

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Town Council President, Mr. McIntyre.

The following School Committee members were present: Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair; Mr. Michael Buddemeyer; Ms. Marilyn King; Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Vice Chair; and Ms. Angela Volpicelli (Absent: Mrs. Marge Levesque)

The following Town Council members were present: Mr. Peter McIntyre, Mr. Dennis Canario, Ms. Karen Gleason, Mr. Jeffrey Plumb, Mr. Keith Hamilton, Mr. James Seveney, and Mr. Huck Little.

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Ms. Christine Tague, Ms. Patti Cofield; Mr. David Faucher, Mr. Robert Driscoll

1. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Discussion/Action – Cooperative Action on the FY’09 Budget.** Much discussion took place regarding the Town’s request to revise the School Department’s FY’09 budget. A motion was made by Ms. Gleason to reduce the FY’09 appropriation by \$217,454, from \$26,801,271 to \$26,583,817, reducing the School Department’s budget by the same amount to \$34,525,660. The motion further directs the Finance Director to change the budget to reflect this change. Seconded by Mr. Little. The motion failed 3-4. Mr. McIntyre, Mr. Little, and Ms. Gleason voted in favor. Mr. Canario, Mr. Seveney, Mr. Plumb, and Mr. Hamilton were opposed.

The joint meeting recessed at 7:05 PM, and the Committee reconvened in the Planning Board Room at 7:12 PM. The discussion continued regarding the cooperative action on the FY’09 Budget. Ms. Wedge made a motion to approve the following resolution to assist the Town:

**Whereas** the Portsmouth School Committee recognizes that severe revenue shortfalls have befallen the Town of Portsmouth during FY 2009 and that these shortfalls were made all the worse by large reductions in state General Revenue Sharing that were announced after mid-year; and,

**Whereas**, as a part of the Portsmouth community, the Portsmouth School Committee would like to assist in addressing this shortfall; and,

**Whereas**, the Portsmouth Town Council has not and will not reduce the Portsmouth School Department’s FY 2009 budget;

**Now therefore be it resolved**, that the Portsmouth School Committee will do the following:

- The School Committee will appropriate \$60,000 of its fund balance to the Town with the understanding that the School Department will be credited for up to this total amount for the School Department's Wind Turbine Enterprise Fund obligation.
- In addition, the School Committee will give the Town the full potential appropriation of \$14,000 for the costs of the FY 2009 Building Warrant, even though given the parameters of the agreement with the Town and the amount of additional State Aid actually received, the School Department only owes the Town \$5,003.50.
- Finally, the School Committee will review its budget again in June 2009 seeking to identify up to another \$40,000 in appropriations for the Town if the Town still has need at that point in the fiscal year, and if the School Department is able to meet all of its other financial obligations.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Buddemeyer. So voted 5-0.

A motion was made by Ms. King seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to adjourn the meeting. So voted. The Public Session adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Marge Levesque, Clerk