

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

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

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Patti Cofield, Marissa Mello

Absent: Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Asst. Supt. Jermain

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: No Report.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**: Dr. Lusi announced that Mrs. Jermain was out of the district and would present the NECAP results at a future meeting.

Dr. Lusi stated that she and Mr. Wilkey had a very nice talk yesterday and agreed that while they may disagree on some substantive issues, they don't want to argue with each other. She understands from Mr. Wilkey that he wrote all of his own remarks given at the last School Committee meeting, and she apologized to him for implying otherwise. Mr. Wilkey also apologized to Dr. Lusi.

Regarding staffing, Dr. Lusi reported that we're working very hard to fill vacant positions. The appointment of the Director of Finance & Administration is on this agenda, and interviews for the Facilities Supervisor are going to take place tomorrow. She also stated that we would be moving to fill the principalship at Portsmouth Middle School shortly.

Dr. Lusi notified the Committee that she made some changes to the administrative procedure for recruiting and hiring, which was distributed. The procedure follows from School Committee Policy #4111, Selection and Appointment of School Personnel, which instructs the Superintendent to develop a procedure which allows for school and community participation in the interview process. She stated that Attorney Updegrave advised that administration may revise the procedure with notification to the Committee. This revision allows the administration, at the Superintendent's discretion, to conduct an internal search and potentially recommend a candidate to the Committee as a result of that search, prior to advertising more broadly. Dr. Lusi feels that this revision is important, particularly with the growing shortage of administrators, so that we can grow and acknowledge the talents of our current employees when appropriate.

Regarding Budget, Dr. Lusi distributed the budget timeline accepted by the Council. Dr. Lusi and Mr. Carpender will be presenting the School Committee's budget request on

Wednesday, May 2, 2007. She stated that there is a potential issue for us in that the budget is not being heard until the last day of school and not being voted on by the Town Council until June 25, 2007. This is problematic because any teacher that has not been recalled by the last day of school may file for unemployment. She and Mr. Carpender will bring up this concern when they present to the Town Council next Wednesday.

Dr. Lusi distributed and reviewed the Revenue Report as of April 2007. She also distributed a report on Medicaid balances as of March 31, 2007. She noted that the School Department has now received the \$375,000 of the \$526,000 of Medicaid revenue assumed in our FY'07 budget as a result of the Caroulo decision. She stated that once we have received the \$100,000 reimbursement requested yesterday, there will be a balance of \$33,034.63 in our Medicaid account at Newport County Regional Special Education.

Dr. Lusi distributed a draft of the March financials, which will be on the next agenda for review and discussion. She stated that they are in draft form because this is the first time the results of the Caruolo action have been entered into the budget line items, and they need to be examined carefully to ensure that no mistakes have been made. In addition, the encumbrances need to be carefully reviewed so that the financial picture for the remainder of year can be determined and reported to the Committee.

Regarding Teaching and Learning, Dr. Lusi stated that Mrs. Jermain will report on assessment results at the next meeting. She announced that as discussed during the Portsmouth Middle School budget presentation, they will be offering a full year of foreign language for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and they are committed to doing this with level staffing. A survey of students was conducted on which languages they were interested in learning, and Spanish and Portuguese were overwhelmingly the most popular. Additional literacy assistance will also be offered to a small number of students who need extra help with reading and writing. She stated we are very pleased to be able to do this so that students may pursue up to 5 years of a language during middle and high school.

Dr. Lusi thanked the PTOs, Portsmouth Public Education Foundation, and Mr. Duncan Ingraham and his staff at Century 21 Trend Realty, for joining together to promote a new summer opportunity for students. She showed the brochure and described the program. She stated that although participation is voluntary, we would like to see every student entering Grades 1-4 participate.

Dr. Lusi announced that Mike Lunney, our Athletic Director, was honored earlier this month by the Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association at its annual awards dinner. He received the association's State Award of Merit. She stated that this award is given to the athletic director in each state who administers a comprehensive, successful athletic program and has demonstrated exceptional leadership at the local and state level.

In addition, Dr. Lusi announced that two of our high school science teachers – Tom Holstein and Mickey Beebe, have been named the Chemistry Teacher(s) of the Year in Rhode Island by the New England Institute of Chemists. Only one teacher per state is supposed to receive the award, however, Science Department Chair, Jeff Schoonover, nominated them as a team because that is how they always work. They each have their own strengths and they work so well with together giving the kids of Portsmouth an excellent education in chemistry. Consequently, they have each been selected as this year's Rhode Island recipient. They will be receiving their award this Thursday evening at a ceremony at Boston College.

Dr. Lusi also announced that Mrs. Michele Polselli, Kindergarten and literacy teacher, has received certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in the area of Early Childhood/Generalist. She added that National Board certification is extremely rigorous and represents a real pinnacle of excellence in the profession. She would like to invite all of these teachers and Mr. Lunney to be recognized at the next meeting.

Dr. Lusi reported that we have received the preliminary performance rankings for our elementary schools and middle school from the state based on the NECAP assessment; and although they are preliminary, she is pleased and proud to announce that all of our schools are once again High Performing. Enormous credit goes to our teachers, administrators, students, parents, and Mrs. Jermain, for maintaining a strong focus on academics despite the many issues our district has faced over the past two years. She commended them all.

- a) Teaching and Learning: See above.
- b) Finance and Operations: See above.
- c) High School Liaison: Marissa Mello reported that the Book Awards and National Honor Society Ceremony were being held this week. She also reported that the new student council members would be elected at the end of the year, and there would be a new high school liaison for next year.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to approve the minutes of the meetings held April 3, 2007, and April 10, 2007. So voted 6-0.

### 4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Approval of Request 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 remainder of the 2006-07 school year for student 19-4/07, as listed in the confidential memo dated April 12, 2007, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2.”

- b) **Coaching Appt. - PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the coaching appointment at Portsmouth High School for the 2007-08 school year.”

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0.

Dr. Lusi announced that Mr. Chris Santos has been appointed as the head football coach at Portsmouth High School.

## 5. BUSINESS AGENDA

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 6-0. 7:35 PM. 7:47 resumed. Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held, and no votes were taken.

- a) **Appt. – Director of Finance and Administration.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to affirm the Superintendent’s appointment, Recommendation #1-4/24/07, to the position of Director of Finance and Administration, effective May 7, 2007. So voted 6-0. Dr. Lusi announced the appointment of Christine Tague.
- b) **Request for Approval – Policy #4351, Web Mail Guidelines, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to approve proposed Policy #4351, Web Mail Guidelines, as a first reading.” So voted 6-0.
- c) **Agenda Item Request – Reconsideration of Closing Prudence Island School.** Requested by Mr. Douglas Wilkey. Ms. Wedge announced that because Mr. Wilkey was the only one opposed to closing Prudence Island School, he could not make a motion to reconsider. Mr. Wilkey explained his concerns and asked for the prevailing side of the School Committee to reconsider. Mr. Heaney made a motion to reconsider for discussion. Seconded by Mr. Buddemeyer for discussion. Mr. Updegrave stated that this motion will only allow discussion on the prior vote. Ms. Wedge asked Mr. Updegrave what the School Department’s liability would be for transporting these kids from Prudence Island. Mr. Updegrave said it’s the same as that for busses and that the ferry is a public utility, certified by the state. The motion failed 3-3. Mr. Buddemeyer, Mr. Heaney, and Mr. Wilkey voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Carpender, Mrs. Cortvriend, and Ms. Wedge were opposed.

## 6. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Finance:** No report.

- b) **Policy:** No report.
- c) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC):** No report. Mrs. Cortvriend will be scheduling a subcommittee meeting shortly.
- d) **Fundraising:** No report.
- e) **Prudence Island School Working Committee:** No Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk