

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

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

Also Present: Dr. Krizic, 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: Sylvia Wedge

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 7:15 PM.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

NEA Portsmouth Vice President Susan Hatch thanked Mrs. Perrotti for calling to check on how things are going this year. The teachers appreciated it. She stated that there has been a change for the better. Our new superintendent asked to set up bi-weekly meetings with the NEA leadership in order to keep the lines of communication open. We have healthy discussions, come to an understanding as to why decisions were made, and take it back to the teachers. Dr. Krizic has been attending our Executive Board meetings with the entire Union Leadership. They are told what is coming, and their feedback is asked for. There is a very different climate this year, and she thanked Dr. Krizic for that. She couldn't ask for a superintendent to be more successful. She attends as many events as possible and visits classrooms, too. Ms. Hatch invited the School Committee to visit classrooms so that when they make decisions, they are informed. She stated that it is nice to have someone looking at what is going on and asking questions about why we are doing what we are doing. She thanked the School Committee and Dr. Krizic because things are moving in the right direction.

Joseph Cassady, President of NEA, echoed Ms. Hatch's sentiments. He stated that for a very long time, things between NEA and the administration were contentious; but that has changed. He stressed that the administration seems to be more receptive to matters being discussed, as opposed to being told that it doesn't matter. He feels that the union and administration have come further in the last two months than they did all last year. He hopes to continue to have open discussions, especially regarding the new evaluation system. It is his goal to make sure the communication continues. He thanked Mrs. Perrotti for calling to see how the teachers are doing. He stated that Dr. Krizic visited one of his classes, and he was

appreciative of her presence in his classroom. He promised that the union will work to make Portsmouth schools the best we can.

Mrs. Kathy Melvin stated that she is concerned about how athletic coaches are assigned, and she wants to make sure we get the best for our athletic program. She commended Dr. Krizic for her visibility at school functions, as it is such an important step in raising morale. It takes the community, the teaching staff, and administrators to ensure we have a really great system. She hopes we continue in this direction.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mrs. Perrotti announced that an Executive Session was held at 6:30 PM. The session recessed at 7:15 PM and will resume after the Public Session.

Mrs. Perrotti shared that the district's recent case involving seniority was determined by Judge Gallo to be resolved at the level of the Labor Relations Board and not by the court. Commissioner Gist had written a formal advisory letter to the Lincoln School District on the issue of seniority. Mrs. Perrotti asked that this document be made available for the public to view. (The Commissioner's letter follows this highlight report). In September, the School Committee had a retreat at which time they developed their group norms and reviewed some draft revisions to the strategic plan, enabling the School Committee to identify performance indicators. This work will be temporarily delayed until such time as the Superintendent can work with the new Assistant Superintendent in further reviewing the original and draft documents. Mrs. Perrotti reported that West Greenwich joined a number of school districts passing a resolution on pension reform. The School Committee has scheduled a special meeting on Friday, November 18th, at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall to discuss an administrator's performance. School Committee member Tom Vadney was recognized for completing 15 hours of RIASC professional development and earning the RI Board of Regents certificate for his commitment.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Report from PHS Liaison.** Student Representative Hayley McClintock shared that the recent PHS Homecoming week was a success in spite of the rain occurring on parade day. She encouraged the community to participate in the Blood Drive scheduled for Friday, November 18th, at PHS so that their status as one of the most significant donor groups could be maintained.
- B. **FY13 Draft Calendars.** Three draft FY13 calendars were presented for discussion. In developing the draft options, the following considerations were taken into account: (1) school year end date if emergency days must be used and the impact on summer school for both special and regular education programs; (2) the feasibility of using the non-school attendance day of election day in November for parent-teacher conferences; (3)

the length of the winter break; and (4) starting of the school year the week prior to and/or after Labor Day. Included in the update is a copy of the calendar option that the majority of the School Committee viewed as the more favored option. The key highlights of this option are:

- School year begins the week before Labor Day
- Thanksgiving recess is Wednesday through Friday
- Winter break ends on January 1, staff/students return on January 2
- Last day of school (without emergency days) is Thursday, June 13

Parents and/or staff wishing to give feedback on this option should send their feedback to Patti Cofield at cofieldp@portsmouthschoolsri.org.

- C. **Report on October Financials.** Mr. Dunham reported on the October Financials and indicated that at this time, without any extenuating circumstances, the school budget remains on track for being balanced at the end of the fiscal year.
- D. **Preliminary Follow-up to Addressing 4th/5th Grade Needs.** As a follow-up to the discussion of addressing the needs of 4th and 5th grade as well as looking at some equity issues in the district, a proposal to address the administrative structure of the middle school was presented. After discussion, it was determined that this proposal should be forwarded to the parent-teacher group to be formed for the purpose of looking at how to best meet the needs of the upper elementary 4th and 5th grade students and teachers.
- E. **Junior Navy ROTC Informational Item.** As an informational item, the School Committee members were provided with information on a Junior Navy ROTC program. The School Committee will be requesting from the Middletown and Newport Councils the formation of an Inter-Newport County Inspection Committee to evaluate this further.
- F. **Online Governance Update.** Mr. Dunham stated that he and Mrs. Cofield have been working closely with NovusAgenda on workflows and approvals. The program will be launched and accessible to the public beginning with the January business meeting.
- G. **Staff and Students Successes.** Dr. Krizic highlighted the following staff and student successes:
- **Nancy Fitzgerald**, PHS Physical Education Teacher, for being named the Portsmouth Public Education Foundation Teacher of the Year!
 - **Tim Marum**, PHS Math teacher, whose paper, "From Specific Value to Variable: Developing Students' Abilities to Represent Unknowns," was accepted and presented at the recent 33rd annual conference of the North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education in Reno, Nevada.

- **Kimberlee Johnsen**, PHS Social Studies Teacher, who had a lesson plan selected for publication by the University of Arizona Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
- **Vicky Hathaway, Jeff Schoonover, Lori McEwen, and Bob Littlefield** for being selected to make a presentation at the recent NEASC 5th Annual Showcase of Model Programs.
- **Diane Sheehan**, Melville Art Teacher, was awarded an ACE Teacher Grant in the amount of \$249.00 to fund the project "From Pictures to Pixels - Using Digital Cameras in the Class-room."
- **Portsmouth High School Band** takes 1st Place at the USSBA New England States Championships under the leadership of Band Director Ted Rausch.
- **PMS Boys Soccer** team were the division champs and had the best record in the state, coached by Sandy Spanos.
- **PMS Girls Soccer team** were the state champions, coached by Leah Pineau and Jen Colson.

5. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 25, 2011. So voted 6-0.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Perrotti announced that Item A.6. was being withdrawn.

A. **Personnel.**

1. **Appt. – Business Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-11/15/11, to the position of Business Teacher at Portsmouth High School, retroactive to September 19, 2011."
2. **Appt. – Social Studies, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-11/15/11, to the position of Social Studies Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective November 16, 2011."
3. **Appt. – Hathaway School Clerk.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-11/15/11, to the full-time position of Clerk, Category B, at Hathaway School, effective November 16, 2011."

4. **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 winter season, as presented.”
5. **Assistant Superintendent Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee accepts the resignation of Colleen Jermain, Assistant Superintendent, effective November 11, 2011.
6. **Appt. – Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the Superintendent’s appointment, Recommendation #4-11/15/11, to the position of Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, effective date to be determined.” This item was withdrawn.

B. Approve Second Reading and Adoption 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 was made by Mr. Harris to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item A.6. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0. Mrs. Perrotti stated that the School Committee publicly thanked Mrs. Colleen Jermain at the Portsmouth Public Education Foundation’s social.

Dr. Krizic announced the following appointments:

1. Stephanie Martland, PHS Business Teacher, .3 time, Step 10
2. Louis Labonte, PHS Social Studies Teacher, .6 time, Step 1
3. Emily Rahilly, Hathaway School Clerk, Category B, \$17.24/hour
4. Jeff Rose, Head Coach, PHS Girls Indoor Track
Slader Lyell, Assistant Coach, PHS Boys Basketball
Joshua Petersen, Assistant Coach, PHS Boys Basketball

7. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. **Approval of Resolution with Council 94.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the resolution with Council 94 as presented. So voted 6-0.
- B. **Discussion/Action – Superintendent’s Goals.** Mrs. Perrotti read the Superintendent’s Goals into the record:

Management

1. *Provide regular and timely communication to the School Committee on matters related to teaching and learning initiatives; budget; human resources, and key events occurring in the school district.*
2. *By February 2012, develop a plan to include opportunities for community outreach to both core and non-core stakeholder groups to include use of both traditional and non-traditional communication methods (e.g., use of social media tools).*
3. *By March 2012, develop and present a balanced, progressive budget in accordance with the guidelines established by the School Committee and the Financial Subcommittee; and by June 2012, gain approval for the FY13 budget from the Portsmouth Town Council*
4. *By March 2012, gain School Committee approval of administrative and strategic plan initiated goals and priorities for FY13 addressing student achievement.*

Educational

1. *Begin and/or continue the process of aligning the curriculum to the Common Core Literacy and Math Standards, as well as aligning core curriculum in Science and Social Studies.*
2. *Develop working relationships with all key administrative personnel and certified staff to include, but not be limited to, creating opportunities for collaborative decision making; improving student achievement; and building capacity.*
3. *By March 2012, identify strategies to further optimize fiscal resources for the acquisition of technology including, but not limited to, hardware and software purchases and alternatives.*
4. *By June 2012, present a plan to make math, science, engineering, and technology opportunities available to students both within and outside the Portsmouth School District.*

Mrs. Perrotti asked Dr. Krizic what she needs from the School Committee in order to help her accomplish her goals. Dr. Krizic stated that open communication and keeping

each other informed of matters is important, as well as being clear to the community of what the Committee's priorities are and being fiscally responsible. The Committee should always be able to share with the community the rationale for any decision coming forth. Dr. Krizic stated that sometimes there are growing pains with initiatives that come down, and with change comes some uncertainty. She feels that that is the key piece teachers have the most anxiety about. She stated that a shared direction of the School Committee and the Superintendent should be to continue the commitment to improve the quality of education in this district and help support teachers. She feels that being vocal about that is very important.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the Superintendent's Goals. So voted 6-0. Mrs. Perrotti stated that the format of the Superintendent's evaluation needs to be determined by the School Committee.

- C. **Bid Award – Snow Removal Service.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to award the contract for snow removal services to East Coast Construction. So voted 6-0.
- D. **Approval of September 2011 Financials.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the September financials as presented. So voted 6-0.
- E. **Approval of Budget Transfers.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the budget transfers as presented. So voted 6-0.
- F. **Agenda Item Request – Formation of IT Subcommittee.** Mr. Croston requested that an IT Subcommittee be formed in order for the School Committee to take stronger control of how the IT planning, budget, and expenditures were occurring. He stated that currently we have a group of outside advisors, and we have been given very clear expectations from the Town Council for a substantive change in the way we use dollars in the upcoming budget year. He would like to combine the IT subcommittee with the district IT Committee and meet at night to have public input for the use of IT funds and the direction we are going. He stated that we are currently buying laptops using a large portion of the \$350,000 warrant; and laptops are basically obsolete in a very short period of time. Mr. Croston requested an update on the warrant, funds availability, and expenditures to date. He offered to write a charter for the IT Subcommittee and present it at the December meeting. So voted 6-0.

8. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

- A. **Alternative Revenue.** No report.
- B. **Facilities.** Dr. Krizic stated that discussion took place at the last Facilities Subcommittee meeting regarding applying for emergency funds. More than a year ago, Dr. Lusi

received approval for Stage 1 facility improvement funding; but in order for us to access those dollars, we have to submit and receive approval for Stage 2. Mr. Dunham stated that we are continuing to move forward and hope to reopen Stage 2 in the spring. Mr. Croston stated that we could probably just look at the fire code upgrades and look at a Stage 1 and 2 combined proposal relative to fire code and safety.

C. **Finance.** No report.

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

E. **Healthcare Commission.** No report.

F. **Negotiations.** Mr. Harris reported that we are in mediation with Council 94.

G. **Policy.** Dr. Krizic and Mrs. King will be working on policies this Saturday morning in preparation for the next subcommittee meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn to Executive Session was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0. (Mr. Harris excused himself from the meeting.)

Public Session recessed at 9:30 and resumed at 10:15 PM.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn the meeting. So voted. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk