

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Chair, Cynthia Perrotti, and the following were present:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Perrotti, Chair; Jonathan Harris, Vice Chair; David Croston; Thomas Vadney; and Sylvia Wedge

Also Present: Dr. Krizic, Superintendent; Colleen Jermain, Assistant Superintendent; Mark Dunham, Director of Finance and Administration; and Patti Cofield, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT: Marilyn King, Clerk; and Angela Volpicelli

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 Mr. Croston. So voted 5-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:30 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

- An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting, and no votes were taken. The session recessed and will resume after the public session.
- Shared the budgets of the Town Council and State that had recently been approved.
- As part of the Portsmouth School Department's agreement with Little Compton, a member of the Little Compton School Committee will be regularly participating in public portion of Portsmouth School Committee meetings as a non-voting member. Mrs. Perrotti welcomed Mr. Joe Quinn, who will be serving in that role for the upcoming school year.
- Mrs. King is absent due to illness.
- Ms. Volpicelli is absent due to a personal commitment.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mrs. Melvin asked to have Items 6 and 7 moved from the Consent Agenda to the Business Agenda.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Electronic Web-based Governance Systems (Discussion Item):** Dr. Krizic announced that there is an opportunity to improve governance and communication through the use of a web-based governance document management tool. This tool would provide all stakeholders with 24/7 access to information on School Committee Meetings, increase transparency, improve staff efficiency, reduce paper/printing costs, allow for easy search and retrieval of

archived information, as well as, provide additional resources to School Committee members. The School Department had been spending \$9,000 to \$11,000 annually to meet the legal requirement to have School Committee meeting agendas published in a local newspaper. With the recent legislative change removing that requirement, the Portsmouth School Department has an opportunity to improve the accessibility of information to all stakeholders. The Portsmouth School Committee supported having the administration develop a request for proposals (RFP) on web-based governance systems, with a recommendation to come forward no later than the September School Committee meeting.

- B. School Committee Meeting Schedule for FY'12:** Dr. Krizic presented a School Committee meeting schedule for the 2011-2012 school year, in an effort to improve transparency, predictability, and planning. The schedule designated the second Tuesday of each month for subcommittee meetings and the fourth Tuesday of each month as the business meeting. The only exception to the fourth Tuesday of the month business meetings would be in the month of December. Additional meetings could be scheduled and posted throughout the year as topics and/or issues need further discussion.

In the event that the School Committee approves a web-based governance tool, a wireless environment would be necessary to conduct meetings. Currently, the Town Council Chamber is not a wireless environment. Dr. Krizic suggested that School Committee meetings be held at the Portsmouth High School Library for a variety of reasons which included lack of consistent space availability at the Chamber, availability of technology support for School Committee meetings, and an already existing wireless environment. Mr. Harris suggested that the Administration contacts the Town Council to inquire about their plans to make the Chamber a wireless environment and to see if there was an opportunity to work collaboratively with the Town Council on such an endeavor.

- C. Late Start Days for FY'12:** Dr. Krizic stated that at the June School Committee meeting, there was discussion of a Late-Start Schedule for the 2011-2012 school year to provide professional development opportunities for teachers. She shared that professional development is one of the most important school-related factors affecting student achievement. According to Dr. Krizic, ongoing professional development enables teachers to learn from one another as well as keeps teachers up-to-date on new research on best practice, new curriculum, and emerging technology tools for the classroom. She indicated that district and school leaders will evaluate how to optimize available time for collaboration and professional development in the upcoming school year at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. At a later date, this topic will be presented again to the School Committee for consideration in the future.
- D. Budget Article 12 (eligible retiree participation in Medicare):** Mr. Dunham provided an overview of the recent change allowing municipalities the opportunity to decrease post-retirement benefit liabilities. A revision to Rhode Island General Law 28-54-1 allows municipalities to require eligible retirees to enroll in Medicare and select a Medicare gap

plan before their 65th birthday. Mr. Dunham indicated that in moving eligible retirees from the district's current insurance policy to Medicare, there could be a decreased liability and impact on future insurance health insurance premium costs for both current employees and the School Department.

5. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 14, 2011. So voted 5-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the minutes of the meeting held on and June 28, 2011. So voted 4-0-1. Mrs. Perrotti abstained due to her absence.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA - CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Vadney made a motion to move Items 5, 6, and 7 to the Business Agenda for discussion. Seconded by Mr. Harris. So voted 5-0.

5. **Appt. – Special Education Teacher, PMS.** Mr. Vadney asked if this is a local or regional position. Mr. Dunham stated that it is a Regional position. Dr. Krizic added that this employee would be on our pay scale.

6. **Appt. – Student and School Support Coordinator, Hathaway.** Mr. Vadney stated that there have been concerns in the community about this position, and he requested that Dr. Krizic explain the history on why it was decided to appoint psychologists instead of guidance counselors. Dr. Krizic stated that at the elementary level, we had 1.2 guidance counselors, a .4 social worker, and a .8 psychologist that traveled between schools. To provide better continuity to our students and support to our staff in Response to Intervention, we want to combine the roles to have consistency and continuity for 5 days per week, done by the same person. This allows the individual to develop a great relationship with staff for consultative services. The conceptualized plan put in place last year will benefit students and staff. Teachers will have a go-to person when the principal is out of the building. Mr. Croston added that the principals are desperate for these positions. Mr. Vadney stated that he supports the idea of a psychologist.

7. **Appt. – Student and School Support Coordinator, Melville.** See above discussion.

A. Personnel

1. **Appt. – Science Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-7/21/11, to the position of Science Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective August 30, 2011."
2. **Appt. – Computer Applications Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-7/21/11, to the position of Computer Applications Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective August 30, 2011."
3. **Appt. – Science Teacher, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-7/21/11, to the position of Science Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 30, 2011."
4. **Appt. – Grade 6 Science Teacher (.4 Grade 6 Science/.6 Robotics), PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-7/21/11, to the position of Grade 6 Science Teacher (.4 Grade 6 Science/.6 Robotics) at Portsmouth Middle School, effective August 30, 2011."
5. **Appt. – Special Education Teacher, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #5-7/21/11, to the position of Special Education Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School, for the 2011-12 school year."
6. **Appt. – Student and School Support Coordinator, Hathaway.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #6-7/21/11, to the position of Student and School Support Coordinator at Hathaway School, effective August 30, 2011."
7. **Appt. – Student and School Support Coordinator, Melville.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #7-7/21/11, to the position of Student and School Support Coordinator at Melville School, effective August 30, 2011."
8. **Appt. – Art Teacher, .2 time, Melville.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #8-7/21/11, to the position of Art Teacher, .2 time, at Melville School, effective August 30, 2011."

9. **Appt. – General School Aide, Hathaway.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #9-7/21/11, to the position of General School Aide at Hathaway School, effective August 30, 2011."

B. **Approve Tuition Rate for the 2011-12 School Year.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee establishes tuition in accordance with Policy #5116 for the 2011-12 school year at the rate of \$13,154 for a general education student. Tuition for students with any additional needs beyond the general education program will be individually calculated in accordance with the policy."

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 5-0. Dr. Krizic announced the appointments.

- Lisa Zabel, Science Teacher at Portsmouth High School (Step 1)
- Shaun Horgan, Computer Applications Teacher at Portsmouth High School (Step 2)
- Chris Dolos, 6th Grade Science Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School (Step 2)
- Hannah Farrell, 6th grade Science (.4) and Robotics Teacher (.6) at Portsmouth Middle School (Step 1, Master's Degree)
- Morgan Curtis, Special Education Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School (Step 1)
- Daniel Cotton, Student and School Support Specialist at Hathaway School (Step 4, Master's Degree)
- Natalie Andrus, Student and School Support Specialist at Melville School (Step 4, Master's Degree)
- Diane Sheehan, Art Teacher (.2) at Melville School (Step 10, Master's Degree)
- Jennifer Amaio, School Aide at Hathaway (\$9.26 per hour pay rate)

Dr. Krizic also announced that the 2011-2012 Tuition Rate of \$13,154 for non-resident students not covered by any inter-governmental agreements was approved. The tuition rate for the prior school year was \$12,850.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA**

A. **Approve School Committee Meeting Calendar as presented.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the meeting calendar as presented, with the location of the first three meetings being the PHS Library. The location for the remainder of the year is to be determined. Seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 5-0.

B. **Authorize Administration to Develop a Transition Plan for Moving Individual Retirees to Medicare, effective December 1, 2011.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to authorize Administration to develop a transition plan for moving individual retirees to Medicare, effective December 1, 2011. So voted 5-0.

8. **COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION**

A. **Alternative Revenue.** No report.

B. **Facilities.** Mr. Croston stated that in the budget that was enacted, there was a 3-year moratorium on reimbursement on housing aid except for matters of health and safety. This impacts a lot of schools on the precipice of presenting to the Board of Regents. This significantly affects folks in Little Compton and affects our Phase 1. The 30 percent reimbursement of existing building warrants of FY11 and FY12 is in question. That includes last year's housing aid request that was not voted on by the General Assembly, which is disconcerting to us.

C. **Finance.** No report.

D. **Health and Wellness.** No report.

E. **Healthcare Commission.** Mr. Harris stated that a meeting will be convened in the fall.

F. **Negotiations.** Mr. Harris stated that another NEA arbitration hearing was held today. We are in negotiations with Council 94 and will be meeting with them tomorrow.

G. **Policy.** No report.

H. **Special Education.** No report.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to adjourn to Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 5-0.

Public Session recessed at 8:15 PM and resumed at 8:44 PM.

Mrs. Perrotti announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session. A motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 5-0.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 5-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk