

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by the Vice Chair, Ms. Wedge, and the following members were present:

David Croston, Jonathan Harris, Marilyn King, Cynthia Perrotti, Thomas Vadney, Angela Volpicelli, and Sylvia Wedge

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

Absent: Assistant Superintendent Jermain and Madison Burns

1. **ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA**

- a) **Election of Chairman.** Mr. Croston nominated Ms. Wedge as Chair. Ms. Wedge declined and then nominated Mr. Croston. There was no second on the nomination. Mr. Harris nominated Mrs. Perrotti. Seconded by Mr. Vadney. So voted 5-2. Mr. Croston and Ms. Wedge were opposed. Mrs. Perrotti took over as Chair of the School Committee. She stated that she will be contacting the members to see what subcommittees they would like to serve on. She will also ask for help from School Committee members in attending public events.
- b) **Election of Vice-Chairman.** Mr. Vadney nominated Mr. Harris. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.
- c) **Appointment of Clerk.** Ms. Volpicelli nominated Mrs. King. Seconded by Mr. Harris. So voted 6-1. Mr. Croston was opposed.
- d) **Adoption of Code of Basic Management Principles and Ethical School Standards.** Mr. Croston made a motion to adopt the Code of Basic Management Principles and Ethical School Standards. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 7-0.
- e) **Establishment of Meeting Date and Time.** Mr. Croston made a motion to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month or as called by the Chair and Administration, with the exception of the summer months, where we have one meeting per month, at 7:00 PM. Mr. Harris amended the motion to have one day per month and adding another meeting if needed. Dr. Lusi suggested that a friendly compromise would be that each member holds the second and fourth Tuesdays each month. We would try to have one meeting on the second Tuesday and have another one on the fourth Tuesday when needed. That would allow us to have a subcommittee meeting on the second Tuesday, as well. The meetings could be cancelled in consultation with the Committee. Mr. Harris

withdrew his amendment. So voted 7-0. If there's not enough business to occur, the second meeting will be cancelled.

- f) **Appointment of Legal Counsel.** Ms. Wedge made a motion to appoint Stephen Robinson as Legal Counsel. Seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 7-0.
- g) **Schedule Retreat.** Dr. Lusi announced that almost on an annual basis, a School Committee retreat has been scheduled shortly after the election. The purposes are to have a Legal and Ethics Review (further discussion based on presentations at RIASC), Review the By-Laws, Establish Norms and Expectations, discuss the Legislative Agenda, and have an initial discussion about the budget. The School Committee is authorized to add additional items. Mr. Croston made a motion to schedule the retreat. Seconded by Mr. Vadney. The preference of the Committee is to meet in the evening and weekend. So voted 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti reported on the following:
 - Encouraged the public to sign up to speak during the Public Comment section.
 - Elmhurst reverts to the Town on December 1st.
 - Ms. Perrotti's vision for the School Committee is academics. She wants to set high standards and challenge them. She is disturbed by RIDE's proposal for a multi-tier diploma system. She feels it is lowering the bar. She supports the BEP's overarching goal.
 - Encouraged School Committee members to visit classrooms, and extended the invitation to the public. Visits must be scheduled through the superintendent in concert with the principal.
 - Negotiate a fair contract with our teachers.
 - Scrub the budget, look for efficiencies, use EBEC more.
 - Discuss with Little Compton the issue of educating their students.
 - Find ways to control Special Education costs.
 - Find ways to collaborate more with Middletown and Newport.
 - Review performance criteria of the Superintendent.
 - Explore unfunded mandates.
 - Revise the Strategic Plan.
 - Review the policy books and meeting minutes policy.
 - Review BEP
 - Evaluate summer school policies

2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi reported on the following:
 - Congratulated newly elected and continuing School Committee members.

- Congratulated Mrs. Perrotti, Mr. Harris and Mrs. King for their election.
- Has been visiting teachers and staff at the schools.
- Encouraged the School Committee to visit classrooms and take tours. She extended the same invitation to the Town Council members.
- Mr. Croston, Mrs. Jermain, and Dr. Lusi attended a meeting along with representatives from Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, and Tiverton (preplanning meeting) with the Newport County Fund to further discuss the AIM Academy at PHS. Further information has been requested. She hopes to hear back in December.
- On Monday, November 15th, Governor Carcieri, Raytheon, and EBEC hosted a celebration of Physics First at Raytheon. It was a very nice showcase for all districts involved in that effort, particularly for Portsmouth. Jeffrey Schoonover spoke, and there was a panel of 6 students from Portsmouth.
- PMS was just notified that they received a \$42,000 grant from the Champlin Foundation for a musical computer lab that will enable students to compose their own pieces. Mr. Amaral is hopeful that it will be up and running in January and will offer tours.

a) Teaching and Learning: Absent.

b) Finance and Operations: Mr. Dunham reported on the following:

- Congratulated the new members.
- Distributed the financials through October 31st.

c) High School Liaison: Absent.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Volpicelli and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 9, 2010. So voted 5-0. Mr. Harris and Mr. Vadney did not vote, as they were not Committee members at the time of that meeting.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a) **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 Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 7-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Agenda Item Request – In-kind Donations by PYB and CAL for PMS Gymnasium.**
This item was requested by Mr. Jeff Swider and Mr. Keith Kelley. Mr. Croston made a motion to approve the in-kind donations by PYB and CAL for discussion purposes. Dr. Lusi stated that the School Department charges facilities use fees. We have a practice with groups such as PYB that if they want to make in-kind donations of equipment and/or materials that we would want or use, we would excuse the facilities use fees, with the exception of custodial fees. These donations were discussed with Mr. Lunney and Mr. Amaral. Mr. Swider has assured her that installation costs are included in the donation. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 7-0.
- b) **Agenda Item Request – Elementary Arts and Music.** This item was requested by Mrs. Perrotti. Mrs. Perrotti inquired about the \$30,031 that was deducted from the program. Dr. Lusi explained that initially, the program was reduced to half year. With the restoration of half of the original reduction, we will reinstitute full art and music at the start of second semester, and the students will get three-quarters of a year of art and music.
- c) **Agenda Item Request – Creation of a School Committee/Town Council Joint Healthcare Commission.** This item was requested by Mrs. Perrotti on Mr. Harris' behalf. Mr. Harris stated that the Town Council assigned Keith Hamilton to this effort. Mr. Croston stated that we are better off appointing Mr. Harris to the Town Council's committee, as opposed to forming a commission. Mr. Vadney stated that we can only have one commission. Mr. Croston made a motion to appoint Mr. Harris, with the assistance of Mr. Dunham, to the Town Council's commission on healthcare. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. Mr. Vadney stated that these meetings are covered by the open meetings act and would be good meetings to attend. So voted 7-0.
- d) **Student Enrollment Report.** Dr. Lusi reported that every year at this time, she reports on student enrollment. The snapshot on October 1st is what is used statewide for enrollment purposes. As of October 1st, there were 2773 students, which is exactly what NESDEC projected, although there are differences from grade level to grade level. Mrs. Perrotti pointed out that our student population is declining.

Mr. Croston made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:55 PM and resumed at 9:35 PM.

Mr. Croston made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Harris. So voted 7-0.

Mrs. Perrotti stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session. She appointed herself, Mr. Harris, and Mrs. King to the Negotiations Subcommittee.

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk