

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Mark Dunham, Patti Cofield, Attorney Robinson, and Madison Burns (7:00 pm).

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 6:31 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti reported on the following:

- An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting. One vote was taken on a personnel matter. A motion was made to seal the minutes of the Executive Session by Mr. Harris. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.
- Item 6.c) Discussion of NEA Contract was withdrawn from the agenda, and Item 6.d) Policy 4111 Procedures was tabled until the April 12th meeting.
- PHS Music Department is presenting "The Music Man" Thursday through Saturday at PHS.

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

- NECAP scores were released a few weeks ago. Mrs. Jermain will give a presentation in April.
- Attended a meeting on UCOA last week with Mr. Dunham and Mrs. Jermain. A meeting for Superintendents is being held this week. Data is scheduled to be released on March 15th. The challenge with the release of information is for RIDE to figure out how to help the public understand the information.
- There were a lot of Race to the Top meetings. Dr. Lusi attended a teacher evaluation session yesterday, and our teachers and administrators have agreed to pilot this system. The state is working to collect questions and respond to them.
- It is National Arts month, and an elementary art exhibit is being held at Newport Art Museum this Thursday from 5:00-8:00 PM.

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

- PHS has artwork on display at Custom House Coffee for Arts month.
- Portsmouth did well on the NECAPs. Teachers are working very hard, and it shows in our scores. Portsmouth is noted as one of the very few districts that has shown

statistically significant gains over the past 5 years. It goes to the hard work in the classroom and curriculum and putting in time with the students.

- When the NECAP test scores are released, teachers will be allowed to go in and see their current and last year's students' scores to see where growth has taken place and what they need to focus on with students going forward.
- Professional development is defined and determined by all the work we do in our classrooms and the learning needs of our students. Going forward, Portsmouth is piloting the Rhode Island Teachers Evaluation Model. This model should help our teachers with professional teaching goals and student learning goals. In conjunction with this, administrators and teachers will soon be learning about the new growth model and how to determine student growth in learning from year to year. She will be attending a session on how to determine the process and wants to get teachers involved as well.
- Some PHS and PMS teachers are participating in the RITES project this year, which is part of STEM. We've had 8 teachers volunteer so far to participate. They will go through specific training, receive stipends, and receive significant resources for their classroom.
- Science Dana work is continuing. Curriculum alignment is going on, and it may have some implications on how we use Science Kites kits going forward. She will be polling the K-8 teachers on what is/isn't working. Portsmouth has been working with Betty Calise in Barrington and other districts to coordinate our efforts with teacher input and purchasing going forward collaboratively.
- Thanked PMS for a great morning of Mardi Gras.

b) Finance and Operations: No report.

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

- It is Foreign Language week at PHS. Activities include trivia questions during advisory period, announcing the birthdays each morning in different languages, and international volleyball after school.
- Project Unity: Members of Shea High School's Student Council will shadow the PHS student council this Friday, and members of our Student Council will shadow their student council next Friday. The purpose is to learn about what they do in their school system.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 25, 2011, February 3, 2011, and February 8, 2011. So voted.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Athletic Director Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Michael Lunney, Athletic Director, effective March 4, 2011.
- b) **Teacher Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Suzanne Roklan, Grade 1 Teacher at Melville School, effective April 15, 2011.
- c) **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 spring season as presented.”
- d) **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 spring season as presented.”

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

PHS:

Ron Westmoreland	Head Coach	Baseball
Matt McGuire	Assistant Coach	Baseball
Jacob Ferreira	Assistant Coach	Baseball
Jeff Rose	Assistant Coach	Boys Track

Re-appointments:

Tom Galib	Head Coach	Softball
Karen Byrne	Assistant Coach	Softball
Mike Medeiros	Head Coach	Boys Tennis
Gary Dorsi	Head Coach	Golf
Mike Borrosh	Head Coach	Girls Lacrosse
Bill Waterman	Volunteer	Girls Lacrosse
Tara McCarthy	Volunteer	Girls Lacrosse
John Heino	Head Coach	Boys Lacrosse
Shaun Horgan	Head Coach	Boys Track
Steve Trezvant	Head Coach	Girls Track

PMS

Ashley Acciaro	Co-Coach	Softball
Nancy Mendonca	Co-Coach	Softball
Kevin Weaver	Coach	Baseball
Katie Chadwick	Asst. Coach	Track and Field

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: Alan Shers, 40 Roger Williams Court, feels that various children have too much free time on their hands after school. He supports school programs to remain active for all students, such as sports, clubs, and activities; and he'd like to see a self-sufficiency course on coping in the real world offered and run by volunteers. He suggested having one organizer at the school with the program up and running by next year.
6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**
 - a) **Elementary Schools Presentation on Statistics, Program Information, and Curriculum.** Mr. Ettinger and Dr. Olson gave an informative presentation on the statistics, programs, and curriculum at the elementary level. There is a very strong focus on ELA/literacy, math, and science. Dr. Lusi highlighted the common themes across the elementary, middle and high school presentations: Moving student achievement forward and really focusing in that area; developing a guaranteed a viable curriculum, with strong efforts on differentiated instruction; using data and giving teachers and administrators the time and access to use that data to thoughtfully adjust teaching and curriculum to better assist our students; and opening the classroom doors and sharing work and working together in teams. Dr. Lusi stated that the professional development the district is doing is very good but not enough. Professional development is funded entirely through our restricted funds, and we haven't invested any local funds. Mrs. Perrotti stated that she supports additional planning time, data hours, and professional development.
 - b) **Technology Report.** Rose Muller and Gail Darmody gave an informative presentation on our present technology and future goals.
 - c) **Discussion/Action/Ratification – NEA Portsmouth Contract.** This item was withdrawn.
 - d) **Approval of Procedures for Policy #4111 – Selection and Appointment of School Personnel, 2nd Reading and Adoption.** This item was tabled until the April 12th meeting.
 - e) **Discussion/Action - Superintendent Search Subcommittee Requests.** Al Honnen, Chair of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee needs to meet with the School Committee to obtain the Committee's input on qualities they would like to see in the next Superintendent. That meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10th. Mr. Dunham stated that two bids were received in response to the RFP for an outside search firm. They were from BES Educators and NESDEC. Mr. Honnen stated that the subcommittee does not want to hire an outside firm.

- 1) Approval of Search Committee Timeline: A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the timeline. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.
 - 2) Approval of Advertisements: The School Committee agreed on a salary range of \$125,000 to \$145,000 for the new superintendent. A motion was made by Mr. Croston to approve the advertisement with the salary change of \$125,000 to \$145,000. Seconded by Mr. Harris. So voted 7-0.
 - 3) Development of New Superintendent's Financial Package (salary, benefits, relocation funds, etc.) Mr. Honnen stated that this portion of the package needs to be developed and negotiated at a later time. Mrs. Perrotti stated that it should be similar to what we are negotiating with the teachers and administrators. Mr. Honnen feels that if the right person is found, there needs to be some flexibility. Mrs. Perrotti stated that she is not opposed to paying relocation fees for the right person. This item was tabled to a future meeting.
- f) **Appointment to School Committee Subcommittee.** Mrs. Perrotti appointed Ms. Volpicelli to the Special Education subcommittee.

Mrs. Perrotti excused herself from the meeting at 8:45 PM.

- g) **Discussion/Action – Authorizing Utilities Contracts.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston to authorize the Finance Office to authorize our vendors, Constellation Energy (electric) and Direct Energy (gas), to lock in the best per unit price for the School Department, and to bring the contracts to a future meeting for ratification for a period not-to-exceed two (2) years. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.
- h) **Report on January Financials.** Mr. Dunham stated that the January report includes several months of information, which allows for a more meaningful analysis and provides more trend data than previous months. The second quarter expenditure and revenue forecasts for the State and Federal restricted funds were also included. Regarding revenue, Mr. Dunham reported that the Department's largest revenue sources, the Town appropriation and State Aid to Education, are being received as projected. In addition to the small positive variance in tuition (\$1,000), there is also a positive variance being projected for Little Compton tuitions due to three more students than anticipated at this time. The negative variance in the Other Financing Sources revenue line has increased to \$15,000, due to the potential loss of revenue caused by down time of the wind turbine. Expenditures are tracking according to budget appropriations with unremarkable budget line variances at this time, with the exception of the Snow Removal Budget line. A budget transfer is being requested to cover the projected over-expenditure in the Snow Removal Budget line due to the unusually high accumulation of snow fall received to

date. As we move forward into the year, the budget may be impacted by events such as continued adverse weather conditions, student placement and registration, the difficult financial climate, and the outstanding unsettled labor agreement with the teachers. All these conditions will be continuously monitored, and the budget will be managed accordingly. By far, the most significant unknown, which will have the largest effect on the budget, is the expired agreement with the teachers' union. The manner in which these and similar events occur and are resolved will have an impact on the year-end result of the 2010-11 budget. There is a small surplus of funds being projected for year-end, approximately \$100,000 (revenue and expenditures combined). This amount is less than one-third of one percent of the total budget. Last January 31st, the year-end projection was a positive \$200,000.

- i) **Budget Transfers.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the budget transfers as presented. So voted 6-0.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Alternative Revenue.** Mr. Croston reported that he met with Senator Lou DiPalma, who suggested that our Committee puts forth a STEM resolution in generic form. He read and distributed a draft resolution. He thinks it would be beneficial to share the resolution with other Aquidneck Island and East Bay districts. He asked the Chair to bring it forward at the March 22nd meeting for approval.
- b) **Aquidneck Island Study Group.** Mr. Vadney stated that the Study Group requested that NESDEC rewrites Phase 1 of their report, and it is due in the next several weeks.
- c) **Facilities.** Mr. Croston reported that a meeting was held earlier in the evening. They are working on a survey that will be sent out to the public in April. The purpose of the survey would be to get the public's input on how we should proceed with our buildings and new construction.
- d) **Finance.** Mr. Harris reported that weekly meetings have been taking place in order to get the budget ready to present to the Town Council on March 25th. The next subcommittee meeting will be held Thursday at 6:30 PM in the PHS Library.
- e) **Health & Wellness.** Ms. Volpicelli stated that the next meeting will be held on May 3rd.
- f) **Healthcare Commission.** No report.
- g) **Negotiations.** Mr. Harris reported that we are still in mediation.

- h) **Policy.** No report.
- i) **Special Education.** Mrs. King reported that the next meeting will be held on April 10th at 4:30 PM at the Administration Building.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0. Public Session adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk