

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

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

Absent: Ms. Angela Volpicelli and Assistant Superintendent Jermain

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exception (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 5-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:00 PM and resumed at 7:02 PM.

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

- An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exception (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 5-0. A motion to seal the minutes was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 6-0.
- Ms. Wedge reported that she attended the RIASC School Committee Chairs' meeting last weekend. The State of Rhode Island is going to collaborate with pretty much the rest of the country in purchasing. The group also discussed the movie, "Waiting for Superman," about the impact on education. There will be a meeting for new School Committee members in November.
- Ms. Volpicelli is absent tonight due to illness.

2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- Mrs. Jermain is traveling today and tomorrow in Delaware with a team for Race to the Top.
- Saturday is homecoming. Portsmouth is playing East Providence in Football. The Homecoming Parade begins at 12:30 PM, and the game is at 1:30 PM.
- Governor Carcieri released the Science NECAP scores in the State today, and PHS was the top ranking high school in the state. Dr. Lusi stated that the high school success starts with the teachers in the classroom and is also a tribute to Mr. Littlefield and Colleen Jermain. Mr. Carpender thanked the teachers throughout the school system.
- Reminded everyone to vote on the Referendum on October 5th.

- a) Teaching and Learning: Absent.
- b) Finance and Operations: No Report.
- c) High School Liaison: Madison Burns reported on the Homecoming week activities. Last night was the second annual “Mr. Portsmouth” pageant. Admission was a donation of a canned good. Goofy Games will be held tomorrow night. The students will be able to walk through the themed hallways Friday morning. Saturday is the parade and football game. Ms. Burns invited the School Committee to walk in the parade. Mr. Schoonover is the parade Grand Marshal. Saturday night is the homecoming dance. This year, the Student Council is focusing on community service.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the minutes of the meeting held September 14, 2010. So voted 5-0-1. Ms. Wedge abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

4. SPOTLIGHT

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to commend the following teachers for their participation in the Rhode Island Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers project: Jeffrey Schoonover, Kathleen Beebe, Thomas Holstein, Janet Kasparian, Nycole Noble, and Leanne Perry. So voted 6-0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Coaching Appts. – PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the volunteer coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2010-11 fall season as presented.”
- b) **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 #21 and #22-9/10, as listed in the confidential memo dated September 22, 2010, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2.”

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0. Dr. Lusi announced the volunteer coaches: Rick Berube, Girls Tennis; Justin Westley, Football; Regina Dublin, Cheerleading; and Brittany Lynch, Cheerleading.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: Mrs. Kathy Melvin spoke about the way the School Department approaches holidays, particularly how we refer to the December 24-31 school vacation as the “holiday” recess. She thinks it’s time to refer to it as “Christmas” vacation.

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Agenda Item Request – Virtual High School.** Mrs. Perrotti requested this agenda item. Dr. Lusi stated that we are piloting the Virtual High School program at Portsmouth High School this year through the Southern Rhode Island Collaborative. We investigated the type of student that would gravitate to this type of program. The pricing through the collaborative is \$400 per seat, and you must have a site coordinator trained. We contracted with SORICO for 5 seats in the fall and 5 in the spring, at a total cost of \$4,000. The training for the site coordinator was \$1,200. For the fall semester, 4 of the 5 seats filled are filled. The courses are AP Music, AP Statistics, Pearl Harbor to the Atomic Bomb, and Russian Language and Culture. These are extra courses, over and above the student’s regular schedule. The site coordinator is not a teacher and is not teaching a class. They meet in the library each week with each student enrolled, as a checkpoint to make sure everything is on course. So far, the student input has been very positive. This is something we would like to look at and use to offer additional learning opportunities to our students. We want to look at it for the PMS level as well, depending on how this pilot goes. We are also looking at a program called “Virtual Learning Academy,” which is a credit recovery program for students who are not doing as well academically and have to repeat a course. Mr. Littlefield stated that Virtual High School is an accredited program, and courses taken are included on a student’s transcript.

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer stated that there will be a Stage 1 Submittal meeting on Thursday, October 7th.
- b) **Finance.** Mr. Buddemeyer encouraged everyone to vote on the Referendum on October 5th.
- c) **Health and Wellness.** Dr. Lusi reported that the “Healthy Kids Breakfast” was held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick last week. She also announced that Mrs. Pamela Storme, Melville’s physical education teacher, has cup stacking competitions; and they got into the Guinness Book of World Records last year.
- d) **Policy.** No report.

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 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Clerk