

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Chair, Mrs. Cynthia Perrotti.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Perrotti, Chair; Jonathan Harris, Vice Chair; Marilyn King, Clerk; Angela Volpicelli; Thomas Vadney; and Sylvia Wedge.

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

ABSENT: David Croston

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti reported on the following:
 - Mr. Croston was absent from the meeting due to a family commitment.
 - Attended the PPEF Hidden Kitchen Tour.
 2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi reported on the following:
 - RISSA/RIASBO Meeting on Friday, May 13th. Rick Hess, editor of *Stretching Your School Dollar*, will be the keynote speaker.
 - The MUSE Opening Reception (PHS, MET, and Rogers Artwork) is Thursday, May 12th, from 5:00-7:00 PM.
 - The PMS production of Aladdin will be held on Thursday and Friday at 6:30 PM and Saturday at 4:00 PM.
 - Congratulated Mr. Erin Escher for receiving the Presidential Award in Science Teaching Excellence.
 - The School Committee's budget presentation to the Town Council will take place on May 17th at 7:00 PM.
 - All of our schools met Adequate Yearly Progress on the NECAPs.
 - GoLocalProv published their second annual report on Rhode Island's Top High Schools. This year Portsmouth ranked 12, last year we ranked 17. To come up with the rankings, GoLocalProv gathered hundreds of pieces of data related to school quality: reading, math, and writing test scores (NECAP and SATs), student-teacher ratios, spending per pupil, and graduation rates, for 51 public, charter, and technical schools in the state.
- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported on the following:
- All content areas teams have been meeting to work on strategic objectives in our plan.
 - Dana science work is in full gear panning out our summer schedules. During the weeks of July 11 and 18, teams of teachers will be working on lesson plans and curriculum development.
 - The Kindergarten group is creating a pilot program for this summer where we will be offering our Kindergarten students a special program to help them be school ready and also help to reinforce basic skills we would like our students to have upon entering. We are thinking of stretching these cohorts over the school year to trace the students' progress to see if it is working. This is indirectly related to our strategic plan in regards to full-day kindergarten.

- b) Finance and Operations: Mr. Dunham reported on the following:
- Item k) on the Business Agenda was withdrawn.
- c) High School Liaison: Madison Burns reported on the following:
- Very busy time of year preparing for Senior Project Presentations and graduation.
 - Lot of testing going on. Advanced Placement testing has been taking place. Next week is Science NECAP testing for juniors.
 - Senior project portfolios are due tomorrow. The seniors will be presenting their portfolios to advisories to practice their skills on Thursday.
 - This Thursday is the annual variety show.
 - Friday night is the annual Froshmore Dance.
 - Next Friday is the last blood drive of the school year. Another one will be held in July.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 26, 2011. So voted 4-0-2. Mrs. King and Ms. Volpicelli abstained due to their absence from that meeting.

4. SPOTLIGHT

- a) **Student Achievement in the AATF - National French Contest.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to commend PHS Senior Cameron McDonald for his achievement in the National French Contest given by the American Association of Teachers of French. So voted 6-0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Teacher Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation for retirement as presented.”

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0. Dr. Lusi announced the retirement of Mrs. Colleen Doport from the position of Grade 2 Teacher at Melville School.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. John Wojichowski, 8 Eyley Drive, is the President of the Portsmouth Baseball Diamond Club, a non-profit organization that raises money solely for the PHS baseball program and organizes field days to prepare the field in the spring and winterize the facility in the fall. Since 2003, the Diamond Club has raised over \$50,000 for the program; and later this summer they will seek permission from the School Committee for a new infield at \$18,000. All funds would come from fundraising efforts. Mr. Wojichowski

stated that a men's league that uses the field on Sunday mornings, and he is concerned about the league being given a key to access the building behind home plate. That building houses PHS baseball equipment, concessions, apparel for sale, and the press box on the second floor. He asked for clarification on the policy regarding giving keys to outside leagues. Mrs. Perrotti asked Mr. Dunham to look into it and report back at the next meeting. Mr. Dunham stated that a key would not be given out, but he will look into it.

7. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Agenda Item Request – Girls' Co-Op Hockey Program.** Mrs. Michele Makucevich is a parent of an 8th grade girl who is interested in playing hockey on a girls' team in high school to prepare her for the possibility of playing college hockey. However, PHS has only a boys' hockey team, and she does not want her daughter playing hockey with boys because of their size, aggressiveness on the ice, and checking. Her daughter has had several concussions already, and she wants her to play on a girls' team because checking is not allowed. She is not asking to start a girls' program at PHS, but rather to join a co-op with Barrington and Mount Hope High Schools. Three schools are allowed to be part of a co-op under the RIIL rules. Mrs. Makucevich stated that she contacted Mr. Littlefield on a few occasions, and he is opposed to joining the co-op because he doesn't think it's fair for the School Department to fund one hockey player. Mrs. Makucevich offered to pay the cost for her daughter to participate, which is approximately \$800. She is asking for the School Committee to tell Mr. Littlefield that joining the co-op is something we should consider. Dr. Lusi stated that Mr. Littlefield wrote a memo to her regarding his concerns about co-op teams. He has questions regarding selection of coaches, supervisory responsibilities for the coaches, scheduling, differing school policies and missions, recourse, etc. Dr. Lusi recommended that the School Committee authorizes her to obtain legal advice on this matter due to the fact that the state doesn't allow "pay to play." Mrs. Makucevich stated that she would donate the cost of her daughter to play on the co-op team to the PHS Athletic Department. A motion was made by Mr. Harris to authorize Dr. Lusi to discuss the matter with legal counsel to determine if there are any roadblocks and come back to the School Committee. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.
- b) **Update on Portsmouth United for Education.** Mrs. Marianne Raymo explained that Portsmouth United for Education is a 501(c)3 that was created so that all of the different PTOs and booster groups could get non-profit status through the IRS without having to do it on their own. Dr. Lusi stated that it grew out of an audit recommendation about five years ago that said that all of these groups should be independent 501(c)3s. Mrs. Raymo stated that Portsmouth United does a group tax return, a copy of which was distributed to the School Committee. Mrs. Perrotti pointed out Line 18 on Page 1 that indicated that \$317,000 was spent to benefit the students in 2010. She thanked Portsmouth United for

their help. Mrs. Raymo stated that the next meeting of Portsmouth United will be held on Monday, May 23rd, at 6:30 PM, at the PMS Library.

- c) **Technology Plan Update.** Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported that the School Committee received the draft copy of the Technology Plan approximately six weeks ago. The state requires that the School Committee approves the plan in order for Portsmouth to receive eRate funding for our school system. The plan has been updated, and the final copy has no major changes from the draft except tweaking of language and the addition of an executive summary that highlights what has been going on and what will be going on next year. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the Technology Plan as presented. So voted 6-0.
- d) **NECAP Report.** Assistant Superintendent Jermain gave a PowerPoint presentation on the NECAP scores. The presentation showed the district has made significant student achievement gains in math in all schools, and in literacy in three schools over the past five years. Assistant Superintendent Jermain applauded all the teachers and schools for their work in almost doubling student achievement from proficiency to proficiency with distinction. The district will continue its efforts in writing across all grade levels and has made adjustments in the curriculum this year to meet the small decline from grade three to four in literacy. The district teachers are also focusing teaching strategies and targeting their work with students on constructed response answers. There is still a lot of work to do, but our district is doing well, we have a lot to be proud of, and continue our focus to provide the best educational opportunities for all our students.
- e) **Discussion/Action – Contract Continuation Resolution.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the resolution opposing legislation on contract continuation. So voted 6-0.
- f) **Policy #4351 Webmail Guidelines – 2nd Reading/Adoption.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve as a second reading and adopt the revisions to Policy #4351 Webmail Guidelines, as presented. So voted 6-0.
- g) **Policy #4355 Information Technology Equipment – 2nd Reading/Adoption.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve as a second reading and adopt the revisions to Policy #4355 Information Technology Equipment, as presented. So voted 6-0.
- h) **Policy #1440 Title I Parent Involvement – 2nd Reading/Adoption.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve as a second reading and adopt the revisions to Policy #1440 Title I Parent Involvement, as presented. So voted 6-0.

- i) **Discussion/Action – Appropriation to Share Cost of Actuary/Pension Firm with Town – Not to Exceed \$5,000.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the appropriation of an amount not-to-exceed \$5,000 to hire an actuary/pension firm with the Town. So voted 6-0.
- j) **Discussion/Action – School Lunch Price Increase.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve a 5 cent increase in the school lunch price. So voted 6-0.
- k) **Discussion/Action – Part-time Salaries.** This item was withdrawn.

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Alternative Revenue.** No report.
- b) **Aquidneck Island Study Group.** The School Committee will discuss regionalization at its next meeting.
- c) **Facilities.** No report.
- d) **Finance.** The School Department's budget will be presented to the Town Council on May 17.
- e) **Health and Wellness.** Ms. Volpicelli reported that the subcommittee met on May 9th at the Administration building. The revised draft changes for the Health and Wellness policy were discussed. Mrs. Jermain went to Hathaway School, PMS, and PHS to review the policy, while Dr. Olson reviewed it at Melville School. The constant theme was balance, not eliminating foods, and there was a concern about cancelling celebrations at the elementary level. Ms. Volpicelli read the revised policy. The Healthy Schools Coalition Annual Breakfast will be held on Friday, September 23rd, where initiatives around health and wellness are recognized. The four Health and Wellness subcommittee meetings for the 2011-12 school year will be held on the second Monday of the designated month. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 12th, at 6:00 PM, at the Administration.
- f) **Healthcare Commission.** No report.
- g) **Negotiations.** Mr. Harris reported that we are awaiting arbitration with NEA, and the subcommittee has begun negotiations with Council 94.
- h) **Policy.** No Report.
- i) **Special Education.** No Report.

- j) **Superintendent Search.** Mrs. Perrotti reported that there were 15 applicants for the position of Superintendent. The subcommittee has been busy reviewing applications and checking references. They will begin interviewing candidates this week and will recommend up to three candidates to the School Committee by the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King 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. So voted 6-0.

Public Session recessed at 8:56 PM and resumed at 10:06 PM.

Mrs. Perrotti stated that an Executive Session was held at 9:00 PM for the purpose of obtaining legal advice regarding litigation and negotiations. No votes were taken. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 6-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. Public Session adjourned at 10:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk