

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Carpender, and the following members were present:

Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair	Mrs. Marge Levesque, Clerk (5:20 PM)	Mrs. Marilyn King
Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Vice Chair	Mrs. Angela Volpicelli (5:10 PM)	Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti
	Mr. Michael Buddemeyer	

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Mark Dunham, Patti Cofield, and Rick Updegrove

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI Law 42-46-5, Exception (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters. So voted 5-0.

Public Session recessed at 5:10 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Carpender reported on the following:

- Executive Session was held pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exception (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters. One motion was made on a personnel matter during that meeting by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 5-0. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. A motion to seal the minutes was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0.
- Attended the Newport County Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting last week with Commissioner Gist. Topic of discussion was "Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships."
- Gave an update on the Aquidneck Island Regionalization issue. A draft RFP is being worked on. Mr. Carpender and Mr. Crowley of the Middletown School Committee will be on WADK tomorrow discussing regionalization. The Middletown Town Council voted not to approve the \$5,000 for the study. Our motion was contingent upon every Town Council and School Committee supporting it.

2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi reported on the following:

- Melville, Hathaway, and PHS H1N1 clinics have been held; Elmhurst is this week; PMS is next week.
- Excellent set of walkthroughs last week with the Administrative Leadership Team; focused on looking for evidence of differentiated instruction in our classrooms. This links to our Strategic Plan by meeting needs of individual learners including our high-end learners.
- Visited Hathaway last week to look at their intervention period in Grade 2 math, keeping with the goal of our Strategic Plan to differentiate instruction and use flexible groupings to meet the needs of all learners.

- Had a conference call with Mrs. Jermain and two staff members of DMC last week. Discussed how they might support us in our Strategic Planning implementation efforts and our Teacher Excellence Task Force.
- Attended beginning of Aquidneck Island meeting yesterday. Mr. Carpender had forwarded questions around needing greater specificity and needing to be clear as to assumptions of how any “surplus” funds would be used.
- School Department will be shutting down on December 24th and reopening on Monday, January 4th.

a) Teaching and Learning: Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported on the following:

- Science work at PMS with Christine Homen leading the teachers and Chris DeCosta from EBEC is going very well. Holding monthly/biweekly meetings. Team is getting ready for NECAP and the Science district alignment for next year.
- Tech literacy initiative is showing great results. PMS Grade 8 student technology proficiency increased from last year’s cohort score of 71% to 88% for the first group to take the exam. Students rotate through their computer instruction in trimesters and take the state exam when appropriate. Remaining Grade 8 students and those that did not reach proficiency in the December testing will take the exam in the May.
- Assistant Superintendent Jermain will be appointed by the RI legislature to sit on the RI After School Plus Alliance committee. The committee will research and explore best after school enrichment programs for students and make recommendations for state initiatives.
- The copier replacement plan will take place over the Christmas holiday. Stimulus funding will be used to replace antiquated copiers, update copier capability with scanning, email, and other more efficient features to help make our work operations and our teaching and learning capabilities better so teachers can share more resources with students, each other, and families.
- The Health and Wellness committee met last evening. Mrs. Volpicelli will report out under the Subcommittee agenda.
- PHS Math department chair Pat McCarthy and teacher Meg Sullivan have been awarded a \$36,000 Van Buren Grant to help enhance the math curriculum and classroom work with the purchase of computer lab carts. Students will be able to access more technology and software during the math classes, which will help enhance and support student learning. Data will be collected to measure student growth and curriculum gaps.
- Ms. Jermain and teacher leaders will be attending a special meeting at EBEC, sponsored by RIDE, to learn more about the national common core standards initiative that RI will be implementing in the very near future. The group will bring that information back to the district and plan on how our local curriculum work will embed these new standards.

- DANA work continues in the district. All members of the group must complete twenty four-minute visits before our next meeting in January. The group is focusing on Math.
- As a member of the steering committee for Race To the Top (R2TT), Mrs. Jermain reported that the Commissioner will be meeting with superintendents next week to see if they are interested in signing and joining RIDE in the application process. Millions of dollars will be awarded when and if RIDE is successful. Districts will need to review the RIDE application and then determine if they wish to be a participating or involved district by agreeing to do what is in the application. Superintendents, school committee chairs, and union leaders will be asked to sign an MOU by January 8, 2010, if they wish to be considered for supplemental funds for the next four years. It is an ambitious timeline, so districts are being asked to start conversations regarding this asap.

b) Finance and Operations: Mr. Dunham gave his report under the Business Agenda.

c) High School Liaison: Absent.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 24, 2009. So voted 7-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Appt. – Computer Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-12/8/09, to the position of Computer Teacher, full-time, at Portsmouth High School, for the 2009-10 school year. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced the 1-year appointment of Craig Giarusso to the position of Computer Teacher at PHS, at Step 3.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Kathy Melvin would like the School Committee to have a public discussion on the drug policy at PHS in the near future.

6. BUSINESS AGENDA

- a) **School Liaison Officer Presentation.** Mrs. Janet K. McCarthy, School Liaison Officer at NAVSTA Newport, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the new school liaison program. The program will focus on preparing students, parents, schools, and Navy leaders

to respond to moves and deployment issues impacting school-age children; providing assurance that a quality education is a Navy priority by working to “level the playing field” for Navy families; helping Navy families be the best advocates for their child’s education; and connecting the Navy Youth Sponsorship Program to school districts serving Navy families.

- b) **Literacy Presentation.** Assistant Superintendent Jermain and the District Literacy Team gave a presentation on student literacy performance, personal literacy plans, and literacy initiatives districtwide. The District Literacy Team members are Colleen Jermain, Denise Dvorak, Kimberly Hancock, Brita Beitler, Kurt Totten, Lisa Phaneuf, and Laurel Oliveira.
- c) **U.S. News & World Report – America’s Best High Schools Methodology.** Dr. Lusi stated that this agenda item came about as a result of the discussion as to whether or not we should be using the results of *U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best High Schools Project* as one of the indicators of success that we should track as a district. She learned that we cannot obtain data on Portsmouth High School’s performance on the three aspects of the *U.S. News* analysis unless we are a ranked school, and only about 10% of U.S. high schools end up making the rankings each year. This means that we will not be able to judge whether or not we are making progress toward the goal of achieving this recognition on an annual basis. Consequently, the *Best High Schools* project does not provide data that we can track as an indicator of success over time.
- d) **Report on October Financials.** Mr. Mark Dunham reviewed the Revenue and Expenditure report through October 31, 2009. Only two months of school expenditures are included in the report. This is the first report presented to the School Committee using the new UCOA. As a result, several items do not have budget appropriations, and others have budget appropriations without expenditures. These items will be corrected in future reports. The UCOA has impacted the “behind the scenes” machinations of the School Department’s software as well, as there is a learning curve in the implementation of the new chart. Debits and credits and “due to” and “due from” transactions have not been recording properly since the new accounts have been introduced. Once the budget was loaded into the system and reports started to be run, the errors were noted and are in the process of being identified and corrected. As the corrections are made, some expenditure data will be restated. The Committee needs to keep this in mind when comparing expenditure data in subsequent reports.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer reported that he, Dr. Lusi, Mr. Davidson, and Mr. Dunham met with Steve Hughes from RGB last week. Mr. Hughes will go back and look at numbers for the cost of adding full-day K.

- b) **Finance.** Mr. Buddemeyer reported that the Finance Subcommittee met last week to discuss format and what reports the Committee wants to see. It is a work in progress.
- c) **Health and Wellness.** Mrs. Angela Volpicelli announced that the subcommittee met on December 7th, and she read aloud the minutes of that meeting.
- d) **Policy.** No report.

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Clerk