

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	Ms. Angela Volpicelli
	Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti (6:15 PM)	

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Mark Dunham, Patti Cofield, and Madison Burns

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 7-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:05 PM and resumed at 7:08 PM.

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

- An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting under (a)(1) Job Performance/ Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation, on a motion made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 6-0. One motion made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Superintendent's evaluation. So voted 7-0. Mr. Carpender read the final comments from the evaluation into the record: "During another difficult year filled with uncertainties, Dr. Lusi has continued to show strong leadership and the ability to get things done. Dr. Lusi continues to meet and exceed expectations." He publicly thanked Dr. Lusi for all she has done over the last several years. Mr. Carpender read his Negotiations Statement into the record: "Over the last few days, I have heard several comments including a phone call this morning in reference to the NEA Portsmouth Teachers' decision to Work to Rule. Because of these comments and concerns, I have decided it is important for our parents and citizens to know where we are and how we got here. Our discussions with NEA Portsmouth started several months ago and included discussions on salary, benefits, and language. From Day 1, the School Committee Negotiating Team's position was that we needed to negotiate a zero cost contract – a contract where the combination of salary and benefits equated to no increased cost for the School Committee. We cannot afford to do otherwise in these difficult financial times. Several times we have made recommendations or proposals to the Union to achieve that goal, and as of today, the Union has not accepted any of them. At a negotiating session last week, the first held since the referendum, we were unable to reach agreement, and the Union's Leadership informed us their members would be engaging in a "modified" Work to Rule; basically saying they should only do what they were required to do by the prior contract. I was surprised in that this was the first meeting since the referendum, and it came out of nowhere. However, as I already stated, because of the questions and concerns raised, I fully believe parents and

citizens needed to know how we got here. I am saddened and sorry that we have been unable to reach an agreement up to this point. I have the greatest respect and admiration for our teachers. They are a dedicated staff, and the results our students have shown are a compliment to them. However, although we are always willing to sit down, I don't believe this contract can be settled prior to the next Committee taking office. I want to thank Committee members that served with me on the Negotiating Team, Sylvia Wedge and Marge Levesque, for their dedication and commitment to the process and the school system as well as members of the NEA Negotiating team for their cordiality during the process." Mr. Carpender stated that he was not going to take questions or comments on his remarks. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the Executive Session minutes. So voted 7-0.

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

- PPEF's Fall Social Fundraiser was held last Thursday and was very well attended. The work of a number of our teachers who received grants last year was showcased.
- Attended the ACE meeting this morning. ACE will have a public presentation on cyber-bullying featuring David Kane later this month.
- Town Council approved the School Committee's deficit reduction plan last evening. The plan was also sent to the Auditor General. We need to alert the Auditor General that it was approved and address any additional questions the Auditor General may have.

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

- NECAP testing just finished for ELA and Math. Science will be in the spring.
- Just completed GeoSketch training, which is a math tool that PMS and PHS teachers are using. Study Island and Dream Box are available tools for students to use at home to reinforce skills at the elementary level.
- Work continues at RIDE to review and select summative assessments. Assistant Superintendents and Curriculum Directors (ASCD) across the state are working together. It is part of Race to the Top and the Rhode Island Strategic Plan.

b) **Finance and Operations:** No report.

c) **High School Liaison:** Madison Burns reported on the following:

- Melville is holding their annual fall festival this Saturday.
- A blood drive is being held at PHS on November 19th.
- The Student Council will be baking pies the week before Thanksgiving and creating baskets for those in need.
- The St. Jude's fundraising rally that the National Honor Society holds will be on November 18th and 19th.

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 October 12, 2010. So voted 7-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Clerical Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Beatrice Oliveira, Clerk A at Portsmouth High School, effective November 30, 2010.”
- b) **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 winter season as presented.”
- c) **Coaching Appt. – PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the coaching appointment at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2010-11 winter season as presented.”
- d) **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.”

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following coaching appointment and re-appointments:

Appointment:

Robert Sewall	Volunteer	Football
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Re-appointments:

Jeff Goss	Head Coach	Girls Basketball
Bill Waterman	Assistant Coach	Girls Basketball
Donna Ricci	Assistant Coach	Girls Basketball
Mike Lunney	Head Coach	Boys Basketball
Ryan Moniz	Head Coach	Boys Basketball
Joe Occhi	Assistant Coach	Boys Basketball
John Blaess	Volunteer	Boys Basketball
Cybil Pacheco	Head Coach	Gymnastics
Lindsey Curry	Assistant Coach	Gymnastics
Tara Donovan-Moll	Head Coach	Swimming
Mike Monahan	Head Coach	Ice Hockey
Travis Holmes	Assistant Coach	Ice Hockey
Mike Mallet	Volunteer	Ice Hockey
Shaun Horgan	Head Coach	Indoor Track

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Facilities Supervisor Contract Renewal.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee approves the employment contract of Don Davidson, Facilities Supervisor, as presented.” Mr. Carpender explained that Mr. Davidson has worked for the School Department for 2 ½ years, and he indicated that he would like to renew his contract at the end of his term in June. Mr. Davidson wanted to present it to the School Committee that knows his accomplishments. However, Mr. Carpender stated that our attorney informed us that there is a law that a committee cannot obligate a future committee to a contract. Therefore, Mr. Carpender asked this Committee to pass a motion to support the renewal of Mr. Davidson’s contract, due to his valuable service to this district, when his contract is up for renewal. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to support the renewal of Mr. Davidson’s contract due to his valuable service to this district. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. Dr. Lusi stated that Mr. Davidson has been a pleasure to work with. She read some highlights of his accomplishments over the past few years. So voted 7-0.
- b) **Bid Award – Live Digital Video Bus Violation Detection Monitoring System.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to award the contract for the Live Digital Video Bus Violation Detection Monitoring System as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. Mr. Dunham stated that this is allowable under Rhode Island law. The Police Chief is confident that his staff can handle this. The ticket is approximately \$300, and 75 percent goes to the company, 12 ½ percent goes to the state, and 12 ½ percent goes to the town. The company may have the cameras on buses as soon as January. Ten percent of the fleet could generate about \$10,000. It is really a safety issue first. The expenses for this are paid by the company, not the School Department. Mr. Dunham stated that only one company bid. So voted 7-0.
- c) **Bid Award – Student Information System.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to award the contract for the student information system as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0.
- d) **Budget Approval.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge to approve an FY’10-11 budget of \$35,957,720. Seconded by Mrs. Levesque. So voted 7-0. Mr. Carpender stated that the Town Council voted to approve the School Department’s deficit reduction plan at last night’s meeting on a 5-1 vote. Ms. Gleason was opposed to the plan.

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer stated that the Stage 1 submittal plan has been submitted to RIDE, and we're awaiting their reply.
- b) **Finance.** No further report.
- c) **Health and Wellness.** Ms. Wedge reported that she attended an anti-bullying summit in Providence. It was unanimously agreed that cyber-bullying is out of hand. Some schools have an anonymous tip box for good and bad behavior. Mr. Arruda plans to implement it immediately at the middle school.
- 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 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Mrs. Marjorie Levesque, Clerk