

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
Ms. Sylvia Wedge, V. Chair	Mr. Michael Buddemeyer	Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti
	Ms. Angela Volpicelli	

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

Absent: Colleen Jermain and Daniel Klemmer

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**: No report.

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

- 212 seniors graduated on Saturday. The student and faculty speakers were very good.
- Today was the last day of school.
- School Department will be going to summer hours effective tomorrow. They are: Monday-Thursday 7:30 – 4:00 PM, Friday 7:30 – 12:00 PM. The week of July 5-9 is shutdown.
- Received a letter from Representative Edwards at the end of the Legislative Session. The Portsmouth delegation did try to make the changes to the 3050 cap but were unsuccessful. They recommended that it go back on the School Committee's legislative agenda for next year.
- Item c) on the Consent Agenda is being withdrawn because we haven't received the backup yet.

a) Teaching and Learning: Absent.

b) Finance and Operations: No report.

c) High School Liaison: Absent.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 8, 2010. So voted 6-0-1. Ms. Volpicelli abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Teacher Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee acknowledges the resignation for retirement of Carol A. Rosa, Grade 6 Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, effective with the last day of the 2009-10 school year."

- b) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation of AnneFay Sullivan, Math Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective with the last day of the 2009-10 school year.”
- c) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Luis Nunes, Modern World Language Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective with the last day of the 2009-10 school year.” This item was removed from the agenda.
- d) **Appt. – Grade 6 House Leader.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent’s appointment, Recommendation #1-6/22/10, to the position of Grade 6 House Leader at Portsmouth Middle School, effective July 1, 2010”
- e) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals/Displacements.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee rescinds the teacher non-renewals and displacements as presented.”

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda Items a), b), d), and e) as presented. So voted 7-0.

Dr. Lusi announced the appointment of Lisa Pita to the Grade 6 House Leader position at Portsmouth Middle School.

## 5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Andrew Kelly thanked the members of the School Committee who attended graduation on Saturday.
- Mrs. Kathy Melvin expressed her thanks to the School Committee and Administration for reviewing the areas of reduction in the budget and bringing back to the School Program the Arts, Music, and Athletic Program in response to community concerns. It shows a willingness to be open.

## 6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Appointment of Legal Counsel.** This item was removed from the agenda.
- b) **Appointment of 2 Representatives to Regionalization Committee.** Mr. Carpender explained the current members of the Aquidneck Island Regionalization Committee have moved to take the next step in the investigational process with respect to the possible regionalization of the Aquidneck Island Schools systems. It is the request of each of the

three City or Town Councils and the three School Committees that each appoint two members to serve as voting members of the newly formed committee. Each of the three Superintendents shall serve as advisory members of the committee with the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, appointing a member to serve, as well, in an advisory fashion. The charge of the committee will be to consolidate all the information for the RIPEC study, Educational Benefit Study, and any other information that is relevant to the regionalization of the schools. Once all information is consolidated, the committee representatives will bring their recommendations back to their respective communities for a vote on forming the State required Regionalization Board. There will be twelve members on the Regionalization Board, four from each community. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to authorize Mr. Carpender to appoint two members to the Regionalization Committee. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted. The Committee would not have authority to bind the community in any way, and they cannot ask the representatives to modify the laws governing regionalization. Mr. Carpender and Ms. Wedge have been working on the Committee for months, and he recommended that they both continue.

- c) **Discussion/Action – FY’11 Budget.** Mr. Carpender stated that at last night’s meeting, the Town Council voted 2-5 on a motion by Mr. Canario to exceed the cap and seconded by Mr. Plumb. By doing that, he is not sure where the School Department budget stands. He and Dr. Lusi will attend tomorrow night’s Town Council meeting on the provisional budget. He doesn’t know if they are going to leave us level funded or come back with another number. He recommended that the School Committee not look at any of the proposed reductions or take any action on the reductions that were discussed at the last Finance Subcommittee meeting, until we really know what our budget looks like. Mrs. Perrotti suggested that the budget books that were prepared in March before Elmhurst was closed be revised. Mr. Carpender stated that that is the budget the Council has and needs to work with. Mrs. Perrotti recommended giving them an updated budget with the latest number. Mrs. Perrotti made a motion to take the cuts that were discussed at last night’s Finance Subcommittee meeting and remove them from the budget. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. Much discussion took place. Mr. Buddemeyer moved the question. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. The original motion was voted on and failed 3-4. Mrs. Perrotti, Ms. King, and Ms. Volpicelli voted in favor. Mrs. Perrotti made a motion to take the nearly \$142,000 in cuts to make a balanced budget. Seconded by Mrs. King. The motion failed 3-4. Mrs. Perrotti, Ms. King, and Ms. Volpicelli voted in favor. Dr. Lusi stated that we will update the numbers in the line items. Mr. Dunham suggested that we take the original budget we have and add a column for proposed reductions. Mrs. Perrotti inquired about a 3-year budget forecast, and Dr. Lusi explained that the 3-year forecast depends on where we start the 2011 budget. She strongly recommended that we wait until we have our new baseline for 2011 before we proceed with a 3-year budget forecast. Mr. Carpender stated that Dr. Lusi received information that indicates that the Caruolo process is still in place. He’s not saying we are going to go down the path of a Caruolo action; but because it is a long, drawn out process, he wants to make sure we

understand the timeline and what has to be done. He would like Dr. Lusi to be able to retain Mr. Robinson and start looking at the processes, timelines, etc. Mr. Buddemeyer made a motion to authorize Dr. Lusi to retain Mr. Robinson for the purpose of gathering information on the proper procedures for the Caroulo process, not to exceed \$5,000. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. Mr. Carpender made it very clear that this is not what he wants to do but that the School Committee needs to be prepared. Mrs. Perrotti made a motion to table the discussion because she feels it is premature. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli and Mrs. King. The motion to table the discussion failed 3-4. Mrs. Perrotti, Mrs. King, and Ms. Volpicelli voted in favor. The motion to retain Mr. Robinson in an amount not-to-exceed \$5,000 passed 4-3. Mrs. King, Mrs. Perrotti, and Ms. Volpicelli voted against the motion.

Mr. Dennis Canario, 64 Birchwood Drive, spoke as a citizen of Portsmouth, not as a Town Council member. He thanked the entire School Committee for the hard work put into the budget. Putting a budget together is like shooting a moving target. There is nothing worse than trying to put a budget together with numbers that you just don't have. He stated that what the School Committee is doing is covering their bases by hiring an attorney. They are protecting all the hard work they've done and the budgetary process they've gone through. He explained that there is another avenue to protect the budget besides Caruolo. Once the budget is passed on July 14<sup>th</sup>, anyone can start a petition, obtain 1,400 signatures, and put the budget issue on a referendum ballot to let the voters decide what the School Department budget should be. As soon as the petition is put together, it goes to the Canvassing Office, where the signatures are verified. It could be put on the ballot in the September primary or earlier. In the September primary, there wouldn't be any additional cost to the Town. If it were earlier, it would cost approximately \$15,000. There is a 2-week window after the budget is approved to submit the petition to the Canvassing Office.

- d) **Discussion/Action – FY'10 Revenue Report/Adjustments.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the use of additional Medicaid revenue in no more than the amount needed to realize full projected revenues for the 2010 fiscal year. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. This would enable the School Department to go over the initially appropriated Medicaid amount only if it is needed to balance our FY 2010 budget. So voted 7-0.
- e) **Approval of May Financials.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the May financials as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0.
- f) **Budget Transfers.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the budget transfers in accordance with the backup information provided." This item was removed from the agenda.
- g) **Agenda Item Request – Full-Time Equivalent Personnel Analysis.** Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti requested that a full-time equivalent personnel analysis be available to the School

Committee, if the Town Council does not fully fund our FY 2011 budget. She stated that the School Committee needs an understanding of how those resources are spread across the district and how they have changed over time. She would like it to be done for FY 2011 and forward, not backwards; and the advantage she sees of doing it now is that it would be good decision making material to have. She stated that if the Town Council approves the budget we need, then fine. If not, she would like this information to help make decisions. Mrs. Perrotti made a motion to have a full-time equivalent personnel analysis available to the SC if the Town Council does not fully fund our FY 11 budget. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 7-0.

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Facilities.** No report.
- b) **Finance.** No further report.
- c) **Health and Wellness.** No report.
- d) **Policy.** No report.

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Clerk