

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Carpender, and the following members were present:

Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair
Ms. Sylvia Wedge, V. Chair

Mrs. Marge Levesque, Clerk
Mr. Michael Buddemeyer
Ms. Angela Volpicelli

Mrs. Marilyn King
Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti

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

Absent: Asst. Supt. Jermain

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, (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 7-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:35 PM and resumed at 7:15 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, (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. One motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to unseal a portion of Executive Session minutes from March 14, 2006, and December 18, 2006, pertaining to a litigation matter. A motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0.
- Mr. Carpender read a note received from the PHS Post Prom Committee thanking the School Committee for their donation to the Post Prom event.

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

- Mrs. Jermain is away this evening.
- Congratulated our Commissioner, Deborah Gist, and all the staff at RIDE and in our state who worked hard on the Race To The Top grant. Rhode Island was chosen as a recipient. Race To The Top will not result in a large amount of money for Portsmouth, but it will allow funding for numerous state efforts. It will allow Portsmouth a little money to support professional development related to the grant. Addressed a community member's suggestion from the last meeting to explore the possibility of hiring temporary employees for art/music at the elementary level. After thinking this through, Dr. Lusi concluded that children respond better to being given something new, rather than having something taken away. Consequently, since the referendum is only a few weeks away, she prefers to wait to see if we have the funding to provide the teachers for the full year.

- Had a very successful administrative leadership retreat on August 19th and 20th. She thanked Salve Regina University for providing the space free of charge. The retreat was facilitated by Judy Droitcour of EBEC. A great deal of time was spent looking at our approach to the teacher evaluation process. Dr. Lusi and Mrs. Jermain met with the leadership team of NEA to talk about how to roll that out. They also discussed continued implementation of the Strategic Plan and planned for opening day.
 - The School Committee is invited to Teacher Orientation on Tuesday, August 31st, at 8:00 AM in the PHS Auditorium. We are well prepared for school opening despite delays due to the prolonged budget process. The buildings are in good shape, and she thanked Don Davidson and Mark Dunham. We are hiring the remaining staff tonight. We look forward to welcoming all of our students and families.
- a) Teaching and Learning: Absent.
- b) Finance and Operations: Mr. Dunham updated the board as to where we are in regards to facilities:

High School:

- School is cleaned, freshened up (misc. painting done in-house)
- New Emergency Generator due in on 09/02/10, backup in place until then

Middle School:

- School is cleaned-looks good
- Boiler # 2 repairs underway will be completed by the end of September. This a possible insurance claim due to cracked stay bolts, causing substantial corrosion. Boiler #1 fully functional
- New High Efficiency domestic hot water boiler system going through final connections will be ready before school starts.
- Special Ed room relocated to Old Language room, ADA sink installed
- Grades 4 and 5 successfully relocated from the three elementary schools
- Installed hands free, low water flow combination hot/cold water faucets in all restrooms
- Theater Stage wooden floor being replaced now, will be done before school starts
- Pricing replacement cost for some old drapes with aluminum blinds
- Installation of new fence poles and cable to divide playground from parking area, will be by 09/03

Melville:

- School is cleaned-looks good
- Installation of new fence to divide walkway for military housing from parking will be completed before school starts
- Removal of excess furniture complete

Hathaway:

- School is cleaned-looks good
- Working on final bus drop offs, parent drop off and traffic routes...
- Removal of excess furniture complete

Elmhurst

- Heating system drained and boilers shut down
- All excess electrical has been curtailed. Only emergency lighting and the sewage pumps are left on.
- Water will be turned off and drained before we leave
- I have met with the Fire Dept. and Coastal Electric as to our requirements for closing the building. We will need to put a small electric heater near the fire control panel so "trouble signals" will not be generated due to cold weather
- Excess furniture is stored in the gym and cafeteria

General Comments:

- All recycling containers (dumpsters & totters) have been delivered. Waste Management will be conducting training sessions at our schools for recycling.
- All of our grounds have been freshly cut and trimmed.
- The schools all look very good, considering the turmoil that everyone went through with the move. Everyone's world got a little mixed up this summer and the staff (all staff) did a tremendous job coping with all the variables that a move this size generates. Tons of furniture was moved, shuffled around and finally settled in its rightful place.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2010, meeting. So voted 7-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a) **Appt. – Modern Language Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-8/24/10, to the position of Modern Language Teacher (Spanish) at Portsmouth High School, effective August 31, 2010."
- b) **Appt. – .6 Grade 8 Math, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-8/24/10, to the position of Grade 8 Math Teacher, .6 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 31, 2010."

- c) **Appt. – .4 Grade 6, .4 Robotics, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-8/24/10, to the position of Grade 6 Teacher, .6 time, and Robotics Teacher, .4 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 31, 2010."
- d) **Appt. – .5 Literacy Coach, Districtwide.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-8/24/10, to the position of districtwide Literacy Coach, .5 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 31, 2010."
- e) **Appt. – .5 Library Media Specialist, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #5-8/24/10, to the position of Library Media Specialist, .5 time, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 31, 2010."
- f) **Coaching Appts. – PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2010-11 fall season as presented." This item was moved to the Business Agenda.
- g) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewal.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee rescinds the teacher non-renewal as presented."
- h) **Request for Leave of Absence.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request for Family and Medical Leave in accordance with the backup information."
- i) **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 #10 through #14-8/10, as listed in the confidential memo dated August 18, 2010, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2."

Mrs. Perrotti requested that Item f) be moved to the Business Agenda.

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

- a) Jennifer Reichers, Modern Language Teacher (Spanish), PHS, Step 3
- b) Deborah Gaines, .6 Grade 8 Math, PMS, Step 6 Masters
- c) Ashley Acciardo, .4 Grade 6, .4 Robotics, PMS, Step 4
- d) Kimberly Hancock, .5 Literacy Coach, Districtwide
- e) Ruth Donahue, .5 Library Media Specialist, PMS, Step 3 Masters

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

Item f) from Consent Agenda.

f) **Coaching Appts. – PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2010-11 fall season as presented.” Mrs. Perrotti stated that she will support these appointments because the payment is coming from the Portsmouth Middle School Booster Club and does not impact the local budget. A motion to approve the coaching appointments as presented was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following coaching appointments: Michael Keeling, PMS Boys’ Soccer Coach; Leah Vieira, PMS Girls’ Soccer Coach

Regular Business Agenda:

a) **Approval of June Financials.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the June financials as presented. So voted 7-0.

b) **Agenda Item Request Denied by Chair.**

1) Mrs. Perrotti read the Agenda Item Request she submitted on August 13, 2010, regarding full financial reporting. She made a motion to appeal the decision of the Chair to deny her Agenda Item Request and refer it to the Finance Subcommittee. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. Mr. Carpender explained that he is not denying the need to have this data. He is simply following the School Committee’s usual process of referring an agenda item of this type to the Finance Subcommittee first. Mr. Buddemeyer, Chair of the Finance Subcommittee, stated that he would like to have a Finance Subcommittee meeting next week. This meeting will be on Wednesday, September 1st. Mr. Buddemeyer stated that the Finance Subcommittee would direct the Administration as to the information they want. The motion failed 3-4. Mrs. Perrotti, Mrs. King, and Ms. Volpicelli voted in favor. Ms. Wedge, Mr. Carpender, Mrs. Levesque, and Mr. Buddemeyer were opposed.

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

a) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Steve Hughes of RGB sometime around the September 8th to touch base.

b) **Finance.** Mr. Buddemeyer stated that a Finance Subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 1st.

- c) **Health and Wellness.** Ms. Volpicelli stated that a report will be available next month.
- 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 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Clerk