

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge at 6:35 PM, and the following members were present:

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

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Ms. Christine Tague, Mrs. Patti Cofield

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge announced that graduation was held on June 13<sup>th</sup>, and it was a wonderful ceremony. She stated the event is being shown on Cox Cable Channel 18. Ms. Wedge also announced that an Executive Session was held at 6:40 PM on personnel matters, and no votes were taken.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi welcomed everyone and thanked Mrs. Marjorie Wilkey, Mr. Richard Price, the Prudence Island representatives, and the Facilities Committee members for attending. She reported that graduation went extremely well, and there were great speakers. She also reported that she was invited to attend two other graduation ceremonies (the Aquidneck Island Adult Education Collaborative and the Naval War College). In addition, she attended the final presentation of Portsmouth High School teachers, who participated in training for the RIEPS portfolio system.

Dr. Lusi reported that the school year wrapped up well. The Principals, secretaries, and Central Registration are working together to wrap up registration and enrollment.

- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported that the RIEPS system will enable our high school teachers to show evidence of student learning to meet new graduation requirements, but it will also prepare our middle school students with individual learning plans to reflect upon the work they are doing in school. She reported that the middle school teachers are starting professional development in the system. She also reported that our summer packet is now available online. This year, instead of a workbook, we are participating in a software web-based program call "Study Island." It allows students to work on individual GLEs. If a family doesn't have a computer, we are providing drop-in times at our elementary schools and PMS for parents/students to come in to use our computers. When school starts in September, results will be made available to teachers so they may see where a student may be struggling. We can also print out hard copies of individual results for students. Mrs. Jermain stated that we are going to use it throughout the year, as well.

Mrs. Jermain reported that the Rhode Island Department of Education is participating in an exchange initiative with China, and five people from Rhode Island have been selected to visit China and have their delegates visit our district. Mrs. Jermain stated that she applied for the program and got accepted. The Chinese delegates will visit our schools

and shadow Mrs. Jermain during late October or early November. They will also visit the Newport Area Career and Tech Center and possibly Prudence Island School. Students today are going to become part of a global economy, and the Chinese government wants to learn more about how we educate our children. This exchange is fully endorsed by the Governor, and he will find a way to support it in the budget.

- b) **Finance and Operations:** Ms. Tague reported that her department is busy with year end. She stated that we have overcome some revenue hurdles. She is meeting with elementary principals to look at a cost/benefits analysis for implementing a point of sale system for the school lunch program, which we currently have at the middle and high schools. One of the features of the program allows parents to go online to see what their children are ordering and to add money to their lunch accounts. Implementing this system at the elementary schools will allow us to reduce some hourly help from Chartwells, which has a direct impact on our bottom line.
- c) **High School Liaison:** No report.

### 3. SPOTLIGHT

- a) **EBEC Teacher of the Year.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mr. Heaney to commend Mr. Richard Price, Portsmouth Middle School Music Teacher, for being selected as an East Bay Teacher of the Year by East Bay Newspapers. So voted 6-0. Mrs. Marjorie Wilkey presented Mr. Price with two trumpets that belonged to her late husband and former School Committee member, Douglas Wilkey. Mr. Price thanked Mrs. Wilkey and asked her permission to rename the annual Portsmouth Middle School band award to the "Douglas Wilkey Jazz Award" in Mr. Wilkey's honor.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2008, meeting. So voted 6-0. The May 27, 2008, minutes were removed from the agenda and will be presented on the next agenda.

### 5. BUSINESS AGENDA

- a) **Facilities Committee Presentation.** Mr. Buddemeyer distributed his Powerpoint presentation remarks regarding the status of our school buildings. He introduced the members of the Facilities Committee: Don Davidson, Al Grande, Steve Forand, and John McDaid. Mr. Buddemeyer stated that they need to send out an RFQ for Architectural and Engineering Services for the purpose of evaluating and assessing the condition of Portsmouth school buildings. Mr. Davidson stated that the evaluation could cost anywhere from \$10,000 to \$50,000, depending on whether or not the company needs to generate drawings. He stated that they do have drawings for PMS and PHS, but not for

the elementary schools. Ms. Tague stated that RIDE changed the rules as far as housing aid is concerned, and we are now required to have a 5-year plan signed by a certified architect/engineering firm, and we can no longer put in for renovations sporadically. Ms. Tague also stated that the rules changed regarding Asset Protection Plans, and we need to have enough money in our budget to maintain our buildings. Mr. Grande stated that he is concerned with Elmhurst and doesn't think we should pump any more money back into the school because there are so many things wrong with it. He feels that we are throwing good money after bad money. He asked if the School Committee could find a way to consolidate the Elmhurst School students in some other place while a new school is being built. Steve Forand thinks the 5-year plan is a good start, but he stated that 5 years is not a long-range plan, but rather a mid-range plan. He feels it would behoove us to look longer than 5 years. He is amazed that we don't have a capital plan for our buildings in this town. Mr. Carpender asked if the Facilities Committee is going to continue to meet because it doesn't make sense for the School Committee to make the decisions because they don't have the expertise. Mr. Carpender asked if it makes sense to say that we can't afford to fix Elmhurst School, but we would figure out how much it would cost to sell the school and to build a new one. Mr. Buddemeyer stated it would be a bad decision on the Town's part not to make that decision. It is the Town's decision to do that. He stated that the Facilities Committee is going to continue to meet in order to prioritize issues that need to be taken care of. There are immediate needs to address, and then there is a continuation of the maintenance process. He stated that we need to make the plan it a rolling 5-year plan and move it on to a 15-year plan. Ms. Wedge asked if it's possible to build one large elementary school. Mr. Grande stated that Elmhurst and Hathaway Schools could be closed and sold to bring in money. He stated that the Town needs to consider building a new, energy efficient school in back of PMS, which will cut down on air conditioning and air quality. He feels we are wasting money patching those schools. He stated that other towns are consolidating into one school; and if we could get some temporary buildings somewhere, the cost of that would be no where near what it would cost to fix Elmhurst and Hathaway. Dr. Lusi thanked the Facilities Committee, and stated that she would like to see the study findings to see the additional data. Mr. Carpender stated that his position is to put the RFQ out in order to find out what it would cost. There's no cost to do that, so a motion is not needed. Mr. Buddemeyer stated if we don't have the proper plans to get the study done, it may cost us some money. Mr. Davidson stated that he will get the RFQ out this week.

- b) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney to rescind the teacher non-renewals as presented. So voted 6-0.
- c) **Discussion/Action – Final 2008-09 Budget Considerations.** Mr. Carpender announced that the below motions were approved by the Finance Subcommittee, with Ms. Wedge in attendance as the alternate, on Thursday, June 19, 2008.

1. A motion was made by Mr. Carpender to amend the 2008-09 School Department budget to include the additional State Aid of \$131,987 and be approved at \$34,743,070. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. Mr. Carpender stated that this motion was approved unanimously by the Subcommittee. So voted 6-0.
  2. A motion was made by Mr. Carpender to delay the closing of the Prudence Island School until the end of the 2008-09 school year. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. Mr. Carpender stated that this motion was approved unanimously by the Subcommittee. Mrs. Rossi asked the Committee to reconsider delaying the closing of the school and to just keep it open indefinitely. She feels that knowing the school may close at the end of the 2008-09 school year has a negative impact on the students, as well as on housing sales for the island. She stated that the six high school students are now going off to college, and there will only be two students commuting to the mainland next year; so the School Department will save \$6,000 in transportation costs. The motion to delay the closing of Prudence Island School passed 6-0.
  3. A motion was made by Mr. Carpender to authorize the use of the additional State Aid to close the existing budget gap of \$45,000; leaving a holding account of \$86,987. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. Mr. Carpender stated that this was approved unanimously by the subcommittee. So voted 6-0.
  4. A motion was made by Mr. Carpender that with the Town Council providing funding for the Building Warrant payment in the amount of \$14,000, the Committee will restore Middle School Athletics. Seconded by Mr. Heaney. Mr. Carpender stated that this motion was approved unanimously by the subcommittee. So voted 6-0.
  5. A motion was made by Mr. Carpender that with the Town Council providing funding for the Building Warrant payment, the Committee will share the next \$28,000, in excess of the initial \$45,000 received of the holding account, at a 50% / 50% ratio, not-to-exceed \$14,000 to cover the cost of the Building Warrant payment as budgeted for the 2008-09 budget year. Mr. Carpender stated that this motion was approved unanimously by the subcommittee. So voted 6-0.
- d) **Bid Award – Fire Alarm System, PHS.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender to award the contract for a fire alarm system at Portsmouth High School to James J. O'Rourke, Inc., in the amount of \$238,925. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. Ms. Tague stated that the fire suppression system would be re-bid. Dr. Lusi stated that our Fire Department is aware and has supported us in extending the timeline with the Fire Code Board of Review. So voted 6-0.
- e) **Bid Award – Track Resurfacing, PHS.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender to award the contract for the resurfacing of the Portsmouth High School track to Dalton Contracting in the amount of \$50,000. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 6-0.

- f) **Bid Award – Windows, PHS.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter to award the contract for windows at Portsmouth High School to Martone Service Company in the amount of \$289,277. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 6-0.
- g) **Clarification of School Meal Price Increase.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter to approve a .25 cent increase in the school lunch price for the 2008-09 school year, bringing the elementary meal price to \$2.25, and the secondary meal price to \$2.50. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 6-0.
- h) **Discussion/Action – FY'08 Revenue Report/Adjustments.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter to approve the use of additional Medicaid revenue in no more than the amount needed to realize full projected revenues for the 2008 fiscal year. Seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. So voted 6-0.

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Finance.** Mr. Carpenter stated that he had no further report.
- b) **Policy.** Mrs. Levesque stated that the Policy Subcommittee is working on the student handbooks.
- c) **GCOC.** Ms. Cortvriend announced that a pre-construction meeting would be held tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 PM with Alhambra Construction and Luis Torrado.
- d) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer announced that the Facilities Committee would meet next Wednesday.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk