

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge at 6:10 PM. The following members were present:

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair	Mr. Michael Buddemeyer	Mr. Douglas Wilkey
Mr. Richard Carpender, V. Chair	Mr. Jamie Heaney	Mrs. Marge Levesque (6:20 PM)

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Christine Tague, Patti Cofield, Rick Updegrove

Absent: Mrs. Terri Cortvriend, Clerk

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

Public Session recessed at 6:10 PM and resumed at 7:16 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge reported that an Executive Session was held at 6:15 PM, and two votes were taken. An appeal dealing with a student issue was denied unanimously, with one recusal; and a motion to proceed forward with a litigation matter was approved unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 6-0.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi welcomed the public. She reported that the School Department's budget was passed by the Town Council yesterday evening, as well as the warrant items. She expressed her gratitude to Mr. Canario, Mr. Carpender, the full Town Council, and the School Committee in addressing the concerns of the entire community.

Dr. Lusi reported that she attended the Prudence Island hearing at the Department of Education on Friday, June 15th, along with Attorney Updegrove and several residents of Prudence Island.

Dr. Lusi reported that she attended two Professional Development sessions at Portsmouth Middle School today. One session pertained to Understanding By Design, and the other session pertained to co-teaching.

Dr. Lusi announced that Item b) on the Business Agenda was addressed in Executive Session, and Ms. Wedge announced the vote in her remarks. She also announced that Item c)1) on the Subcommittee Agenda was being pulled from the agenda.

- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Supt. Jermain reported out that the Understanding by Design and co-taught training sessions were underway. Over 50 teachers were participating in the sessions. The high school technology training was going to start in two weeks. This grant enabled each of the teachers to purchase between four and five thousand dollars of equipment each for their schools. The professional development draft schedule for the 2008 school year was emailed out to all teachers so that teachers now know the Open House dates, professional development dates, curriculum nights, and parent conference dates for next year. Asst. Supt. Jermain thanked Mrs. Rose Muller the IT Director and her team for all their hard work and for setting up the School Max training for the schools and the district. This summer the IT department is going to be busy converting to a new student information system, as well as training all staff members. Summer school runs from July 9-Aug. 9. There are over forty enrichment and support classes being offered.
- b) **Finance and Operations:** Director of Finance and Administration Tague reported that one of the projects the Finance Department is embarking on is the conversion to the new Phoenix financial system, and they are working with the company to establish a chart of accounts. She stated that Portsmouth is not scheduled to convert for two years, but they are trying to mirror what the State will need. It was decided not to convert history over because the cost to do so is extremely high. However, they will still have access to history and data. The changeover is a massive undertaking for the three people in the Finance Office.

3. SPOTLIGHT

- a) **Art Teacher of the Year.** Mr. Carpender made a motion to commend Nancy Brandley for being selected as the RIAEA 2007 Middle Level Art Educator of the Year. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 6-0.
- b) **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." Dr. Lusi announced that Mr. Lunney was not able to attend the meeting again, so she publicly commended him for receiving the State Award of Merit by the Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, and a Certificate of Recognition from the School Committee and Administration will be mailed to him.
- c) **Melville School Flagpole Volunteers.** Mr. Carpender made a motion to commend the following individuals for their time, materials, and donations, to replace the flagpole at Melville School: Paul Ripa, Jr. (PRR General Contractor, LLC); Don O'Neill (Newport Flagpole Company); Andy Sheekey (A-1 Paving); Ray Mello (Aquidneck Stone & Material); Steve Cofield, Melville Parent; John Silvia (PRR); Clifford A. Greene. Seconded by Mr. Heaney. So voted 6-0. Dr. Lusi personally thanked Mr. Ripa who was instrumental in removing and replacing the flagpole. She acknowledged Mr. Green,

stating that his wife worked at Melville school for a number of years, and there is a tree and a garden in her memory at Melville that Mr. Greene tends to.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held May 15, 2007, and May 22, 2007. So voted 6-0. The June 7, 2007, minutes will be presented on the next agenda.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Appt. – Network Administrator.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-6/26/07, to the position of Network Administrator, effective July 10, 2007."
- b) **Appt. – Physical Education/Health Teacher, .4 time, Hathaway.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-6/26/07, to the position of Physical Education/Health Teacher, .4 time, at Hathaway School, effective August 28, 2007."
- c) **Appt. – General School Aide, Melville.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-6/26/07, to the position of General School Aide at Melville School, effective August 28, 2007."
- d) **Appt. – PMS House Leaders.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the house leader reappointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2007-08 school year as presented."
- e) **Appt. – PHS Department Heads.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the department head appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2007-08 school year as presented."
- f) **Coaching Appt. - PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the coaching reappointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2007-08 school year."
- g) **Coaching Appt. - PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the coaching reappointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2007-08 school year."

- h) **Clerical Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Patricia Allan, Library Clerk at Melville, Hathaway, and Elmhurst Schools, effective June 30, 2007.”
- i) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Kimberly Lavoie, Librarian and Media Services Specialist at Portsmouth High School, effective with the last day of the 2006-07 school year.”

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

Dr. Lusi stated that the resignation of Ms. Lavoie is an example of the losses we incur when we lay people off each year. As our junior librarian, she has been laid off for the past two years. While we were finally able to recall her, she looked for other jobs and found one that pays more in her home town.

Dr. Lusi announced the following appointments:

- a) Network Administrator – James Peluso
- b) Physical Education/Health Teacher, .4 time, Hathaway – Greg Sullivan
- c) General School Aide, Melville – Kari Silveira
- d) PMS House Leaders
 - Grade 6 – Lisa Mello
 - Grade 7 – Christine Committo
 - Grade 8 – Joao Arruda
 - Literacy Coordinator – Michele Polselli
 - ELA Curriculum Coordinator – Amy Trudeau
- e) PHS Department Heads –

Applied Arts	Diane Creese
English	Camille Frankel
Mathematics	Margaret Prior
Modern World Language	Suzette Almeida-Louro
PE/Health	Michael Medeiros
Science	Jeffrey Schoonover
Social Studies	James Betres
Special Education	J. Peter Dugan

f) PHS Coaching Appointments –

Keith MacDonald	Assistant Coach	Football
Mike Stinton	Head Coach	Boys Soccer
Scott Sullivan	Assistant Coach	Boys Soccer
Bob Campion	Head Coach	Girls Soccer
Scott Polselli	Assistant Coach	Girls Soccer
Jim Nott	Volunteer	Girls Soccer
Rosie Sosnowski	Head Coach	Girls Cross Country
Tim Ryan	Head Coach	Boys Cross Country
Steve Trezvant	Volunteer	Boys Cross Country
Mike Medeiros	Head Coach	Girls Tennis
Deb Valente	Head Coach	Cheerleading

g) PMS Coaching Appointments

Cross-Country Head Coach – Lisa Bagwell
Cross-Country Asst. Coach – Nancy Mendonca
Boys Basketball Coach – Al Sweet
Track Co-Coaches – Keri Jardine/Bethany Lako

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Defining a Basic Education for Portsmouth, Part 2.** Dr. Lusi gave a PowerPoint presentation on Part 2 of her report on Defining a Basic Education for Portsmouth. This information backs up the resolution that the Committee has passed. Dr. Lusi will continue to present information on this subject.
- b) **Agenda Item Request – Placement of Student in Non-Neighborhood School.** Requested by Mrs. Valerie Griffiths. This item was addressed in Executive Session. The appeal was denied by a 5-0-1 vote. Mr. Carpender abstained.
- c) **Presentation on PHS Graduation Statistics.** Mrs. Elizabeth Gomes gave a presentation on the high school graduation statistics. She reported that a 4-year traditional high school setting doesn't work for everyone. However, PHS sticks with students for well beyond four years. (See documents she handed out.)

Dr. Lusi thanked Mrs. Gomes. At the local level, last year when we were talking about “Do we need another Guidance Counselor? Why doesn't Mrs. Gomes have a workload?” This is why we need a Guidance Director. On the State and National level, this whole discussion on NCLB and the idea of all students to high standards is really fraught with tensions and dilemmas. The standards should be constant and time should be the variable. All children should reach the standards but at different times; but then we say all students should get their diploma in 4 years. We want to watch this very carefully. We don't want to be one of these systems that loses more kids as the standards are raised. When the State says that seat time doesn't count, there is no longer getting by with a D or D+. New graduation requirements, Senior Projects, and the kinds of supports kids need in high school and K-12. There is now no margin of error in math or English. We are offering a

Senior Project ramp-up program in the summer to begin to identify topics for research papers.

d) **2007-08 Budget.**

1) **Discussion/Action.** See below.

2) **Budget Approval.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve an FY07-08 budget of \$33,451,958, as appropriated by the Town Council. Mr. Carpender stated that the Town Council met last night to vote on the budget for the Town, and there were no adjustments made directly to our budget. He thanked Town Council President, Dennis Canario. Last night, the Town Council approved both the Tech Warrant and the Building Warrant. Regarding Prudence Island School, he stated that he didn't feel there was enough time to finish the work of the Prudence Island School Working Committee. Therefore, he made a motion that the closing of the Prudence Island School be delayed until the end of the 2007-08 school year. He explained that the delay would give us another year to come up with some ideas that impact the operational budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilkey. So voted 6-0. Mr. Wilkey advised the Prudence Island School Working Committee to work during the coming year to keep the school open because if the building were ever temporarily closed, the State may say at a later date that the building does not comply with the current codes and requirements to keep a building open. Mr. Barse thanked the Committee and said he did not enjoy the arbitration process. He would like to work together again with Mr. Carpender and the School Committee to come up with things that will help to define better what our goals are. Ms. Kate Hibbard also thanked everyone and said she is willing to continue serving on the committee. Mr. Canario appreciates the cooperation the Committee has had. It was a big cooperative effort to make this possible.

Mrs. Levesque asked if the start time for Melville School would be changed. Dr. Lusi said the issue is that Laidlaw would have to run the entire schedule again to see if we can make it work. Between lengthening the school day and changing the start time at Melville, they have already run the schedule a number of times. There will also be an issue of notification to parents. Dr. Lusi will consult with Dr. Olson and Laidlaw to find out the ramifications.

Ms. Kathy Melvin asked the Committee to give a book report in September to ensure that PMS and PHS books will be updated. Dr. Lusi reported that there is \$100,000 in the warrant for textbooks, which she listed, and she agreed to bring a book report back in those areas. She said there is \$35,000 earmarked for libraries districtwide, and Ms. Wedge added that the PTOs contribute a lot to the libraries.

- e) **Discussion/Action – Prudence Island School.** See above.
- f) **Bid Award – Fire Protection Systems Upgrades.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to award the contract for Fire Protection Systems Upgrades at Portsmouth Middle School to Hughes Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$60,945.00, as described in the attached memo dated June 20, 2007. So voted 6-0. Mr. Heaney inquired about the timeframe of the work. Mr. Souza said the design work starts tomorrow, and the physical work starts this summer. Dr. Lusi stated that all work will be done prior to the beginning of school. She will give the Committee a copy of the letter she sent to the Board of Review regarding the progress and timeline.
- g) **Discussion/Approval – April Financials.** Mr. Carpender made a motion to approve the April financials. Seconded by Mr. Buddemeyer. So voted 6-0.
- h) **Discussion/Approval – May/June Financials.** Mr. Carpender made a motion to approve the May financials. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 6-0. Ms. Tague had hoped to have a preliminary look at the June financials tonight, however, the preliminary will be presented on July 12th, and the final at the following meeting. Ms. Tague said it's going to be tight at year-end, but we will make it. She answered questions on line-items from the Committee members and public.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Finance.** No report.
- b) **Policy:** Mrs. Levesque scheduled a Policy Subcommittee meeting on Monday, July 2nd, at 1:30 PM, at the Administration Building.
- 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 pulled from the agenda.
 - 2) **Approval of Progress Payment.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to approve the payment of Invoice #05-095-00015 from Advanced Building Concepts in the amount of \$6,000.00. So voted 6-0.
- d) **Fundraising:** Ms. Wedge reported that she is reviewing the final paperwork on the brick orders.

A motion was made by Mr. Heaney and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to adjourn the meeting. So voted. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk