

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

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

Also Present: Dr. Krizic, Superintendent; Colleen Jermain, Assistant Superintendent; Mark Dunham, Director of Finance and Administration; Patti Cofield, Administrative Assistant; Joseph Quinn, Little Compton School Committee Liaison

**ABSENT:** Marilyn King, Clerk

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 6-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:30 PM and resumed at 7:05 PM.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti reported that negotiations with Council 94 continue; cited the recent report published by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT "*Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters,*" which highlighted some of the critical factors affecting early student learning; and reported on the opening institute day, which had a theme of "Celebrating What's Right in Portsmouth." Mrs. Perrotti recently attended the Healthy Kids Breakfast with other state and school leaders. The thank you note from the post prom committee was shared. The current legal issue on seniority is still pending and is anticipated to be heard in October.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

4. **RECOGNITION AGENDA**

A. Introduction of the New Portsmouth Staff for 2011-12. New Portsmouth School Department staff members were introduced to the School Committee and community. New staff members included teachers, support staff, teacher aides, nursing staff, long-term substitutes, and bus monitors. This year 26 new teachers were hired.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

A. Baseball Field Donation Discussion. Dr. Krizic explained that the Portsmouth Baseball Diamond Club has offered to make a donation valued at approximately \$18,000 to make significant repairs to the Portsmouth High School Varsity Baseball Field (Bob Crudup Field). The project would take place during the September/October 2011 timeframe, with the work being performed by the McGeough Turf Management.

- B. FY11 SAT Results. Although the recently released SAT scores dipped in Rhode Island, regionally, and nationally, the SAT scores at Portsmouth High School represented an increase over last year compared to state and national decreases. Additionally, the number of students participating in last year's assessment was the highest in the last two years. The Math SAT score earned by the class of 2011 was the highest since the SAT was administered at PHS in 1992. Additionally, the total cumulative score of 1605 (sum of the critical reading, math, and writing scores) was also the highest since 1992. Compared to our in-state benchmark districts, Portsmouth ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Critical Reading (Barrington, East Greenwich, South Kingstown); 3<sup>rd</sup> in Math (Barrington, East Greenwich) and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Writing (Barrington, East Greenwich).

Research studies have shown that students taking the PSAT score higher on the SAT than those that do not. Approximately 37% of the sophomores and juniors at PHS take the SAT. Increasing student participation on the PSAT by helping students and their families understand the importance and value of this college entrance exam needs to begin as early at the middle school years.

Dr. Krizic announced that the NECAP results were posted on our website today; and Mrs. Jermain will review the highlights at our October School Committee meeting. She also announced that the PSAT exam will be given on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

- C. Report on August Financials. Director of Finance and Administration Mark Dunham provided the School Committee with a brief update on the expenditure report for the first two months of the 2011-12 fiscal year. Revenue as projected is being received. Although the school department has not received any notices of reductions to state aid, economic conditions at the state level will determine if this action would be taken later this year. Expenditures will continue to be monitored throughout the school year.

6. **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 August 23, 2011. So voted 6-0.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Extension of Temporary Employee to February 29, 2012.**

B. **Personnel**

1. **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Gail Darmody, Technology Integration Specialist at Portsmouth High School, as presented."

2. **Appt. – Library/Media Specialist, 1.0, Melville.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-9/27/11, to the position of Library/Media Specialist, at Melville, retroactive to August 31, 2011."
  3. **Coaching Appts. – PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2011-12 fall season, as presented."
  4. **Amendment to Step/Salary for Prior Teacher Appointments.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's recommendation to amend the step/salary for two prior teacher appointments, in accordance with the backup information."
- C. **Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the requests to provide home schooling for the 2011-12 school year for students HS #16 to #19-9/11, as listed in the confidential memo dated September 16, 2011, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2."
- D. **Accept the Electronic School Board Bid Recommendation.**

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0. Dr. Krizic announced that the School Committee:

- A. Approved the extension of the temporary payroll staff member to February 29, 2012.
  - B. Approved the hiring of Ruth Donahue, Step 3/MA, as the librarian at Melville; Jennifer Colson as the PMS Girls Soccer Co-coach; and Sandy Spanos as the PMS Boys Soccer coach.
  - C. Approved the requests for home schooling for the 2011-12 school year.
  - D. Accepted the bid from Novus Agenda to provide the electronic school committee meeting software and services.
8. **BUSINESS AGENDA**
- A. **Approve the 2010-2013 Collective Bargaining Agreement between NEA Portsmouth and the Portsmouth School Committee and Memorandum of Understanding.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the NEA Portsmouth contract and Memorandum of Understanding. Seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 6-0. Mr. Dunham read the fiscal impact statement. The below highlights were read by Mr. Harris:

**Salaries: Article IV**

- 1) Salary scale has been changed from a 10 Step Scale to an 11 Step Scale making the prior 10<sup>th</sup> step salary the new top step 11<sup>th</sup> salary. This allowed for smoothing out some significant increases in step wages in certain years of the prior step scale.
- 2) For 2010-11 all step increases paid based on the 11 step scale, that had not been paid will be paid retroactive to 9/1/10. There are no pay raises beyond the steps provided for 2010-11. Step 1 is \$39,497 and Step 11 is \$71,577 for 2010-11.
- 3) For the current contract year 2011-12 a 1 % raise will be provided only to top 11th step pay scale. Step 1 is \$39,497 and Step 11 is \$72,293.
- 4) For the 2012-13 contract year a 1.25% raise will be provided to all steps.

**Benefits: Article VI**

- 1) Health Insurance Plan has changed to Blue Cross Plan \$250. Employees/dependents will now incur an annual one time deductible of \$250 for in-patient hospital stays, outpatient surgery, and a few additional medical services.
- 2) NEA Portsmouth employees will increase their cost sharing from 13% to 18% of premium costs for both health insurance and dental insurance as of 9/1/11, and for the balance of the contract period.
- 3) Establishes a major illness sick leave bank where NEA members can donate limited sick time to a colleague with a major illness.

**Retirement: Article XII**

- 1) Retired employees will move to Medicare and Plan 65 immediately upon becoming eligible for Medicare, in compliance with regulations allowed by RIGL 28-54-1.

**Conditions of Employment: Article IX**

- 1) Allows for Band/Chorus class sizes up to 30 students to accommodate student scheduling.
- 2) Allows PE/Health class sizes to 30 students to accommodate student scheduling.
- 3) Allows one student increases to class size after October 1.
- 4) Allows 40% of planning/preparation time to be collaborative and administratively directed.

**Additional Items:**

- 1) Eliminates most unfair labor practices and grievances while holding others in abeyance. The seniority action brought by the Portsmouth School Committee is agreed to be held until the determination of the RI Courts in Civil Action 11-3239.
- 2) The overall increase in the district's salary and benefit costs from the comparative base year 2009/10 represents an estimated 1.2% annualized increase over the course of this agreement. Cost of steps in FY11 was \$269,236; in FY12 will be 1,061 (offset by reductions to cost of health insurance and increased contribution) along with carryover of \$269,236; and in FY13 will be \$175,103 along with carryover of

\$269,236 for each prior year. Cost of FY13 includes potential increases to teacher retirement pension costs.

**B. Accept Portsmouth Youth Baseball Donation.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to accept the donation from Portsmouth Youth Baseball with the following conditions.

1. Ensure that the Portsmouth School Department's insurance carriers will cover the project, including any potential claims of injury over the course of the project
2. Require the appropriate insurance documents from the Portsmouth Baseball Diamond Club, and
3. Hold the Portsmouth Baseball Diamond Club responsible for any unforeseen costs above and beyond their donation.

So voted 6-0.

**C. Approve First Reading of Identified Policies in Section 4000 (Personnel).**

4147 – Health Insurance. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve Policy 4147, Health Insurance, as a first reading. So voted 6-0.

**D. Approve First Reading of Identified Policies in Section 5000 (Students).**

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the below policies in Section 5000 (Students) as a first reading:

- 5100 – Comprehensive Health Program
- 5111 – Kindergarten
- 5111.1 – Admission to Pre-1 (Remove)
- 5111.2 – Admission to First Grade
- 5111.3 – Health/Eye/Dental Exams, Screenings, and Immunizations
- 5112.2 – Student Attendance and Truancy Policy
- 5112.2.1 – Attendance Policy High School (Remove)
- 5113 – Student Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics
- 5113.1 – Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities

So voted 6-0.

**F. Approval of Pension Reform Resolution.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the pension reform resolution. Mr. Croston amended the resolution, striking the word “wizardry” in Paragraph 6. So voted 6-0.

9. **COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Alternative Revenue.** Mr. Croston stated that the next subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- B. **Facilities.** Mr. Croston stated that the next subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- C. **Finance.** No report.
- D. **Health and Wellness.** Ms. Volpicelli stated that the next subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- E. **Healthcare Commission.** No report.
- F. **Negotiations.** Mr. Harris reported that negotiations are ongoing with Council 94, and the NEA Portsmouth contract was approved this evening.
- G. **Policy.** No report.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn to Executive Session was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 6-0.

Public Session recessed at 10:00 PM and reconvened at 10:45 PM.

Mrs. Perrotti announced that Executive Session resumed after the Public Session, and one vote was taken.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk