

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Carpender, and the following members were present:

Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair	Mrs. Marge Levesque, Clerk	Mrs. Marilyn King
Ms. Sylvia Wedge, V. Chair	Mrs. Angela Volpicelli	Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti

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

Absent: Mr. Michael Buddemeyer, Daniel Klemmer

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque 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 6:20 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

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

1. An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting under R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters; (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 6-0. During the discussion on litigation, a motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque. The motion passed 6-0 to hire the law firm of Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister, LLP, to represent the School Committee in the Elmhurst appeal. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn the Executive Session. So voted 6-0. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 6-0.

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

1. Congratulated the Tennis Team for winning the State Championship.
2. The Transition Advisory Committee had its third meeting last night and the next meeting will be held Thursday night.
3. Attended the Amgen dinner and awards last week with Mrs. Jermain, Mr. Amaral, and a number of PMS faculty. PMS science teacher, Erin Escher, received an Amgen award.
4. Attended the Superintendent's Leadership Seminar last Friday. There was very good support amongst superintendents. The seminar focused on instructional improvement.
5. The bid award for the transportation contract is now ready to be awarded; however, the information was not made available in time for the School Committee to analyze. It will be brought forward on the next agenda. Mr. Dunham was able to figure in the savings in the budget gap.

6. The bids for the Move/Relocation contract came in last Friday. The low bidder is below \$5,000. In accordance with School Committee policy, awards below \$5,000 do not require School Committee approval. There will be a cancellation clause in the contract.

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

1. Strategic Planning groups have been doing follow-up work and wrapping up for this year, Year 1.
2. Attended the annual RIASBO/RISSA meeting with Dr. Lusi. Dr. Ned Draper spoke. It was a very productive day, and the discussion centered on planning going forward regarding student data in terms of grouping for next year.
3. For summer school this year, remedial and credit recovery from Grades 8 to 9 and high school will be provided. For elementary, on-line supports, such as Study Island, will be provided. Extended school year is provided for students with IEPs, as needed. We are looking at structuring summer school in a more cost effective way. This summer, we are starting with the high school (credit recovery and aligning to the new graduation requirements). The decision was made to not open the PHS summer school to students from other communities. It brought in some revenue, but it was not excessive; and it brought in a number of students with a different curriculum than our students. Some students who do not know our school or staff are behavior problems. We want to start reworking summer school so that it is very much aligned to what the student missed and will be facilitated with a much smaller group of students. The Raytheon enrichment programs in math and science will continue.

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

1. In 2008, the General Assembly passed the School Bus Safety Act to put cameras on the outside of busses to capture cars that pass. The cameras go on when the lights are flashing. An RFP will be going out within the next few days that will allow us to take advantage of this law and enhance safety for our students. It is a \$300 fine to pass a school bus when the lights are flashing. Seventy-five percent of the revenue from fines goes to the vendor and 25 percent is split 50/50 with the Town and State. The RFP is written so that the Town doesn't incur any cost. The vendor will install the cameras. The law states that the 25 percent goes to the municipality. In Johnston, it goes to the school district.

c) High School Liaison. Absent.

### 3. SPOTLIGHT

a) A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to commend PMS Grade 6 Science Teacher, Mr. Erin Escher, for receiving the Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence. So voted 6-0.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 11, 2010, as presented. So voted 5-0-1. Ms. Volpicelli abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Approval of Extension of Unpaid Leave of Absence.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request of Mrs. Patricia Seward, Grade 4 Teacher at Elmhurst School, for an additional 1-year unpaid leave of absence for the 2010-11 school year."

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Andrew Kelly presented the School Committee with the PHS Newsletter.
2. Kathy Melvin stated that she saw the honor rolls for PMS and PHS in the Sakonnet Times and she was stunned at the number of kids who made it. There has been an increase in the last marking period.

7. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

**Strategic Plan Progress Report.** The entire Strategic Plan was distributed to the School Committee. The purpose of the document and overview was to give the School Committee and the community an update on what has been accomplished this year. The plan is available on the School Department's website, as well as monthly updates. Dr. Lusi explained that color-coding for all of the objectives for each of the 5 years. The objectives in black are those that weren't supposed to be started yet, green are for this year and are on track, orange are where there's been a change, and the two objectives in red are objectives that are not underway. There are 86 objectives to be accomplished for 2009-10; 79 are on track, 5 are orange, and 2 are red. An enormous amount of progress has been made. Dr. Lusi was the point person for creating the plan, and Mrs. Jermain was the point person for implementing the plan. The plan started being developed a year ago at the end of January. It began with a Future Search Committee, then a Steering Committee. At the Administrative Leadership Team summer retreat in August, the objectives were divided between the members of the team. Mr. Carpender stated that he'd like to give the School Committee the time to go through the entire document, so he will meet with Dr. Lusi to figure out how to best address this. Dr. Lusi would like to know what would be most helpful to the School Committee for tracking purposes.

- b) **Bid Award – Transportation Contract.** This item was withdrawn from the agenda.
- c) **Bid Award – Food Service Contract.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to award the contract for food service as presented. So voted 6-0. Mr. Dunham stated that the contract is being awarded to Chartwells. The approved agreement with Chartwells was for the 2009-10 school year, plus four 1-year renewals. This award is the first 1-year renewal of the 5-year contract. Chartwells spent over \$20,000 renovating the PHS kitchen under last year's contract.
- d) **Bid Award – Student Information System.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to ratify the contract with N. Harris Computer Corporation in the sum of \$23,968.60. So voted 6-0. Dr. Lusi explained that we have been using SchoolMax for the past six years. It was the system that the state was encouraging districts to use at the time. The agreement statewide was that RINET would support it. We were notified earlier this year that RINET would no longer be supporting SchoolMax at the end of this year. The proposed contract will be a 1-year bridge so we can continue using our current system while we look for another system if the state doesn't provide a sole source company.
- e) **Bid Award – Move/Relocation.** The bids for the Move/Relocation contract came in last Friday. The low bidder is below \$5,000. In accordance with School Committee policy, awards below \$5,000 do not require School Committee approval. There will be a cancellation clause in the contract.
- f) **Budget Gap Update.** Mr. Dunham distributed a handout on the budget gap. He stated that we still don't know what our state aid will be. We still have a 5 percent reduction assumed. There is no information on the Town appropriation, so we still have the same assumption there. As of March 25, 2010, the gap was \$583,089. Additional costs identified are costs to close Elmhurst and move furniture/supplies of \$45,000, and Transportation costs due to school reconfiguration (three busses at \$149,580, additional hours for 3 monitors at \$100,000). Total additional costs identified to date are \$294,580. The original budget gap plus the additional costs equal \$877,669. Budget reductions identified are staff reductions, Elmhurst closing, and other line item reductions (groundskeeping services, rubbish removal, and student transportation). The budget gap to date is \$141,901. The net savings projected to be realized from the closing of Elmhurst have been increased by \$13,000 due to the reduction in the projected bus cost, and \$50,800 due to the change in the bus monitor schedule for a revised net Year 1 savings of \$155,688, and a sustained annual savings of \$200,688.
- g) **Approval of April Financials.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the April financials as presented. So voted 6-0.

- h) **Budget Transfers.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the budget transfers as presented. So voted 6-0.

## 8. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Facilities.** No report.
- b) **Finance.** No report.
- c) **Health and Wellness.** Ms. Volpicelli gave a detailed report of the recent activities of the Health and Wellness Subcommittee. Regarding outreach to the PTOs, some felt strongly about continuing their cookie dough fundraisers. The consensus was that it is not about the food, but more about the lack of physical activity, which the Subcommittee will start stressing with the schools, teachers, and students. Another topic discussed was denying students recess during lunch and how it ties into the lack of activity for students. The Subcommittee will continue to discuss this with the principals and lunch aides in search of alternatives. PMS Students visited the elementary schools to perform their “Grains Skit,” which was a great success. Melville’s “Biggest Loser” is still underway and going strong. PMS completed its year with the “Biggest Loser,” which was a big success. Goals for next year include promoting more activity and movement for students; instituting healthy practices such as stress control; introducing programs that promote healthy eating habits, including table manners and proper use of eating utensils; and reemphasizing the importance of healthy hygiene and washing of hands before eating.
- d) **Policy.** No report.
- e) **Transition Advisory Committee (TAC).** Mr. Carpender stated that Mrs. Levesque is the School Committee liaison. Dr. Lusi reported that the TAC has been very active. Three meetings have been held so far, and another one is scheduled for this Thursday. The TAC consists of 21 members (12 are parents selected by the parent organization, 1 teacher from each school, 2 non-certified staff members, and a few administrators). The first meeting was spent reviewing the Committee’s charge, establishing norms, and identifying transition factors that need to be addressed. The minutes and all of the materials from every meeting are available on the School Department website. Everything listed on the flip charts was included in the minutes. At the second meeting, the group heard from Middletown parents who went through something similar last year, when one of their elementary schools was closed, and their 4<sup>th</sup> Grade moved to their middle school. At last night’s meeting, the discussion centered on the elementary redistricting/transportation and other issues identified for TAC consideration. Mrs. Levesque stated that the group has a positive energy and great ideas. A lot of problem solving has occurred. The Middletown parents gave great perspectives.

Dr. Lusi reminded the Committee that the budget will be presented to the Town Council on Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Clerk