

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

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair                      Mr. Michael Buddemeyer                      Mrs. Marge Levesque  
Mr. Richard Carpender, V. Chair      Mrs. Terri Cortvriend, Clerk (7:44 PM)      Mr. Jamie Heaney

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

Absent: Dr. Lusi

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session will be held after the Public Session. She also announced that Items A and B under the Spotlight section are being withdrawn because the students were not available to attend the meeting.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** No report.
  - a) **Teaching and Learning:** Asst. Supt. Jermain reported that the Modern Language Department has had a lot of accomplishments this year. The French classes have been teleconferencing with classes in France, and it's becoming a daily event. She announced that the Senior Project presentations begin tomorrow. She also reported that the Central Office is continuing to work on enrollments for next year.
  - b) **Finance and Operations:** Ms. Tague reported that she is analyzing the budget for the rest of this fiscal year, and we are awaiting information regarding State funding.
  - c) **High School Liaison:** Miss MacDougall reported that elections were held for Student Council last week, and the Executive Board will be elected next week. She will introduce the new High School Liaison at the next School Committee meeting. She reported that Senior Project presentations are underway, and there are only three more days of school for seniors.
3. **SPOTLIGHT**
  - a) **United States Scholastic Art Competition.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee commends PHS Senior, Meredith Fitzgerald, for being awarded a national silver medal in the United States Scholastic Art Competition." This item was withdrawn from the agenda.
  - b) **"Who Wants to be a Mathematician" Competition.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee commends PHS Sophomore, Joseph Futoma, for winning the 'Who Wants to be a Mathematician' competition at Providence College." This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

- c) **PMS Student Tutors.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to commend Portsmouth High School Seniors Kevin Beck, Sam Insana, and Katie Raulli, for tutoring 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students after school during the 2007-08 school year. So voted 5-0. The tutoring program was arranged by Portsmouth Middle School teacher, Debra Seddon.

#### 4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Request for 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) **Teacher Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Patricia Obara from the position of Special Education Teacher at Melville School, effective the last day of the 2007-08 school year."
- c) **Teacher Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Charles G. Weymouth from the position of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Hathaway School, effective the last day of the 2007-08 school year."
- d) **Dept. Head Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation of Margaret Prior from the position of Math Department Head at Portsmouth High School, effective the last day of the 2007-08 school year."
- e) **ELA Curriculum Coordinator Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation of Amy Gerrior from the position of ELA Curriculum Coordinator at Portsmouth Middle School, effective the last day of 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 5-0.

#### 5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Discussion/Action 2008-2009 School Budget – Prudence Island School.** Mr. Carpender stated that at the May 20<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting, there was a discussion that centered on the Prudence Island school. There is a strong opinion of several members of the council that they would like to see the school remain open. Of the \$88,000 that the School Committee budgeted for the building warrant, the only money the Town Council would be looking at the School Department to reimburse was originally stated to be

\$9,000, but now it has been changed to \$14,000 in interest payments. Mr. Carpender's proposal is that the Committee reallocates those funds so that the \$14,000 goes towards the building warrant and \$69,000 of the remaining funds would be reallocated to Prudence Island School to keep it open. Mr. Carpender did not ask for a motion. He just wanted a sense from the Committee on how they would like to proceed. He stated that he has been communicating with Dr. Lusi via email and telephone, and he read her memo into the record as follows, *"I'm sorry that I am unable to attend this evening's School Committee meeting, but wanted to put my thoughts regarding the discussion of the Prudence Island School on paper given my absence. Mr. Carpender has done a fair and accurate job of summarizing the administration's view in the back-up he provided. We do not believe that paying only an interest payment in the coming year and extending the warrant an extra year, or doubling up a payment in future years, is the most prudent way to repay the warrant. However, Mr. Carpender is also correct that it now appears that our only obligation for the 2008-2009 fiscal year is to repay the \$9,000 to the Town. Consequently, for the reasons stated in the back-up, I support Mr. Carpender's proposal to reduce the budgeted amount for the Building Warrant to \$9,000 for FY 2008-2009 and consider delaying the closing of the Prudence Island School for one additional year, **assuming** that our State Education Aid remains at least level. I fully concur with Mr. Carpender that we will need to reevaluate all of our budget options if education aid is reduced."* Mr. Heaney inquired about paying only the interest, and Mr. Carpender stated that it depends on how the Town does their budget. He thinks they will push it out for a sixth year; but for this year, we would pay only be the interest. He stated that they will borrow the money late enough in the year so that they won't have any principle payments due. Although Mr. Heaney likes the innovation, he's not comfortable with the arrangement. Mr. Carpender stated that the Town incurs the debt, and they determine the payback dollars in their budget. It will only affect us if the state aid doesn't come in.

(Mrs. Cortvriend arrived – 7:44 PM)

- b) **Discussion/Approval – April Financials.** Ms. Tague reported that we will receive approximately \$45,000 in Impact Aid for the remainder of the fiscal year, which is what we had anticipated. She stated that she is still analyzing the benefit levels. There is some pressure in the healthcare line because of newly hired Special Education aides; however, the transportation budget will most likely offset that variance. She stated that our transportation contract expires in 2010, and it includes a 3.5 percent cap. A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the April Financials. So voted 6-0.
- c) **Approval of Policy #4353 – Portsmouth School Department Websites, 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 Policy #4353, Portsmouth School Department Websites. So voted 6-0.

- d) **Approval of Policy #4354 – Computer and Network Resources Employee Acceptable Use Guidelines, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Carpenter to approve as a second reading and adopt Policy #4354, Computer and Network Resources Employee Acceptable Use Guidelines. So voted 6-0.
- e) **Approval of Policy #5151 – Computer and Network Resources Student Acceptable Use Guidelines, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Mr. Carpenter to approve as a second reading and adopt Policy #4151, Computer and Network Resources Student Acceptable Use Guidelines. So voted 6-0.

## 7. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Finance.** Mr. Carpenter stated that the Public Hearing on the Budget is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, at the PMS Little Theatre.
- b) **Policy.** Mrs. Levesque stated that the Policy Subcommittee will meet during the second week of June to review the student handbooks.
- c) **GCOC.** Mrs. Cortvriend stated that the GCOC is ready to sign the contract with Alhambra Builders.
- d) **Facilities.**
  - 1) A motion was made by Mr. Buddemeyer that the School Committee assigns the development of a Request for Proposal for Architectural and Engineering Services for the purpose of evaluating and assessing the condition of Portsmouth school buildings to the Facilities Committee. Seconded by Mr. Heaney. So voted.

A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter 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. So voted 6-0.

Public Session recessed at 8:04 PM and resumed at 8:12 PM.

Ms. Wedge announced that an Executive Session was held on a legal matter, and no votes were taken. A motion was made by Mr. Heaney and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to seal the minutes of the meeting. So voted.

A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to adjourn the meeting. So voted. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk