

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM by the Chair, Mrs. Perrotti, and the following members were present:

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

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Mark Dunham, Patti Cofield, and Madison Burns (7:00 PM)

Absent: Assistant Superintendent Jermain

A motion was made by Mr. Harris 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.

The Public Session recessed at 6:36 PM and reconvened at 7:10 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti reported on the following:
 - An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting, and no votes were taken.
 - Mr. Harris made a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.
 - The Aquidneck Island Group met on Monday, December 13th, and folks from NESDEC were in attendance. The NESDEC educational benefits study should be completed around January 20th.

2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi reported on the following:
 - Congratulated Jeffrey Schoonover for receiving a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, which is a National award.
 - On Tuesday, December 21, Dr. Lusi will be appointed to the Rhode Island State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, pursuant to Executive Order 10-18 to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Participating in the Military Compact was one of the items on the School Committee's Legislative Agenda in 2010. Superintendent Kraeger will be the Compact Commissioner.
 - Dr. Lusi, Superintendent Ambrogi, and Superintendent Kraeger met this morning with Ray DePasquale, the Commissioner of Higher Education and President of CCRI, to discuss data on the preparedness of students who enter community college. We will have further discussions on how to make a better transition for those students.
 - Mrs. Jermain is away this evening.
 - a) **Teaching and Learning:** No report.
 - b) **Finance and Operations:** No report.

- c) High School Liaison: Madison Burns reported the following:
- An Anti-bullying presentation was held last week at PHS.
 - Santa's Workshop was held on Saturday.
 - There have been ongoing drives for coats, pajamas, and canned foods for various charities over the past few weeks.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 23, 2010. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Appt. - PMS Chess Coach.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee approves the appointment of Brian Schopfer as Chess Coach at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2010-11 school year."
- b) **Appt. – Student Activity Advisors, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee approves the appointments of the listed individuals to the student activity advisor positions at Portsmouth High School for the 2010-11 school year."
- c) **Part-Time Clerk Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Ginger Marren, Part-Time Clerk at Portsmouth Middle School, effective December 31, 2010."

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following appointments:

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) PMS Chess Coach: | Brian Schopfer |
| b) Student Council/Activities Advisor | Michael Lunney |
| Multicultural Explorers Advisors | Kristin Tisdale/Lynn Hoegen |
| National Honor Society Advisor | Melissa Bellotti |
| Outdoor Club Advisor | Marjorie Cogar |
| Freshman Class Co-Advisor | Jennifer Riechers/Cindy Pires |
| Sophomore Class Co-Advisors | Charity Shea/Rusty Forgue |
| Junior Class Co-Advisors | Sandra Warshauer/Donald Carrara |
| Senior Class Co-Advisors | Vicky Clark/J. P. Arsenault |
| Flag Team Advisor | Lisa Mailloux |
| Math Club Advisor | Katie Baskins |
| Assistant Band Director | Timothy Marum |

Drama Club Advisor	Donald Carrara
Ski/Snowboard Club Advisor	Joel DeMarco
Newspaper Advisor	Sandy Oxx
Oceanography Club	Elaine Amaral
Yearbook Advisor	Kevin Reilly
SADD C0-Advisors	Andrea Hogan
Choral Director Stipend	Meryl Moore
Intramurals Advisor	Nancy Fitzgerald
Student as Mediators Advisor	Vicky Hathaway
Circle of Friends	Peter Dugan
Chess Club Advisor	David West
Band Director's Stipend	Ted Rausch
Art Honor Society	Mary Ellen Johnson

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None.

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

a) **Appointment of School Committee Subcommittees.** Presented by Mrs. Perrotti.

- 1) Policy: Mrs. King, Mr. Vadney, and Mr. Croston
- 2) Finance: Mrs. Perrotti, Mr. Harris, and Mrs. King
- 3) Facilities: Mr. Croston and Mr. Harris
- 4) Health & Wellness: Ms. Volpicelli
- 5) Special Education: Mrs. King and Mr. Vadney. This subcommittee has been created to look at cost effective ways to provide Special Education services.
- 6) Alternative Revenue: Mr. Croston, Ms. Volpicelli, and Mrs. King. This subcommittee has been created to study the viability of the alternative academy and other alternative sources.
- 7) Aquidneck Island Group: Mr. Vadney and Ms. Wedge. This is the subcommittee that studies regionalization.
- 8) Negotiations: Mr. Harris, Mrs. Perrotti, and Mrs. King

Mr. Harris motion to approve the slate of members to the subcommittees. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.

- b) **Discussion/Action – Stage 1 RIDE School Construction Approval and Next Steps.** Mrs. Perrotti stated that the Stage 1 request was submitted to RIDE, and we received an approval letter from them on December 7th. The next step is to move forward with the Stage 2 application process. We need to discuss how we can meet the requirements of RIDE and get a bond referendum in 2011. The Town Council wants to have the referendum in 2012, so there is a better turnout because it is a general election year. Dr. Lusi stated that it is not clear to her that we can meet the Town Council's desire and the RIDE requirements. Dr. Lusi referred to the RIDE/Project Timeline sheet that Mrs. Perrotti distributed. After Stage 1 approval, we have only 1 year to complete Stage 2. Then we need to obtain the Board of Regents approval. After that, we have half a year to get local approval. Dr. Lusi stated that the danger is that the School Committee paid \$51,000 for the RGB study and an additional \$5,000 when we asked RGB to update the plan and add in the full-day kindergarten piece. If we don't meet the RIDE timeline, her understanding of the regulations is that we start again. We contracted with RGB in September of 2008. If we start again in 2011, the information and pricing would be 3 years old. The other piece we need to fully understand is we need some kind of housing aid approval in order to be reimbursed from the State of Rhode Island. Dr. Lusi stated one positive thing under the new funding formula is that the reimbursement rate went from 30 percent to 40 percent. Mrs. Perrotti stated that during Stage 2, more architectural studies need to be done; and she asked if we had money in the budget for that. Mr. Dunham replied no. Mrs. Perrotti suggested that this matter be reviewed by the Facilities Subcommittee. She stated that we are not prepared to do the next step because we don't have the money for the architectural studies. She also stated that she did not approve the Facilities Plan. Mr. Harris made a motion to recognize that Stage 1 has RIDE approval, and the Facilities Subcommittee will review the next steps. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.
- c) **Report on NESDEC Student Enrollment Projections.** Dr. Lusi reviewed the enrollment projections charts. For next year, NESDEC is projecting that Portsmouth will lose 51 students system-wide: 28 fewer in Prek-3, 28 fewer students in Grades 9-12, with 5 additional at the Grade 4-8 level. This projection includes Little Compton students in Grades 9-12. There are a lot of assumptions in these projections. Rhode Island and other states have been declining in enrollment, and the population is projected to slowly decline during the 2012-2017 timeframe. A lot depends on the economy, the housing market, birth rates, etc.
- d) **Discussion/Approval – October Financial Reports.** Mr. Dunham reviewed the reports. This expenditure report included restricted funds. Next month, the report will just be the operating and revenue expenses. In January, it will be the quarterly report with restricted funds. Mrs. Perrotti stated that she would like Gate Receipts included on the quarterly report. Mrs. Perrotti inquired about Summer School monies. Mr. Dunham stated that the summer school monies are collected and spent in the summer. He will give a report if

the Committee desires. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the October Financial Reports as presented. So voted 7-0.

- e) **Report on Medicaid Receipts and Approval of Transfer of Funds.** A motion to approve the transfer of \$150,000 of Medicaid receipts for use as revenue for the 2010-11 operating budget was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.
- f) **Bid Award - OPEB Actuarial Services Contract.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to award the contract for OPEB valuation services for June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2013, to Nyhart for \$6,500 for each year, with the costs to be split equally between the Town and the School Department (\$3,250 each). Seconded by Mrs. King. Mrs. Perrotti announced that this is a requirement that we do every two years. It was a competitive bid, and by working with the Town, the bids came in 35 percent cheaper. So voted 7-0. (Budget Line 1-10000000-02100-332-00-2500-53401)
- g) **Q&A re Regents Discussion of Proposed Tiered Graduation Diplomas.** Dr. Lusi had emailed the School Committee the handouts from the RIDE webinar regarding High School diplomas and discussion. It is still under discussion and not out for public comment. However, she was alerted that some committee members had questions. The proposal being discussed is moving to a 3-tiered diploma system. The PROJO is not fully accurate in its description. These three tiers have been characterized as lowering the expectations. The proposed "Rhode Island Diploma" is actually meeting the standards that are currently in the regulations for 2012. That diploma requires partial proficiency on NECAP and completion of local requirements for coursework and performance based requirements, such as Senior Project. In the current regulations, it states that no child could be prevented from graduation solely on their test scores. Being discussed is whether or not a student who makes improvement on the NECAP scores between Grades 11 and 12 can graduate. As you move up the tiers of the diploma system under discussion, it is having a higher rate of proficiency on the NECAPs. There is also language on meeting local honors requirements. Mr. Vadney asked about the first tier diploma. Dr. Lusi stated that those students should be work and college ready. This 3-tiered system would go into effect for the Class of 2013. Dr. Lusi stated that for 2012, students need to be partially proficient or have proven significant growth.
- h) **Consideration of AAUW Proposal to Host Regional Forum.** Dr. Lusi stated that AAUW has contacted each district and School Committee on Aquidneck Island. The AAUW group is proposing hosting a forum in the spring entitled, "Education Reform – Is Regionalization the answer?" They are looking for a motion from the School Committee in support of their effort. Mr. Harris made a motion to consider the AAUW proposal to attend the regional forum. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0. Mrs. Cofield will send a letter in response describing the School Committee's action.

- i) **Discussion re Meeting Organization, Retreat, and Potential Topics.** Dr. Lusi distributed and reviewed a draft of the School Committee Meeting Outline and Agenda Topics sheet. She announced that the Commissioner is coming to Portsmouth on January 27th and has asked the School Committee to host a forum. Mrs. Perrotti encouraged the subcommittee chairs to hold their meetings at 6:30 pm or later so the public has a chance to attend. She encouraged the School Committee members to attend any subcommittee meetings, even if they are not on it.

Mrs. Perrotti stated that the next School Committee meeting will be held on January 11th.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk