

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

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair                      Mrs. Terri Cortvriend, Clerk                      Mrs. Marge Levesque  
Mr. Richard Carpender, V. Chair                      Mr. Michael Buddemeyer

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain; Ms. Christine Tague, Mrs. Patti Cofield, and Miss Julie MacDougall

Absent: Mr. Douglas Wilkey, Mr. Jamie Heaney

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 5-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:11 PM and resumed at 7:24 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge announced that the Portsmouth High School Gymnasium Appreciation Ceremony will take place on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM, followed by the Senior Class Silent Auction at 6:00 PM, and the production of Cinderella at 7:00 PM. In addition, Ms. Wedge announced that the Varsity and Junior Varsity cheerleaders were named State Champions. An Executive Session was held at 6:11 PM to discuss a personnel matter, and no votes were taken. A motion was duly made and seconded to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi congratulated the Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheerleaders for winning the State Championship. She announced that the Aquidneck Island Group that she, Mrs. Wedge, Mr. Driscoll, and Mr. Faucher are members of, had contracted with the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) to do a study on the fiscal implications of the Senate 3050 cap, and now the group is talking about working again with RIPEC or another group to commission a study that would look at regionalizing or sharing services island-wide. She stated that they really don't know if we would save money by regionalizing since a large portion of our expenses is driven by our union contracts. In order to get a better factual base to have discussions going forward, three important meetings will be taking place simultaneously. The Advisory Group for the Newport Area Career and Technical Center at Rogers High School is inviting the state representative from the Rhode Island Department of Education to talk about the future of career and technical education in the state. It has been a major concern around the state that some centers are fully funded and free of charge for the sending district, while others are paid for by the sending districts. Newport is seeing a decline in enrollment and recognizes that the cost is becoming potentially prohibitive. Dr. Lusi is planning to attend that meeting, while Mrs. Jermain and Ms. Tague attend a joint meeting of RISSA and RIASBO regarding the state's Uniform

Chart of Accounts, which we will have to participate in within two to three years. The purpose of this is to have an “apples-to-apples” comparison on what is spent from community to community.

Dr. Lusi announced that the Performance Audit is starting to wrap up. The next Liaison Committee is meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and the final report should be completed approximately three weeks after that.

Dr. Lusi reported that her Administrative Team has been meeting twice per month for professional development, and they have focused collectively on what the data is telling us regarding the NECAP assessments, local assessments, and the literacy initiative. She stated that what we see in our local assessments very closely matches our district’s NECAP results.

Dr. Lusi announced that the approval of the February 12<sup>th</sup> minutes and the Prudence Island Field Trip request are being withdrawn from the agenda.

- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain announced that on March 25<sup>th</sup>, Mary Ann Snider from the Rhode Island Department of Education will conduct a presentation for parents on the NECAP Assessments, followed by a question and answer period. The presentation will be held in the Little Theatre at Portsmouth Middle School. Mrs. Jermain thanked Rose Muller, Gail Darmody, and our Integrated Technology team for moving forward with the summer E2T2 grant. Thirty-five teachers have agreed to participate in this 2-week project. She hopes we get all of the funding we requested in the grant. Mrs. Jermain will be meeting with the Portsmouth Middle School cabinet to talk about a summer reading packet. Dr. Lusi has surveyed parents, and the results showed that the community would like to have this. Mrs. Jermain stated that initial discussions started this morning with the elementary principals, and we will be working with teachers to generate packets for the elementary students for the summer. The packets will align with the curriculum and build upon skills we want to see in our classrooms throughout the year. Mrs. Jermain reported that she met with the health and wellness student group and the food service providers last week at Portsmouth Middle School. The students surveyed other students and found that they want healthier snacks. She would like the group to present to the School Committee at a future meeting. Mrs. Jermain stated that “response to intervention” is going on throughout all schools statewide, and she would like to share it with the Committee at a future meeting. This initiative should result in fewer Special Education referrals as teachers reach more children.
- b) **Finance and Operations:** Ms. Tague reported that she has been focusing much of her time on the budget process.

- c) **High School Liaison:** Miss Julie MacDougall announced that the Senior Class Silent Auction will be held on Friday night at 6:00 PM in the new gymnasium, and they are auctioning off a '57 red Chevy, among other items. The production of Cinderella will be held at 7:00 PM that night in the Auditorium. She also reported that the International Volleyball tournament is being held on Wednesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 4:00 PM in the new gymnasium.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2008, meeting was made by Mr. Carpender. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 5-0. The minutes of the February 12, 2008, meeting will be presented at a future meeting.

### 4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Request for Unpaid Leave of Absence.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request for Family and Medical Leave in accordance with the backup information."
- b) **General School Aide Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Chun Morrissey, General School Aide at Melville School, effective immediately."
- c) **Salary Adjustment – Network Administrator.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee approves the salary adjustment for the Network Administrator, as presented."

Mr. Carpender made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 5-0.

### 5. BUSINESS AGENDA

- a) **Agenda Item Request – Waive Custodial Fee for Building Use.** Miss Allison Trujillo, a Senior at Portsmouth High School, reported that she is organizing a charity dance performance benefiting Make-a-Wish foundation on April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Portsmouth High School Auditorium. She needs to be at the school from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM that day. She was told that she needs to have a custodian present in the building; however, the custodian's work schedule ends at 4:00 PM. Therefore, she requested that the School Committee waive the custodial fee or that the School Committee covers the expense. She stated that all proceeds from her Senior Project will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and she has volunteers who will be staying for an hour after the event to help clean up. Ms. Tague stated that the custodial fee is approximately \$25 to \$32 per hour, and it is

double time on Sunday. Dr. Lusi stated that we can't change the custodial time for contractual reasons. She stated that told Mr. Littlefield at the beginning of the year that we would not be charging building use fees for Senior Projects; however, she did say we would have to charge custodial fees. The dilemma going forward is that we will have over 200 students each year doing Senior Projects, and Dr. Lusi would like to support everyone. One option is that the School Committee could support this particular request and then establish a policy for future requests. Mr. Carpender stated this is new this year, and we have asked the seniors to take on a project to be part of their graduation requirements. Therefore, he made a motion that the School Committee authorizes the expenditure of operational funds to cover the cost of the custodian at this particular Senior Project event. Seconded by Terri Cortvriend. So voted 5-0. He stated that he would like this issue to be addressed by the Policy Subcommittee within the next year.

- b) **Request for Approval – Prudence Island School Field Trip.** This item was removed from the agenda.
- c) **Approval of Proposed Policy #4111.3 Family Medical Leave Act, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Adoption.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Carpender to approve as a second reading and adopt the proposed revisions to Policy #4111.3, Family Medical Leave Act.” So voted 5-0.
- d) **Approval of Revisions to Policy #2010, Professional Relationship Between School Committee and Administration, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Carpender to approve the proposed revisions to Policy #2010, Professional Relationship Between School Committee and Administration, as a first reading.” Dr. Lusi explained that the date for notifying Administrators of an Administrative Reorganization is being changed to March 1<sup>st</sup>. So voted 5-0.

## 6. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Finance.** Mr. Carpender reported that the Finance Subcommittee meeting would reconvene after the Public Session. The next meeting will be held March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Town Hall for the High School and Maintenance budget presentations. The subcommittee will meet on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the PHS Library to discuss the overall budget.
- b) **Policy.** No report.
- c) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC).** Mrs. Cortvriend stated that she will be scheduling a meeting of the GCOC in the near future to finalize the brick layout.

- d) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer reported that the first facility tour is scheduled at Portsmouth Middle School on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM, and the public is encouraged to attend. A report will be brought to the School Committee at a future meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk