

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

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair (6:40 PM)	Mrs. Terri Cortvriend, Clerk	Mrs. Marge Levesque
Mr. Richard Carpender, V. Chair	Mr. Jamie Heaney	Mr. Douglas Wilkey
	Mr. Michael Buddemeyer	

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney 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; and/or (a)(8) Student Discipline. So voted.

Public Session recessed at 6:15 PM and resumed at 6:50 PM.

A workshop on the Open Meetings law was held. Attorney Updegrove distributed a summary of the Open Meetings law and gave an overview of the information.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge reported that an Executive Session was held, and no votes were taken. A motion was made by Mr. Heaney and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the minutes. So voted.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi stated that there was a serious accident this afternoon, and two Portsmouth High School students were involved. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the students, the parents, and everyone else involved in that accident.

Mr. Carpender, Mr. Updegrove, and Dr. Lusi attended a day-long hearing at the Department of Education on the closing of Prudence Island School. Testimony was taken from Dr. Lusi and Mr. Carpender, as well as a number of residents of Prudence Island. Attorneys for both sides reserved the right to call witnesses back after they have reviewed the exhibits. Once the transcripts are received, the attorneys will most likely give their closing arguments. Dr. Lusi doesn't predict having a decision for 3 to 4 weeks.

Dr. Lusi announced that we've had more honors for students and teachers in Chemistry. Mrs. Mickey Beebe and Mr. Tom Holstein reported that their classes participated in the Chemistry contest at the University of Rhode Island, and they placed second in Division 1. Brady Kelly received top honors as the #1 winner for Division 1. We will recognize Mr. Kelly at a future meeting.

Dr. Lusi reported that she and Assistant Superintendent Jermain attended the dedication of the Water Garden at Portsmouth High School, and she encouraged everyone to see it. The Garden Club worked with other students and faculty to put together a beautiful garden using donations from Agway and other local companies. She thanked the Club Advisors, Ms. Marge Cogar and Ms. Leslie Ainsworth.

Dr. Lusi announced that the PHS Chorus is performing this evening, and she will be attending the PHS Band performance tomorrow night. Assistant Superintendent Jermain will be attending the Foreign Language Dinner and Ms. Tague will be going to the Town Council meeting tomorrow night.

Dr. Lusi mentioned that an Executive Session must be scheduled on Thursday, June 7th, in case any student discipline hearings need to be held before graduation. She suggested that a regular School Committee meeting be held that evening, as well, instead of meeting on June 12th. The majority of the Committee agreed to meet on June 7th. Mr. Buddemeyer will not be available that evening.

Dr. Lusi announced that the following items were being withdrawn from the agenda: Approval of the Minutes; Consent Agenda Item c); Business Agenda Item d); and Subcommittee Agenda Item c).

- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported that she attended the performance of *High School Musical* at Portsmouth Middle School last Thursday. She thanked Mr. Michael Barclay de Tolly and Ms. Shawna Gleason, as well as other Portsmouth Middle School teachers, for working with the students. She also reported that the Elmhurst Chorus held their concert at the Portsmouth High School auditorium.
- b) **Finance and Operations:** Ms. Tague distributed the April financial reports, which will be discussed under the Business Agenda. Dr. Lusi stated that because of the late distribution, they will be voted on at a future meeting.
- c) **High School Liaison,** Marissa Mello: Absent.

3. SPOTLIGHT

- a) **Athletic Administrators - State Award of Merit.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee commends Michael Lunney for receiving the State Award of Merit by the Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.” This item was moved to a future agenda to accommodate Mr. Lunney’s availability.
- b) **Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to commend Kelly Goss for being named the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. So voted.
- c) **World Affairs Essay Contest.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to commend Savannah Geasey for winning the Aquidneck Island Collaborative for Education’s World Affairs Essay Contest. So voted.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held May 15, 2007. This item will be presented at the next meeting.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Michael Podraza, Social Studies Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective with the last day of the 2006-07 school year."
- b) **Appt. – PMS Principal.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-5/22/07, to the position of Principal at Portsmouth Middle School, effective immediately."
- c) **Appt. – General School Aide, Melville.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-5/22/07, to the position of General School Aide at Melville School, effective immediately." This item was withdrawn from the agenda because backup materials were not submitted to the Superintendent.

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve Consent Agenda Items a) and b) as presented. So voted. Dr. Lusi accepted with deep regret the resignation of Michael Podraza. She congratulated Mr. Joseph Amaral for being appointed as Principal of Portsmouth Middle School.

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Presentation on NECAP Results and Next Steps.** Assistant Superintendent Jermain gave a PowerPoint presentation on the NECAP results, which focused on the professional development aspect of the test. She reported that the data does not show significant discrepancies between 2005-2006. In almost every category, Portsmouth students in each grade level surpassed state scores. She stated that some math areas need to be reviewed for curriculum gaps, as well as ELA areas. There are significant differences between IEP/Non-IEP students and economically disadvantaged students and non-disadvantaged students. This gap needs continued work. The overall reading scores had a slight increase at the elementary level district-wide and mixed results in grades 5-8. For the most part, all cohorts in 2005 and 2006 either showed slight gains or remained the same. The point difference was 3-4 points.

Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported that professional development is continuing on the co-taught training and model throughout the summer and school year. They are also continuing to align the curriculum to the GLEs and GSEs through Understanding By Design (UBD)

curriculum mapping and writing training throughout the summer and school year. They continue to implement the Elementary Literacy Curriculum Plan K-5, focusing on the areas of need identified in the NECAP testing results and local assessment data using the UBD format. The LAB classroom initiative that focuses on classroom instruction strategies and looking at student work continues. Professional development on literacy continues across the grades at all schools with coaching and in-class support and practicing differentiated instruction. Grade level and school-wide/district-wide meetings focused on student work using the local assessment data and state data. The implementation process is being monitored, and training on the phonics/word study continues. Patterns and trends are being reviewed with teachers using the past two years of data. In the math area, overall in the elementary grades, the scores remained flat or dipped. At the middle school level, Grade 5 to 6 dipped, 6 to 7 remained flat, and 7 to 8 increased. Grade 7 also has more math contact time and more professional development. They are continuing to align the math to the GLEs and GSEs and continue math curriculum development and training. They plan to implement more math professional development at the Grade 5 and Grade 6 levels. They will increase and continue the math content training for teachers throughout the summer and the school year. Workshops are going on now and at the East Bay Educational Collaborative this summer. They will be using data to drive the changes in instruction and share out student work horizontally and vertically. They will work on developing and creating common assessments in math for Grades K-8. In addition, they will use the LAB training to implement more classroom visits in math classes to improve teaching strategies, and if possible, find a creative way to implement a math coach at the middle school level. Implementation will be monitored carefully at the building level. In the area of writing, the overall writing scores statewide dropped in Grade 8, and elementary scores rose a couple of points for students meeting proficiency or exceeding proficiency standards. Common assessments in writing have been developed and more expository writing will take place in the early grades. Grade level meetings will continue and common writing assessments will be implemented with the pacing chart created this year. Writing pieces will be scored at grade level meetings so that teachers can calibrate their scoring and share out their best practices with one another. A master calendar for all professional development will be created and handed out before the teachers leave for the summer.

Assistant Superintendent Jermain stated the high school definitely needs a full-time reading specialist, but in the future, the number of students entering the high school with PLPs should be decreased. She will review curriculum with the Committee later in June.

- b) **Agenda Item Request – Discussion on Methodology of Compensation for Administrators.** Requested by Mr. Jeff Richard. Attorney Updegrave stated that it is inappropriate to discuss this during negotiations because it could violate the ground rules used in negotiations and could be construed as an unfair labor practice. He strongly encouraged the School Committee to refrain from having dialogue on this topic. He stated that if the School Committee feels it is worthwhile to listen to the presentation, it was their choice. Ms.

Wedge stated they would not engage in comments from the audience or members of the School Committee. Mr. Richard read his agenda item request. He stated that his letter has nothing to do with on-going negotiations and that the implications of conducting negotiations for contracts for all employees of Portsmouth are in the heart of this matter. He stated that one contract is a stepping stone to the next, and it starts with who we select to negotiate, how it is done, and how it is represented. He feels the School Committee should study the parameters of a good contract and hopes they are performing due diligence in studying this. He feels a Financial Impact Statement should be included with every contract that can be publicly viewed before being signed. There are new state regulations, and there are multiple contract items that have financial implications that need to be understood. He isn't saying that we don't need to pay well for great talent, but what he's asking the School Committee to do is to tell the public what it is they are buying and what it will cost them in the long run.

- c) **Request for Approval – Policy #4352, Software Licensing, Approval, and Installation, 2nd Reading and Adoption.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve as a second reading and adopt proposed Policy #4352, Software Licensing, Approval, and Installation. So voted 7-0.
- d) **Defining a Basic Education for Portsmouth.** Presented by Dr. Lusi. This item will be presented at a future meeting.
- e) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to rescind the teacher non-renewals as presented. So voted 6-1. Mr. Heaney was opposed.
- f) **Discussion/Approval – April Financial Statements.** Ms. Tague stated that the financial reports will now include a year-to-date projected column, which takes the amount of money spent through the end of the given month and projects out for the rest of the fiscal year. She reported that after analyzing the accounts, it does look like we are still under budget, but it is very tight. We expect to come in at 99.2 percent of budget. If you backed out the credits (as a result of encumbrances from prior fiscal years that pay for current fiscal year expenditures) we'd actually only have about \$68K left at the end of the fiscal year. She is still looking at transportation costs and analyzing other significant contracts. Mr. Carpenter requested that the financials be brought back at the next meeting for approval.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Finance:** Mr. Carpenter stated that the Committee made our presentation to the Town Council, and they tentatively approved our budget.
- b) **Policy:** No Report.

c) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC)**

- 1) **Approval of Payment to Architect.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee approves the payment of Invoice #7 in the amount of \$3,600.00 to Luis Torrado, L.A. Torrado Architects, for architectural and engineering services for the PHS gymnasium.” This item was withdrawn from the agenda by Mrs. Cortvriend because we’re still having discussions with the architect.
- 2) **Approval of Progress Payment.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the payment of Invoice #05-095-00015 from Advanced Building Concepts in the amount of \$6,000.00.” This item was withdrawn from the agenda by Mrs. Cortvriend.

- d) **Fundraising:** Ms. Wedge reported that she and Mrs. Cortvriend are still reviewing the lettering on the bricks.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk