
Ms. Karen Gleason

Absent: Marissa Mello

1. **Chairman's Report:** Mrs. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held at 5:00 PM, and one vote was taken. The vote was 5-0-1. Mr. Wilkey abstained. Mrs. Gleason did not participate in the vote, since she had left the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Croston to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. The motion passed 6-1. Mrs. Gleason opposed.

Mr. Peter McIntyre requested that B&E's report be provided to the Town Council prior to Friday's meeting. Attorney Robinson had advised the School Committee that the report should not be distributed, since it is incomplete and could be misinterpreted if distributed prior to the meeting. The report will be presented at the Friday, October 27, 2006, workshop between the Town Council and School Committee.

2. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Lusi reported that she received notification from the Department of Education last week that Portsmouth High School will be designated as high performing this year.

Dr. Lusi thanked Representative Gallison for his efforts in working with the School Department on group Home Aid and related issues going forward. He had a meeting with Patricia Martinez of DCYF; and Michael Burk and Peter DiBari of Child and Family Services, to discuss issues that have affected us and plans for the Bristol Ferry Shelter moving forward (adding eight more beds in the next two years.) Discussion followed regarding the fact that state funds should follow the children in the same fiscal year. Secondly, the \$15,000 amount per bed is not enough, and the amount hasn't been raised in at least 5 years. They further discussed the need for close communication as students enter and exit our system. The groundwork was set for future discussion.

Dr. Lusi also reported on budget projections going forward, given the new tax cap legislation. The Committee was advised that a report on the cost of state mandates was supposed to be submitted by the Department of Administration by October 1, 2006. She will ask the Superintendent's Association about making a public information request for this report, which may bring to light the fact that the report does not yet exist.

Dr. Lusi informed the Committee that all unions were asked the forego 1% of their increases for this year. All have responded in the negative to this request. Dr. Lusi has spoken with all PTO and booster clubs about becoming independent 501(c)3 entities. She indicated that we

will continue to support parent groups very strongly and that their relationship to the district will remain the same until 501(c)3 status is achieved. Mrs. Gleason asked that we have something in writing that we are, in fact, going to receive funds for group homes at \$15,000 per bed, prior to filling the beds. She indicated that the School Committee should work in conjunction with the Council.

- a) **Teaching and Learning**: Mrs. Jermain indicated that the NECAP testing is almost complete. Elementary levels have been meeting in literacy and all content areas. Guidance counselors in Grades K-8 met in regards to TST and RTI (Response To Intervention) and to discuss proactive measures in instruction so that all teachers can learn from each other. Hopefully, this instruction will result in fewer students that need PLPs. Portsmouth Middle School will have 10 members of their staff AED/CPR trained. The district will hold training for other staff members on November 7, 2006. We have a new Exchange server, and tech training will be ongoing on November 7, 2006, as well. Co-teaching will be implemented at the middle and high schools. Grades 3 and 4 will continue with Math Investigations training this week.
- 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 June 27, 2006. Mr. Carpender seconded. So voted 7-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Croston to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 10, 2006. Mr. Carpender seconded. Motion passed, 5-0-2. Mrs. Gleason and Mrs. Levesque abstained.

5. **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Mr. Croston to approve the request for Family and Medical Leave in accordance with the backup information, as provided. Mr. Carpender seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

6. **Business Agenda**:

- a) **Discussion/Action – FY-07 Budget**: It was announced that there will be a joint workshop with the Town Council on Friday, October 27th at 4:00 PM to discuss the B&E report.
- b) **Discussion/Approval – September Financials**: Dr. Lusi indicated that 17.74% of the appropriated budget has been expended as of the end of September. The cuts that align

with the tent meeting are not included in the September financials but are attached in a separate spreadsheet and memorandum. These figures will be brought forward in the October financial report. Mr. Wilkey asked for clarification and agreed with Dr. Lusi's revenue figure. Mrs. Gleason asked for clarification on the 100, 300, and 600 series, which show a re-duction. Dr. Lusi explained that this is a result of the "paper cuts" that were made. She stated that line item adjustments will be brought forward in the future.

- c) **Request for Approval – Revisions to Policy #5127 – Graduation Requirements, 1st Reading**. A motion was made by Mr. Croston and seconded by Mr. Carpender to approve the proposed revisions to Policy #5127, Graduation Requirements, as a first reading. So voted 7-0.

7. **Subcommittee Agenda**

- a) **Policy:** No further report from the Policy Subcommittee.
- b) **Finance:** No further report from the Finance Subcommittee.
- c) **Prudence Island Working Committee:** Mr. Carpender reported on the meeting held this week. He anticipates that the group will meet again in December to prepare a presentation for the School Committee, with the recommendations and parameters for the Historical Society to take over the maintenance of the Prudence Island School. In January, the group will bring forward recommendations to the School Committee about the possibility of a Charter School or Magnet School. There is currently a moratorium on Charter Schools.

Mrs. Gleason asked about the reversion clause on the deed. Mr. Carpender indicated that Mr. Updegrave is reviewing the deed and whether the reversion clause could be enforced. If the school is no longer used for education, we would still own it. Mr. Updegrave is checking to see if the deed retains the reversion rights.

Mr. Wilkey asked what would happen to the school if there weren't any students, and if it were possible to close for one year. Discussion followed on closing versus abandoning the school and whether the reversion clause is enforceable.

- d) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC):** Mr. Croston reported that yesterday was the first day that Physical Education classes were held in the new gym. He announced that a cheerleading event will be held this weekend, which will generate revenue. He stated that the Grand Opening of the gym is tentatively scheduled for December 16, 2006. Mr. John Brooks will be invited to the GCOC meeting next week. He stated that \$118,000 of Impact Fees was received from the Town at last night's Council meeting. In addition, funds are available to complete the gymnasium before turning it over to Portsmouth High School.

Mr. Croston made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session.

Public session ended at 8:25 PM and resumed at 9:15 PM.

Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held on a personnel matter, and no votes were taken. A motion was duly made and seconded to seal the minutes. So voted.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield (Cathy Nash)
Recording Secretary for

Douglas Wilkey, Clerk