

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

Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair	Mrs. Marge Levesque, Clerk	Mrs. Marilyn King
Mr. Michael Buddemeyer	Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti	Mrs. Angela Volpicelli

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Colleen Jermain, Mark Dunham, Patti Cofield, and Daniel Klemmer

Absent: Ms. Sylvia Wedge, V. Chair

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli 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.

The Public Session recessed at 7:00 PM and resumed at 7:15 PM.

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

- An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting on a motion made by Mrs. Levesque and seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0. No motions were made, and no votes were taken. A motion to seal the minutes was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- A Race To The Top meeting was held today to re-do the application.

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

- Race To The Top – Round 2: Attended the RTTT meeting today. Discussion centered on modifying the tone of the application. The goal is to create a system to help our teachers continuously improve. A new draft of the proposal should be ready on Friday. One area where our State lost a number of points in Round 1 was the fact that many teacher union locals did not sign on to the original proposal. The meetings have been attended by union representatives from the districts.
- Mr. James Betres, Department Chair of the PHS History Department, was selected as a 2010 James Madison Fellow. Mr. Betres is pursuing a Master of Arts in American History with a concentration on constitutional studies.
- Bobby Sewell a 2006 PHS graduate, signed a contract as a free agent with the Tennessee Titans.

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

- Moving ahead on the Strategic Plan tasks and objectives, including curriculum implementation.

- Today had a meeting of our Teacher Excellent Task Force, discussing effective teaching and what it should look like in Portsmouth. Coming back in 4 weeks for fine tuning, then we will vet it within the various groups.

b) Finance and Operations: Mr. Dunham reported on the following:

- Item 6. i) (transportation contract) was being withdrawn from the agenda and would be brought back at a future meeting.

c) High School Liaison: Daniel Klemmer reported on the following:

- This Sunday, the Senior Class is holding a car show at PHS.
- The National Honor Society Ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 29th.
- AP testing will take place the first two weeks in May.
- A variety show will be held on May 13th.
- The Lacrosse team has a game Wednesday night at 7:00 PM in North Kingstown.
- The Senior Class Silent Auction will be held on Friday, May 21st.
- We hosted French exchange students for the past few weeks, and our students are currently visiting them in France.
- We are trying to air a movie called, "The Human Experience," which is about two brothers searching for the meaning of life.
- Mrs. Cunningham is running a beach clean-up on Saturday as a part of her non-profit, INFINITY.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 13, 2010. So voted 6-0.

4 CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Appt. – General School Aide, Hathaway.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-4/27/10, to the position of General School Aide at Hathaway School, retroactive to March 29, 2010."
- b) **Coaching Appt. – PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the coaching appointment at Portsmouth High School for the 2010-11 school year as presented."

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0. Dr. Lusi announced the appointment of Norma Mosher to the position of General School Aide at Hathaway; and the appointment of Ryan Moniz to the position of Head Football Coach at Portsmouth High School.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Agenda Item Request – Discussion re Technology Literacy.** Mr. Robert Kittredge explained the importance of Systems Thinking and how inculcating it into our K-12 curriculum could help prepare our students to be more proficient in math, science, and their overall academic performance. He announced that there is a 3-day conference on Systems Thinking in Wellesley, MA, from June 26-28, 2010; and he is willing to cover the tuition cost (\$600) for one Portsmouth teacher to attend, if the School Department would pay for two nights lodging. The deadline for registering is May 15th. In return, he would like a report back on what the teacher really thought and the steps moving forward regarding implementation. Assistant Superintendent Jermain stated that she supports and endorses Systems Thinking and hopes we can implement it in our district. Mr. Larry Fitzmorris stated that the PCC could pledge \$250, and he handed a pledge card to Mr. Kittredge. The School Committee was in favor of the School Department moving forward with this.
- b) **Agenda Item Request – PMS Athletic Boosters Club Addition of Baseball/Softball.** Mr. Richard Cipriani was present on the PMSABC's behalf. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to add baseball and softball at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2011 season. Mr. Carpender said Mr. Amaral is in favor of this addition. The PMSABC will fund the programs. This will be a benefit for all students. The PMSABC is planning to refurbish the lower fields at PMS, and they've received a very reasonable quote to do so. So voted 6-0.
- c) **Walk for Respect.** Mr. Joao Arruda explained the Portsmouth Middle School's Bullying Prevention Committee has been working hard throughout the year to expose students to various forms of acceptance of individuals, moral qualities, personal traits, and social roles. It is the expectation that students learn to behave appropriately in social settings while positively interacting with others and understanding different points of view. He explained the activities that have taken place throughout the year as a constant continuation of the show of respect. The culminating event is called "Rally for Respect," which is a relay walk in which members of Advisory teams (approximately 650 students and 100 faculty and staff members) take turns walking around the school in a show of respect for others and individual differences. Members of the community and other special guests will be invited to participate in the event, which is being held on Friday, June 18th, from 8:00 to 10:30 AM. Mr. Arruda invited the School Committee to participate; and he gave them a small token of appreciation for what they do for our students.

- d) **Health & Wellness Update.** Assistant Superintendent Jermain distributed a copy of her Powerpoint presentation on Health and Wellness. She reviewed the highlights and accomplishments made by our food service company, Chartwells, and described what is being done at each school level to promote health and wellness.
- e) **Prevention Coalition Update.** Assistant Superintendent Jermain distributed a copy of her Powerpoint presentation on the Portsmouth Prevention Coalition, which is a coalition of community members dedicated to coordinating and creating strategies addressing tobacco, alcohol, and other drug abuses with the goal of creating a healthy, responsible, and safe community. Coalition members present at the meeting were: Kate Mahoney, Student Assistance Counselor at PMS; Andrea Hogan, Student Assistance Counselor at PHS; Caroline Miller, Community Member and Coordinator of the Prevention Coalition; and Emily Fowler, ALP Support. The coalition meets once a month from 8:30 to 10:00 AM at the Portsmouth Town Hall. There are two subgroups of the coalition: The Social Marketing/Public Education subgroup promotes the tip line, distributes underage drinking posters with assistance from the Portsmouth Police Department, and developed the coalition website. The Enforcement Strategies subgroup reviews local policies around underage drinking and retail access; supports the implemented programs; and encourages close cooperation between the Police Department and the Juvenile Hearing Board. The Student Assistance Counselors provide 1:1 short-term counseling, crisis intervention, and referral; student mediation; and lunchtime groups. The Coalition also provides support for the Middle Mentoring Program, Portsmouth Parents' Group; Post Prom activities; Girl Power/Guys Groups; Standing for Students; Alateen; SADD; Red Ribbon Campaign; and the Annual Parent Information Night – Keeping Kids Safe.
- f) **Presentation on PHS Substance Abuse Policies and Procedures.** Mr. Littlefield gave a report on enforcement policies and procedures at PHS, and the disciplinary procedures from the PHS Handbook were distributed. Mr. Littlefield stated that we expect our campus and activities to be drug and alcohol free. The consequences of infractions are explained repeatedly and very clearly to the students. Infractions result in a 10-day suspension from school. When the student returns to school, they are required to meet with our Student Assistance Counselor. Students with multiple suspensions will be referred to Dr. Lusi for expulsion. We rely on maintaining positive relationships with our students. The advisory program has been extremely beneficial in this respect. If a student is caught with illegal drugs, they will have to face legal consequences, as well as school consequences. Smoking is not allowed on campus.
- g) **Bid Award - Rubbish Removal Contract.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to award the contract for rubbish removal to Waste Management as presented. Mr. Dunham notes that this is the award of the bid, and when the actual contract is written, the fact that Elmhurst is closing will be reflected in the pricing. So voted 6-0.

- h) **Bid Award – Groundskeeping Contract.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to award the contract for groundskeeping to Landscaping Service, Inc. (DaPonte’s) as presented. Mr. Dunham notes that this is the award of the bid, and when the actual contract is written, the fact that Elmhurst is closing will be reflected in the pricing. So voted 6-0.
- i) **Bid Award - Transportation Contract.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee awards the contract for transportation services as presented.” This item was withdrawn from the agenda.
- j) **Bid Award – PHS Courtyard Doors.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to award the contract for PHS courtyard doors to New England School Services, Inc. as presented. So voted 6-0.
- k) **Resolution in Opposition of Binding Arbitration.** Mrs. Levesque made a motion for the Committee to approve the resolution in Opposition of Binding Arbitration. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- l) **Resolution in Opposition of Senate Bill 2010-S2603.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque for the Committee to approve the resolution in Opposition of Senate Bill 2010-S2603 that mandates expired teacher contracts must continue all the existing terms and conditions of employment. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.
- m) **Adding Classification to Contract with R.I. Council 94.** A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque for the Committee to approve adding a maintenance classification to the Council 94 contract. The added costs would be \$8,492, and it would be paid for by reallocating some of the funds allocated for HVAC outside contractors. So voted 6-0.
- n) **Report on March Financials.** Mr. Dunham stated that the Supplemental 2010 Budget for the State still has not been passed, which makes it impossible to project year-end at this time. The Department continues to prepare for the proposed reduction of \$177,000 by capping “discretionary” spending at 80 percent of the approved budget and carefully reviewing all other requested expenditures, as well as reviewing opportunities with revenues. However, if the prolonged budget debate either reduces the projected savings in pension contributions included in the Governor’s 2010 supplemental budget or directly reduces State Aid to Education more than anticipated, the Department will face serious challenges to balance the 2010 budget. Mr. Carpender stated that the March financials would be brought back to the next meeting for a vote.

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer stated that we are still working on a date to present to the Town Council. We had a date set, but the Council needed to change it.
- b) **Finance.** Dr. Lusi stated that she would ask Mr. Driscoll if the Council has developed a budget meeting schedule.
- c) **Health and Wellness.** No further report.
- d) **Policy.** No report.

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Clerk