

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge, at 7:15 PM. The following members were present:

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair	Mr. Richard Carpender	Mrs. Marjorie Levesque
Mr. Michael Buddemeyer	Mrs. Terri Cortvriend	Mr. Douglas Wilkey
	Mr. Jamie Heaney	

Absent: Marissa Mello

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Patti Cofield, Rick Updegrove

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge announced that rules must be followed at School Committee meetings. Only persons recognized by the Chair will be allowed to speak, and the maximum time allotted per person is two minutes. Only items on the agenda may be discussed. If anyone is disruptive, which includes having discussions with the persons sitting next to you, you will be asked to leave. If disruption does not end, the Portsmouth authorities will be called and those persons will be removed from the premises. Ms. Wedge stated that the last two meetings were a disgrace and an embarrassment, and she does not want it to happen again.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi congratulated Portsmouth High School for being the top blood donating school in the State. She also congratulated our students who are Midget Cheerleaders who traveled to Fort Lauderdale and placed fourth in the national cheerleading competition.

Dr. Lusi distributed information on the Aquidneck Island Study Group, which was started by Dr. Charles Shoemaker who is Chair of the Newport School Committee. Approximately three months ago, Dr. Shoemaker invited School Committee Chairs, Council Presidents, Town Administrators, and Superintendents of the three island communities to start meeting as a group to examine projections of revenues and costs for both education and municipal services, as well as ways that they might work together to control costs going forward. The group has been discussing engaging RIPEC to consult with them on these matters. A draft Memorandum of Agreement was distributed, which outlines the work that RIPEC would do. She stated that since Council Presidents have recently changed, Mr. Driscoll needs a chance to talk with Council President Canario about this work. However, the initial discussion was that the Town would find the full \$10,000 for Portsmouth's share of the work. Assuming this is the case, she thinks this is work that is well worth our while to continue, particularly given our need to control costs going forward and the attention being paid at the state level to regionalization.

Dr. Lusi reported that a professional development work session for the Administrative Team was held in early December and was facilitated by a staff member from East Bay Educational Collaborative. The focus was on better understanding their leadership styles and what they

need to be aware of in working as a team. In addition, they worked on refining respective roles and responsibilities for implementing districtwide initiatives, and they identified issues they need to address as an administrative team going forward. Dr. Lusi and Mr. Malafronte also met with the principals today to discuss budget development for the coming school year, and she and Mr. Carpender will be working on a subcommittee schedule for developing the budget request for FY'08.

Dr. Lusi announced that the Town Council has scheduled an Executive Session with the School Committee on Wednesday, December 20th, at 7:00 PM, to discuss the Caroulo issue.

Dr. Lusi announced that Item b) on the Business Agenda is being withdrawn.

- a) Teaching and Learning: See above.
- b) Finance and Operations: See above.
- c) High School Liaison, Marissa Mello: Absent

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 27, 2006. So voted 7-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Request for Maternity Leave of Absence:** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request for maternity leave in accordance with the backup information."

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 7-0.

5. BUSINESS AGENDA

- a) **Prudence Island School Working Committee Report.** Mr. Carpender, Chair of the Prudence Island School Working Committee, introduced the committee members present at the meeting. He and Mr. Bob Marshall gave a Powerpoint presentation on current maintenance projects, Prudence Island School costs and savings, and ownership and maintenance. They reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal for a not-for-profit organization taking over the building. Mr. Carpender made a motion that the School Committee approves, in concept, the recommendation of the Prudence Island School Working Committee to investigate the possibility of turning the ownership of the Prudence Island School over to an Historical Society, PRI, or similar organization, and authorize the Prudence Island School Working Committee to make initial contact and to

generate a proposed Request for Letters of Interest to be presented to the Superintendent, School Committee, and Legal Counsel for approval and distribution. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0. Mr. Heaney asked that a contingency plan be written up in the case of overcapacity. Mrs. Cortvriend asked the committee to determine the capacity of the building.

- b) **Appeal of Administrative Decision re: Policy Issue.** This item was withdrawn from the agenda by Dr. Lusi.
- c) **Approval of By-Laws.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the By-Laws as presented. So voted 7-0. Mr. Carpender suggested that the By-Laws be reviewed and amended by the Policy Subcommittee because he would like to see a few items changed. Attorney Updegrave addressed the consequences of breaking a By-Law.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Policy:** No Report.
- b) **Finance:** No Report.
- c) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC):** Mrs. Cortvriend announced that a GCOC meeting was held prior to this meeting. Two invoices were approved for payment, one of which is on tonight's agenda for approval. They also discussed working on the punch-list and obtaining the certificate of substantial completion.
 - 1) **Request for Approval – Charter Amendments.** A motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend and seconded by Mr. Carpender to approve the amendments to the GCOC charter as presented. So voted 7-0.
 - 2) **Appointment of GCOC Advisor.** A motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend and seconded by Mr. Carpender to appoint Mr. David Croston to the Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee as an advisor. So voted 7-0.
 - 3) **Approval of Progress Payment for Gym.** A motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to approve the progress payment of Invoice #05-095-00012 from Advanced Building Concepts in the amount of \$23,231.68. So voted 7-0.
- d) **Fundraising:** No Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation; or (a)(8) Student Discipline. So voted 7-0. Public Session recessed at 8:21 PM and resumed at 9:27 PM.

Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held to discuss litigation, and no votes were taken. Mr. Heaney made a motion to seal the minutes. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk