

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge at 6:15 PM. The following members were present:

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| Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair | Mr. Michael Buddemeyer | Mrs. Marge Levesque (7:00 PM) |
| Mr. Richard Carpender, V. Chair | Mr. Jamie Heaney | Mr. Douglas Wilkey (7:05 PM) |
| Mrs. Terri Cortvriend, Clerk | | |

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

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend 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 5-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:16 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge reported that an Executive Session was held last night to discuss a legal matter, and no votes were taken. She reported that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting, and one vote was taken regarding an extension on an existing leave of absence. The vote was 4-0 against the extension. Mr. Heaney had recused himself from this item.

Ms. Wedge reported that Items b) and d) on the Consent Agenda, Item c) on the Business Agenda, and Items D-1) and D-2) on the Subcommittee Agenda, are being removed.

(Mr. Wilkey arrived.)

2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi reported that she will most likely be in Providence Superior Court from Monday through Wednesday of next week for the Caroulo trial. Judge Indeglia is presiding, and the sessions are from 9:30 AM to 3:00 or 4:00 PM, depending on how the legal proceedings go.
 - a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported that our partnership with Raytheon is continuing and growing. The after-school program that the employees are starting next week will have Raytheon engineers coming into Portsmouth Middle School to provide tutoring services on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. This is in addition to the Ramp Up program that Raytheon participates in at Portsmouth High School during the summer for students going into Grades 10 and 11. Mr. Erin Escher has offered to be the contact at Portsmouth Middle School for the engineers. She also reported that students should soon be receiving NECAP test information from their school principals. The information is also available on the RIDE website. In addition, she reported that the Physics First program is going very well at Portsmouth High School, and the teachers are giving a lot of positive feedback on the program. Teachers are now being trained in the chemistry program for next year's Grade 10 students, and she is proud and pleased by the

enthusiasm of our teachers--Ms. Christine Lawrence, Mr. Jeff Schoonover, Mrs. Kathleen Beebe, and Mr. Thomas Holstein. She also reported that professional development is on-going.

- b) **Finance and Operations:** No report.
- c) **High School Liaison, Marissa Mello:** No Report.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Carpender made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held January 23, 2007, Second by Jamie Heaney. So voted.

Mr. Carpender made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held February 1, 2007. Second by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted. Mr. Heaney and Mr. Buddemeyer abstained due to their absence from that meeting.

Mrs. Cortvriend made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held February 13, 2007. Second by Heaney. So voted. Mr. Carpender and Mr. Wilkey abstained due to their absence from that meeting.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Alan Horstman, 7th Grade Math Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, effective with the last day of the 2006-07 school year.”
- b) **Coaching Appt. - PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the coaching appointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2007 spring season, as presented.” This item was removed and will be placed on the next agenda.
- c) **Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the request to provide home schooling for the 2006-07 school year for student 16-2/07, as listed in the confidential memo dated February 22, 2007, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2.”
- d) **Request for Approval – Extension of Unpaid Leave of Absence.** Requested by Mr. Robert Ghirardi. This item was removed from the agenda.

Mr. Carpender made a motion to approve Items a) and c) on the Consent Agenda. So voted 7-0.

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Request for Approval – Policy #5800, High School Yearbook, 1st Reading.** Mrs. Levesque made a motion to approve Policy #5800, High School Yearbook, as a first reading. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0.

b) **Teacher Non-Renewals.**

Attorney Updegrave moderated during this portion of the agenda. He stated that this is a supplement to the pre-deprivation hearing on the non-renewals that occurred at the February 13, 2007, meeting. Two additional items are being brought forth tonight. He stated that teachers who are affected must receive formal notice of their possible non-renewal before March 1st of each year, so a pre-deprivation hearing is held. He explained that since this is a pre-deprivation hearing, no dialogue will take place with the School Committee, and only members of the community who are pre-registered shall be able to speak to the Committee. In order to preserve confidentiality, comments from the public should not be made about any specific teacher. Comments will be limited to the 2-minute restriction. He stated that the teachers' names would not be announced but rather reported out in the form of a numerical designation. He asked if any members of the School Committee had any objection to the listing of non-renewals, and there were none.

- 1) **Teacher Non-Renewal.** Mr. Carpender made a motion that the teaching contracts of Teachers 39 and 40 not be renewed on June 19, 2007, or the last day of the 2006-07 school year. The specific reason for this recommendation is due to the uncertainty of Federal, State, and local funds in support of the School Department's 2007-08 budget. If there is a reduction, the School Committee will have to reorganize programs, eliminate positions, and consolidate classrooms in order to operate within the total budget allocation for school operations. As a result of this reorganization and consolidation, these positions may be eliminated or senior teachers may opt for positions in these areas of certification. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0.
- 2) **Substitute Teacher Non-Renewals.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender that the long-term assignments of Substitute Teachers 41 and 42 formally end following the completion of their current placement with the Portsmouth School Department. The specific reason for this recommendation is that these substitutes have not been appointed to the position by the School Committee and thus are not eligible for continuous employment and rights of recall. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0.

Ms. Wedge closed the pre-deprivation hearing.

- c) **FY'06-07 Budget Update.** This item was removed.

- d) **Review/Approval – January Financial Statements.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the January Financial Statements. So voted 7-0.

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Policy:** No report.
- b) **Finance:** Mr. Carpenter reported that a schedule of the Finance Subcommittee meetings was distributed. The meetings will begin this Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. The first meeting will be held in the Planning Board Room at Town Hall, and the roll-forward numbers and elementary budgets will be discussed.
- c) **Prudence Island School Working Committee:** Mr. Carpenter reported that an all-day meeting took place on February 10, 2007, on Prudence Island. The subcommittee talked about all of the areas they've looked at, and they put together pros ad cons about each particular item. The next meeting will take place the morning of March 10, 2007, on Prudence Island. The subcommittee will report back to the School Committee within the next month.
- d) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC):** Mrs. Cortvriend reported that John Brooks from Advanced Building Concepts will be attending the GCOC meeting tomorrow night at 5:30 PM at the Portsmouth High School library. Mr. Luis Torrado and Edwards and Kelcey will also attend.
 - 1) **Report by John Brooks, Advanced Building Concepts.** This item was removed.
 - 2) **Approval of Progress Payment for Gym.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee approves the progress payment of Invoice #05-095-00013 from Advanced Building Concepts in the amount of \$30,010.86." This item was removed.
- e) **Fundraising: No** report.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk