

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Chair, Mrs. Perrotti.

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

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

ABSENT: Madison Burns

A motion was made by Mr. Croston 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 7:30 PM.

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

- An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting. One vote taken on negotiations. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to seal the minutes. So voted.
- Participated in graduation ceremonies and it was a very rewarding experience.
- Last night, the Town Council met and approved our resolutions on: Mandatory Contract Continuation, Mandatory Binding Arbitration, and Opposition to Mandated Consolidation or Regionalization of Portsmouth School Department with Middletown or Newport.
- The budget hearing will be held on June 22nd at 7:00 PM at PMS.
- The tentative date for arbitration with NEA Portsmouth is July 13th. Last Tuesday, the School Committee filed for declaratory judgment against the teachers union, the Board of Regents, and Commissioner Gist, in order to get a clear answer on how the parties need to proceed regarding moving away from the use of seniority for teacher placements in accordance with the new BEP. The School Committee maintains that it has the right and responsibility to implement its staffing policy that calls for placing teachers based on qualifications and performance, rather than solely on seniority. NEA Portsmouth maintains that any changes in the staffing process must be contractually negotiated. The parties have been in disagreement on this matter for nearly a year. The School Committee hopes that this court action will provide clarity to all sides.
- Publicly thanked Dr. Lusi for her leadership, tenacity, and dedication; and wished her well in her future endeavors.

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

- Announced that it was a pleasure to work in Portsmouth, and she hopes to announce shortly her next employment opportunity.
- Congratulated a Christine Homen, Michelle Michno, and Lisa Mello for applying to participate in the Principal Residency Network, a program out of Johnson and Wales

University, which allows teachers to prepare for a principal's certificate while practicing. The initial problem is that teachers need to substantial release from their teaching duties. We couldn't offer that from a budget standpoint. As a result, Mr. Amaral and Mr. Arruda have designed a program that will allow all three of them to participate. There is grant money to support them in Saturday programs. Mr. Amaral, Mr. Arruda, and Mrs. Jermain will serve as their mentors.

- Congratulated Jodi Clark, who was chosen in a very competitive process to be an Induction Coach with RIDE. This is a program through RTTT funding and the Strategic Plan that provides induction coaches to new teachers. Approximately 96 applied, 44 were interviewed, and 10 were selected, including Jodi Clark. Lisa Ridder is one of the 9 alternates. The Induction Coaches will be assigned to RIDE full time and continue to be paid salary and benefits; however, RIDE will reimburse the district for the full cost. The program is from 1 to 3 years, and we will find a replacement teacher. The Induction Coach will bring enormous experience to our system.
 - Policy 4111 update: The assignment process is going well; however, there have been some difficulties. Ongoing contractual issues have affected the process, however, retired teachers and other educators have elected to serve. Our attorney advised that if someone is displaced and guaranteed a job, they do not come back for reappointment, as former job fair positions did not go in front of the School Committee for reappointment. Four teachers have gone through the interview process so far and have been selected for positions. Some were selected to their old positions, but others to new positions. The School Committee rescinds teacher non-renewals. We try to bring as many people back before the end of the school year so that they are not eligible to apply for unemployment.
- a) Teaching and Learning: Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported on the following:
- The focus of the work has been on preparing for summer work and summer school.
- b) Finance and Operations: No report.
- c) High School Liaison: Ms. Burns graduated last Friday.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) **Hathaway School Clerk Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Ruth Ziegler, Hathaway School Clerk, as presented."
- b) **Teacher Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Kathryn Arent, Food and Nutrition Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, as presented."

- c) **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."
- d) **Request for 1-Year Professional Leave of Absence.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request for a 1-year professional leave of absence in accordance with the backup information." (Backup enclosed)
- e) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewal.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee rescinds the non-renewal of Teacher #20 as presented."
- f) **Appt. – Part-Time Clerk, Finance Office.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-6/14/11, to the position of part-time clerk in the Finance Office, effective June 14, 2011."
- g) **Appt. – .2 Library/Media Specialist, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-6/14/11, to the position of .2 Library/Media Specialist at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 30, 2011."
- h) **Appt. – .4 Grade 6 Science/.6 Robotics, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-6/14/11, to the position of .4 Grade 6 Science/.6 Robotics at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 30, 2011."
- i) **Appt. – Summer School Director, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-6/14/11, to the position of Summer School Direction at Portsmouth Middle School, effective June 14, 2011."
- j) **Appt. – Superintendent of Schools.** The School Committee affirms the appointment of Recommendation #5-6/14/11, to the position of Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2011."
- k) **Appt. – PMS House Leaders.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the house leader appointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2011-12 school year as presented."

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 7-0.

Dr. Lusi thanked Ruth Ziegler for her 35 years of dedicated service to the Portsmouth School Department.

Dr. Lusi announced the following appointments. Nicole Klimek, Grade 4; Ruth Donahue, Library Media Specialist; Ashley Acciardo, Robotics/Science; Jodi Reed, Summer School Director at PMS; Karen Pinchook, Part-time clerk in Finance Office; PMS House Leaders: Lisa Mello – Grades 4 and 5, Lisa Pita – Grade 6, Christine Homen – Grade 7, and Lisa Freeman – Grade 8.

Mrs. Perrotti announced the appointment of Dr. Lynn Krizic to the position of Superintendent. The School Committee approved a 3-year contract with a starting salary of \$145,000. Dr. Krizic will begin on Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None.

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

a) **Discussion/Action – Girls’ Hockey Co-Op.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the PHS girls’ hockey co-op with no cost to the district, subject to legal review of the co-op agreement. So voted 6-1. Mr. Croston was opposed.

b) **Discussion/Action – Late Start Days for 2011-12 School Year.** Dr. Lusi distributed a handout entitled “Late Start Days Fact Sheet.” She stated that the School Department is considering instituting Late Start Days 1-2 times per month for the coming school year. The purpose of late start days would be to provide teachers with professional development time without putting substitute teachers in our children’s classrooms so frequently. This would also allow the School Department to provide professional development without paying additional funds to pay either for teacher time or for substitute teachers. Late Start Days would be 1-2 days per month when schools would start 90 minutes later than usual. Busses would run their same routes, but 90 minutes later than usual. Morning K would end 45 minutes later than usual and afternoon K would start 45 minutes later than usual so that each session would have equal time. Dr. Lusi stated that she is not looking for a School Committee vote. She informed them that she would be sending out a survey to parents to obtain feedback regarding Late Start Days and would bring the results back to the Committee for discussion and potential action.

c) **Bid Award – On-Call Contractors.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to award the contract for on-call services as presented. So voted 7-0.

d) **Bid Award – KMC Controls.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to award the contract for installation of KMC Controls as presented. So voted 7-0.

- e) **Bid Award – Food Service Contract.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to award the contract for food service as presented. So voted 7-0.
- f) **Policy #3512, Energy Management, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve Policy #3512, Energy Management, as a first reading. So voted 7-0.
- g) **Policy #3513, Items Unacceptable for Use in Schools, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve Policy #3513, Items Unacceptable for Use in Schools, as a first reading. So voted 7-0.
- h) **Policy #3514, Furniture and Equipment, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve Policy #3514, Furniture and Equipment, as a first reading. So voted 7-0.
- i) **Policy #3515, Electrical Devices in Schools, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve Policy #3515, Electrical Devices in Schools, as a first reading. So voted 7-0.
- j) **Policy #3621, Keys/Access Cards/Access Codes to School Facilities, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve Policy #3621, Keys/Access Cards/Access Codes to School Facilities, as a first reading. So voted 7-0.
- k) **Policy #3631, Climbing Wall Safety Standards and Guidelines, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve Policy #3631, Climbing Wall Safety Standards and Guidelines, as a first reading. So voted 7-0.
- l) **Policy #4341, Operation and Maintenance of School Department Vehicles, 1st Reading.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve Policy #4341, Operation and Maintenance of School Department Vehicles, as a first reading. So voted 7-0.
- m) **Discussion/Action – FY’11 Revenue Report/Adjustments.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the use of additional Medicaid revenue in no more than the amount needed to realize full projected revenues for the 2011 fiscal year. Mr. Dunham explained that this is to draw down Medicaid funds, and we only draw down the amount required to balance the budget. It has been drawn down \$150,000 to date. So voted 7-0.
- n) **Approval of April Financials.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the April financial reports as presented. So voted 7-0.

- o) **Report on May Financials.** Mr. Dunham stated that the reports include the quarterly reports for the third quarter for non-local funds. There are no changes to report in revenue from last month. The Department's largest revenue sources, the Town appropriation and State Aid to Education, are being received as projected. There is a positive variance in tuition, (\$13,700) 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 \$24,000. This is due to the potential loss of revenue due to down time by the wind turbine. Expenditures are tracking according to budget appropriations. The Legal Services budget line continues to be a concern, and is projected, at this time, to be overspent by \$50,000, due to the additional legal work required as a result of the protracted labor negotiations with the teachers union. The amount is unchanged from the March report, although there has been no significant increase in school department payments. The amount of the variance will likely depend on the length and outcome of the arbitration, which may mean the impact will be over two fiscal years rather than one. The Business Office is working to close all open purchase orders by payment or cancellation in order to have a final expenditure amount as soon after June 30 as possible. As the year closes, the most significant unknown which will have the largest effect on the budget is the expired agreement with the teachers (NEA). The manner in which this issue is resolved will have an impact on the end of year result of the 2010-2011 budget, and the 2012 budget as well. There is a small surplus of funds being projected for year end, approximately \$320,000 (Revenue and Expenditures combined) less than one percent. Last May 31st. the end of year projection was a positive \$350,000.
- p) **Uniform Chart of Accounts Presentation.** Mr. Dunham gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Uniform Chart of Accounts and distributed a handout on UCOA Segment Data Analysis for 2009-10.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Alternative Revenue.** No report.
- b) **Aquidneck Island Study Group.** Mr. Vadney reported that the last meeting was held on June 1st. The general feeling is that Newport and Middletown could not regionalize without Portsmouth. There are 4,610 students combined. Mr. Vadney stated that the Committee will probably be discussing this in the future, as there will be a push for the next election.
- c) **Facilities.** No report.
- d) **Finance.** The Budget Hearing will be held on June 22nd at 7:00 PM at PMS.
- e) **Health and Wellness.** No report.
- f) **Healthcare Commission.** No report.

- g) **Negotiations.** No report.
- h) **Policy.** A meeting is tentatively scheduled on June 27th.
- i) **Special Education.** No report.
- j) **Superintendent Search.** No report. Mrs. Perrotti recommended disbanding this subcommittee. Mrs. King made a motion to do so. So voted 7-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to reconvene to Executive Session. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.

Public Session recessed at 9:26 PM and reconvened at 9:34 PM.

Mrs. Perrotti announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session. A motion to seal the minutes was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk