

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 (6:04 PM)
	Ms. Angela Volpicelli	

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

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, Exception (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 6-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:01 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

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

- An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exception (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. No motions were made, and no votes were taken. A motion to seal the minutes was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0.

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

- It appears that enough signatures were collected to have a referendum on the School Department budget. Dr. Lusi thanked SOS and everyone involved for giving the community the opportunity to express their views on the budget.
- Dr. Lusi was in Washington, DC, last week at the AASA seminar. She and Bob O'Brien from Smithfield are the two Rhode Island representatives to the AASA governing board. Expenses are paid for by AASA. As part of that meeting, they attended "Hill Visits" and met with Senators Reed and Whitehouse, Representative Langevin, and a member of each staff who works on education issues. One major talking point was the reauthorization of ESEA – the Elementary Secondary Education Act now known as NCLB. They seemed unanimous that reauthorization would be postponed this year. There was a request on the agenda to consider loosening some of the sanctions. What is happening around Rhode Island, although not in Portsmouth, is that more and more schools are being identified as low-performing on criteria that many people are hoping will change with the reauthorization. They also talked about two pieces of legislation that have now passed the senate. FMAP was the money that our state had budgeted \$100 million into the state budget for this coming year but had not been passed by the senate or the house. It has now been passed by the senate and is going to the house today. The Education Jobs Fund Bill was the other legislation.

- Dr. Lusi received an update today from Tim Duffy, Executive Director of RIASC, regarding the Jobs bill. Rhode Island is slated to receive just under \$33 million. States have the option of distributing the funding based on Title 1 allocations or the State's funding formula. Dr. Lusi does not know what this means for Portsmouth. If RTTT is any indication, we would get very little. It appears that the language is quite tight around using it to bring employees back or maintain people in jobs. She will keep the School Committee posted.
 - Met with the new Superintendent of Little Compton, Kathy Crowley. Ms. Crowley is the former the Assistant Superintendent in Johnston. She would like to look at some of the data on how Little Compton students are doing in Portsmouth and talk to us on how to better align the curriculum between the two districts. We also mentioned that we would need to discuss the Little Compton contract that is up in 2012.
 - Attended a meeting of the Aquidneck Island Study Group. NESDEC is doing an education study of the benefits.
 - Learned today from Mr. Duffy that the National Center for Teacher Quality that Rhode Island was one of 4 or 5 states that got a green light. They think we will be funded. Dr. Lusi will keep the School Committee posted.
 - Consent Agenda Items f) and g) are being removed.
- a) Teaching and Learning: Assistant Superintendent Jermain thanked the IT Department for their efforts over the summer in preparing for the opening of school.
- b) Finance and Operations: No report.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2010, meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 5-0-2. Mrs. Perrotti and Mr. Buddemeyer abstained due to their absence from that meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the minutes of the meeting held July 27, 2010. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 6-0-1. Mrs. Perrotti abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Perrotti requested that Items h) and k) be moved to Business Agenda.

- a) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Linda Gaskill, Elementary Library Media Specialist, effective immediately."

- b) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Jessica Washburn, PHS Math Teacher, effective immediately."
- c) **Appt. – Math Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-8/10/10, to the position of Math Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective August 31, 2010."
- d) **Appt. – Math Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-8/10/10, to the position of Math Teacher at Portsmouth High School, for the 2010-11 school year."
- e) **Appt. – Modern Language Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-8/10/10, to the position of Modern Language Teacher (Portuguese) at Portsmouth High School, effective August 31, 2010."
- f) **Appt. – Modern Language Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-8/10/10, to the position of Modern Language Teacher (Spanish) at Portsmouth High School, effective August 31, 2010." This item was removed from the agenda.
- g) **Appt. – .5 Literacy Coach, Districtwide.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #5-8/10/10, to the position of districtwide Literacy Coach, .5 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 31, 2010." This item was removed from the agenda.
- h) **Appt. – .2 Math Coach, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #6-8/10/10, to the position of Math Coach, .2 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 31, 2010." This item was moved to the Business Agenda at the request of Mrs. Perrotti.
- i) **Appt. – Grade 8 Science, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #7-8/10/10, to the position of Math Coach, .2 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 31, 2010."

- j) **Appt. – Maintenance D Position.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #6-8/10/10, to the Maintenance D position, effective August 16, 2010."
- k) **Coaching Appts. – PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2010-11 school year as presented." This item was moved to the Business Agenda at the request of Mrs. Perrotti.
- l) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee rescinds the teacher non-renewals and displacements as presented." There were no teacher non-renewals.
- m) **Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the requests to provide home schooling for the 2010-11 school year for students HS #1 through #9-8/10, as listed in the confidential memo dated August 5, 2010, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2."

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve the Consent Agenda, moving Items h) and k) to the Business Agenda and withdrawing items f) and g). Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following appointments:

- c) Jeffrey Rose, Math Teacher, PHS, Step 1
- d) Talia Carnevale, Math Teacher, PHS, Step 1 or 2, depending on verification of her long-term sub days she had in past years, pursuant to state law.
- e) Cindy Pires, Modern Language Teacher, PHS, Step 6
- i) Elizabeth Bowden, Grade 8 Science, PMS, Step 5.
- j) Douglas Brodeur, Maintenance D.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

Item h) was moved from the Consent Agenda.

- h) **Appt. – .2 Math Coach, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #6-8/10/10, to the position of Math Coach, .2 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 31, 2010." When we closed Elmhurst we showed no reductions in art, and we said we would probably need to reallocate that .6 position. That is not reflected as savings here. .2 is being reallocated to the math coach. It is coming

out of money that was not budgeted as a savings from the Elmhurst closing. It is an additional .2 in math but being taken of what was a .2 art from the prior year. It is not an add to the number of FTEs. A motion to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #6-8/10/10, to the position of Math Coach, .2 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 31, 2010. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0.

- k) **Coaching Appts. – PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2010-11 school year as presented.” Mrs. Perrotti stated that she cannot justify committing to the coaches at a higher priority than committing to the music and art teachers. We need to recall them before we pay for the coaches. Mr. Carpender disagreed and stated that interscholastic sports have a huge impact on student performance. Dr. Lusi explained the rationale from the last meeting. She stated that art/music/sports are of equal importance. The two work in very separate ways. If we don't field teams in fall sports, we cannot add our interscholastic teams to the schedule mid-season when we know what our budget looks like. At the same time, we could make adjustments to athletic offerings going forward. In art/music, if we hire part-time positions at the elementary level, we cannot lay them off later in the year, but we could hire additional teachers should the budget situation change. Dr. Lusi stated that her reading of the new BEP makes it very clear that music/art be offered at all levels, but they don't have to be full-year programs. In athletics, it talks about the need for physical activity, and interscholastic is listed as one of the possibilities with an “or.” It is not strictly required by the new BEP. It is very clear that a full array of art/music and athletic activities is a desire of our community. Dr. Lusi was asked if we could hire a temporary art teacher. Dr. Lusi stated that she would look into it. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to affirm the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2010-11 school year as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 6-1. Mrs. Perrotti voted against. Dr. Lusi announced the new coaching appointments:

Matt Plumb, Assistant Coach, Football
Andrew Donnelly, Assistant Coach, Football
Craig Fonseca, Assistant Coach, Football
John Heino, Assistant Coach, Football
Shaun Horgan, Head Coach, Girls Cross Country

Regular Business Agenda:

- a) **Discussion/Action – Donation of Memorial Plaque at PMS Baseball Field.** A motion was made to accept the donation of a memorial plaque at PMS Baseball field. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. Mr. Carpender stated that he wants to make sure it is put up not to construe that the facility is being named after anyone. Mr. Volk stated that it will not be. They will work with the wording and run it by the School Committee. There is a \$15,000 budget for field renovation. Mr. Rich Cipriani stated it will cost \$4,723 to

complete renovations of the baseball field only (diamond infield). Mr. Tim Banks requested that his family donates enough funds to pay for that renovation, and is recognized by mentioning them as the donors and putting in a plaque. So voted 7-0.

- b) **Report on June Financials.** Mr. Dunham reported that the 2010 budget year should finish with a surplus in the \$200,000 to \$400,000 range, from one-half of a percent to one and a quarter percent of the budget, consistent with recent monthly forecasts. At this point in time, all the figures are unaudited. The 2010 audit, which will begin in earnest in late October or early November, will include adjustments for the ARRA funds, the pension adjustment, and the Universal Chart of Accounts, as well as the typical out of period adjustments and payroll accruals, and although we try to anticipate these adjustments in the projections they may impact the final year end number released in the audit. Please feel free to contact the Business Office if there are questions regarding this report.
- c) **Discussion – FY 2010-11 Budget.**
- 1) Statutory Budgetary Reporting Requirements. Mr. Carpender stated that our attorney will give us a written opinion on this. Because we have budgeted a certain number of dollars that have been reduced by the TC below the current budget. There are requirements by law saying that if you have a situation where your budget is not balanced and you have more expenses than revenue, within 5 days, you are supposed to write a letter to the Town Council to alert them to how you are going to adjust your budget so your revenues and expenses agree. Then you have to make those adjustments within 30 days. Our attorney's opinion is that because we have the potential referendum, those timelines don't kick in until the referendum is voted. Because of the charter and the way it is written, that the final budget will not be final until after the referendum. He made that decision based on hearing that the required number of signatures had been gathered and we will be having a referendum. The referendum should be September 28 or October 5. The SC should plan on the October 5th date for the all-day referendum. Discussion ensued regarding the possible merits of issuing the notifications despite our attorney's opinion. Mrs. Perrotti made a motion to make notification to the Auditor General in accordance with RIGL 16-2-9 (f) to state that our revenues are less than our expenditures and our plan to fix it would be prepared after the referendum is held. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. Mr. Carpender stated that our attorney has advised against doing that because the letter sets off the 30-day requirement. The motion failed 1-6. Mrs. Perrotti voted in the affirmative.
- d) **Contract Award – Emergency Replacement of Hot Water Heater at PMS.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to award the contract for the emergency replacement of the hot water heater at Portsmouth Middle School to Donovan & Sons in the amount of \$46,383, as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0.

- e) **Agenda Item Request – Safety of School Buildings.** Requested by Mrs. Perrotti. The listing of inspections conducted between 2008 and 2010 was distributed.

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 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Clerk