

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cynthia Perrotti, Chair; Marilyn King, Clerk; David Croston; Thomas Vadney; Angela Volpicelli, Sylvia Wedge; and Jonathan Harris, Vice Chair (6:35 PM)

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; Hayley McClintock, PHS Student Liaison

ABSENT:

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 6-0.

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

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Alan Shers of 40 Roger Williams Court, voiced his concerns regarding our facilities and the fact that the facilities study was done three years ago. Mr. Shers requested that the School Committee revisits the study and looks at the associated costs, taking into consideration that costs are now needed to be adjusted for the 5 percent annual increase for inflation. He is in favor of building a new elementary school.

3. **RECOGNITION AGENDA**

- A. National Merit Commended Scholars Samuel Black and Caroline Herter were recognized for their academic achievement
- B. Crystal Paolucci-Cavaco and Mary Ellen (Mel) Johnson were celebrated for earning the honor of being selected as the Rhode Island Middle School Art Teacher of the Year and Rhode Island High School Art Teacher of the Year respectively.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mrs. Perrotti reported that an Executive Session was held after the September 27th School Committee meeting. One vote was taken and was approved 6-0 to move into mediation with Council 94 in an effort to settle the contract. A motion was made to seal the minutes by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 6-0-1. Mrs. King abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

Mrs. Perrotti reported that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting, and no votes were taken. A motion was made to seal the minutes by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 7-0.

Mrs. Perrotti welcomed the new Portsmouth High School representative to the School Committee, Haley McClintock. Haley reported that this week is Homecoming Week at PHS. The Mr. Portsmouth contest was held yesterday. Goofy games will be held in the new gym on Wednesday. Hallways will be decorated on Thursday, and Friday is the hallway display. Haley invited the School Committee to view the hallway displays. The Homecoming dance will be held Saturday night. The Homecoming Parade is at 12:30 M on Saturday, the Homecoming football game is at 1:30 PM, and the Homecoming dance is Saturday evening. She invited the School Committee to participate in the parade and to attend the football game.

Mrs. Perrotti shared that in following the lead set by the Portsmouth School Department, school committees across the state were asked to support a resolution in favor of pension reform. Without pension reform, the additional cost to the FY13 budget is anticipated to be \$1.3 million, while the estimated increase to the budget with pension reform is projected to be \$100,000.

Mrs. Perrotti reported that Attorney Robinson, on behalf of the School Committee, made a presentation on the pending seniority lawsuit to school committee members in the state.

The School Committee agreed to move the November School Committee meeting to Tuesday, November 15th instead of the 22nd.

Mr. Croston announced that the PPEF Annual Fall Showcase will be held on Thursday, November 3rd, at the Glen Manor House.

Mrs. Wedge encouraged the community to attend the Melville Fall Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 29th.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

A. **FY13 Budget Development Timeline** – Mr. Dunham gave an overview of the FY13 budget development and approval process. Hearings on the proposed budget will begin sometime in late January/early February.

B. **2011 NECAP Science Overview** – Assistant Superintendent Jermain presented an overview of the 2011 Science NECAP scores. Although the performance of students in 4th grade declined from the prior year, increases in student performance were seen in the 8th and 11th grades. Mrs. Jermain shared that the gap between all students and students with IEPs was significant and one needing to be further addressed going forward.

- C. **FY13 Calendar Development Process** – Dr. Krizic outlined the FY13 calendar approval process. This year’s calendar recommendation will come forth in December in order for the school department, staff, and families to be able to plan ahead. The policy subcommittee will need to review an existing policy on start date parameters for the school year at their next policy subcommittee meeting.
- D. **FY12 Enrollment Update** – Dr. Krizic gave an update on the 2011-12 enrollment. As of October 18, 2011, there were 2,722 PreK-12 students enrolled, 19 less students than the NESDEC projections. Overall enrollments at Hathaway and Melville are down from the last school year.
- E. **Playground Equipment at PMS Overview** – Mr. Dunham shared that there are a group of parents seeking to find ways to raise funds to have playground equipment installed at PMS. Mr. Harris suggested looking into whether or not any of the playground equipment at Elmhurst School could be moved to PMS.
- F. **Status on Plans for Fire Code Compliance** – Mr. Dunham stated that Fire Chief Lynch is recommending that the School Department generates a corrective action plan by January. Mr. Harris suggested meeting with the fire chief because he supposedly has the authority to extend the deadlines. Mr. Croston will contact the Fire Chief to discuss this. Currently, Melville and Hathaway Schools have not had fire suppression systems installed in their buildings, as is required by existing Rhode Island Law. Mr. Dunham outlined the process and costs associated with this work. Issues around the longevity of the existing elementary buildings and the investment in resources into buildings that may be at some time altered were briefly discussed.
- G. **September Financial Overview** – Mr. Dunham gave an overview of the September financial report. The report will be on the November agenda for approval.
- H. **Transition to Use of NovusSolutions** – Use of School Board Software for Future Meetings. Dr. Krizic stated that beginning in December, School Committee meetings will be posted online, and School Committee meetings will go paperless. School Committee meetings will return to PHS in December, as the necessary infrastructure (i.e., wireless) is in place.

6. **SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. **Portsmouth United Update.** Marianne Raymo reported that the Gridiron was added to PU. Part of their bylaws is to have a relationship with the SC.
- B. **Parent Feedback on the second year transition of 4th and 5th grade to Portsmouth Middle School.** Mr. Mike Daly of 87 Dianne Avenue, requested that this item be discussed with the School Committee. Mr. Daly stated that parents of 4th graders have a somewhat lowered morale this year. The representation by the prior School Committee was that the 4th

graders would continue to be treated as elementary students. Mr. Daly stated that he met with Principal Amaral and Mrs. Little, the 4th and 5th Grade House Leader and Guidance Counselor, to discuss the issues, which included that 4th graders are being graded the same as 8th graders; 4th graders are required to change for physical education; and the 4th graders ability to purchase snacks at lunch. He stated that Mr. Amaral and Mrs. Little were open and accommodating to those concerns. Mr. Daly suggested creating a school within a school for the upper elementary students and continuing to find ways to differentiate some aspects of the operation of PMS to be sensitive to the age levels of these students. He offered to be part of generating solutions to address the 4th and 5th grade issues. Dr. Krizic suggested that Mr. Amaral puts a committee of parents and staff together to find additional solutions to further optimize the educational experience of 4th and 5th graders at PMS. A report of these recommendations and findings will be brought forth in January.

7. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 27, 2011, was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 6-0-1. Mrs. King abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Personnel.**

1. **Coaching Appts. – PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2011-12 fall season, as presented.”

B. **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 #20 to #23-10/11, as listed in the confidential memo dated October 14, 2011, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2.”

C. **Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Identified Policies in Section 4000 (Personnel).**

4147 – Health Insurance

D. **Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Identified Policies in Section 5000 (Students).**

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

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 7-0. Dr. Krizic announced the following coaching appointments:

New appointment:

Joe Occhi	Head Coach	Boys Basketball
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Re-appointments:

Jeff Goss	Head Coach	Girls Basketball
Bill Waterman	Assistant Coach	Girls Basketball
Donna Ricci	Assistant Coach	Girls Basketball
Tara Donovan-Moll	Head Coach	Swimming
Cybil Pacheco	Head Coach	Gymnastics
Mike Monahan	Head Coach	Ice Hockey
Travis Holmes	Assistant Coach	Ice Hockey
Mike Mallet	Volunteer	Ice Hockey
Shaun Horgan	Head Coach	Boys Indoor Track
John Blaess	Volunteer	Boys Basketball

9. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

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

- 5114 Student Discipline
- 5114.1 Due Process Code (Remove)
- 5114.11 Suspensions for Ten (10) School Days or Less (Remove)
- 5114.12 Suspensions for More Than Ten (10) School Days or Expulsion (Remove)
- 5114.2 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities
- 5114.6 Prohibition Against Bullying, Hazing, Harassment, and Cyber-bullying
- 5115 Hazing (Remove)
- 5116 Student Residency
- 5117 Student Attendance Areas
- 5118.2 Residence – Adults (Remove)
- 5118.4 Reciprocal and Inter-district Educational Agreements
- 5118.5 International Exchange Arrangements
- 5121.1 Release Time for Religious Observance

- 5123 Placement, Retention, and Promotion
- 5124 Flagging Records of Missing Children
- 5126 State and National Recognition
- 5126.1 Participation in Recognition Programs (Remove)

A motion to approve the above policies in Section 5000 as a first reading was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.

- B. Approval of August 2011 Financials.** A motion to approve the August 2011 Financials was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.
- C. Recommend approval of contract with ADP to perform payroll services.** A motion to approve the contract with ADP to perform payroll services was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0. Mr. Dunham stated that contracting with ADP aligns us with the Town and creates efficiencies.
- D. Recommend non-approval of snow removal bids and authorize administration to re-bid snow removal services.** A motion to recommend non-approval of the snow removal bids and authorize administration to re-bid the snow removal services was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0. (Mr. Vadney was not present for the vote.) Mr. Dunham reported that the initial RFP went out requesting bids on an hourly basis. However, there is an opportunity to rebid based by the amount of snow that is removed. He anticipates getting the bid award recommendation to the School Committee by November 15th.
- E. Recommend accepting one of the logo designs to be used on the district website and in the branding of the district.** A motion to authorize the Superintendent to select the logo design to be used on the district website and in the branding of the district was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0. The logo design will create a visual identity and branding of the mission/vision of the school department. (The logo selected incorporates the district's desire to be one of the 'lighthouse districts' in the nation, one in which all others look to for inspiration, and one that guides the way for excellence. It is a visual that combines the lighthouse with waves and the silhouette of a student.)



10. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

- A. Alternative Revenue.** Mr. Croston reported that a very productive meeting with the Math Department Chair, the Science Department Chair, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent, was held earlier this month to discuss the alignment of math and science in an effort

to better align our students ability to have greater access to college engineering programs after high school with engineering schools. Within the month, a survey will be sent to 5th grade parents to obtain feedback and interest on STEM programs and curriculum-related issues.

- B. **Facilities.** Mr. Croston reported that a Facilities Subcommittee meeting was held on October 11th. The recommendation is for Dr. Krizic and Mr. Dunham to move forward with making a recommendation using the funds already put aside to analyze our buildings in order to plan for the future.
- C. **Finance.** Mrs. Perrotti stated that the budget meeting timeline was discussed previously under the Superintendent's Communication section of the agenda. Hearings will begin in February.
- D. **Health and Wellness.** Ms. Volpicelli read the report from the October 11th meeting that was held at the Administration Building. The next meeting will be held on January 10th.
- E. **Healthcare Commission.** No report.
- F. **Negotiations.** Mr. Harris reported that negotiations with Council 94 are going into mediation. Negotiations began in March of 2011, and they have not been able to come to an agreement. There are several issues on the table, including the Town of Portsmouth pension plan. There is language in the expired contract that summarizes the pension benefits but doesn't reference the document. The definition of the pension should be defined in the document; however Council 94 doesn't agree. Another issue is not entering new hires into the pension plan because the current town pension plan is underfunded by \$23 million (\$4 million of this is the school department's pension liability). Seniority is being discussed, as well as several other issues.
- G. **Policy.** No report.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk