

Portsmouth School Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2012
Public Session

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 Cros-
ton; Thomas Vadney; Angela Volpicelli; and Sylvia Wedge

Also Present: Dr. Krizic, Superintendent; Mark Dunham, Director of Finance and Admin-
istration; Jeffrey Schoonover, Interim Director of Instruction and Assessment; Patti Cofield,
Administrative Assistant; Joseph Quinn, Little Compton School Committee Liaison

MEMBERS 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 Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:31 PM and resumed at 7:05 PM.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **RECOGNITIONS:** None.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti reported that an Executive Session was held prior
to the meeting, and no votes were taken. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was
seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 6-0.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. John McDaid distributed a handout to the School Committee
regarding the Innovation Powered by Technology (IPT) Conference recently held by RIDE
at Rhode Island College. Commissioner Gist convened the conference. One of the goals
of the conference was to jumpstart the participants' knowledge regarding technology. A
\$470,000 grant to create an IPT model school was announced, and Mr. McDaid thinks that
Portsmouth should consider applying. The newly formed Technology Subcommittee
would be helpful with this

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

A. Report on January Financials. Mr. Dunham reported that all the revenue is being
received as projected, and there are no indications any of the budget projections will fall
short. Little Compton tuitions for the first quarter have been received and are greater
than anticipated due to two additional students. The total expenditure line has a year-
end projection of \$229,000 at this time. This is less than one percent of the budget
which in prior years can disappear quickly with some bad weather or emergencies. The
largest positive variances are in the salary line due to positions that have been and in
some cases remain vacant and special education tuitions. One budget line projecting a

significant over-expenditure at this time is legal services, which is completely spent. The majority of the expenses have been with the teacher arbitration, the case involving teacher seniority, and the Council 94 negotiations. More hours were utilized in December this year than any other month. The projected over-expenditure of \$65,000 is based on less utilization during the second half of the year. The proposed budget transfer is to cover the end-of-year projection. As we move forward into the year, the budget may be impacted by events such as adverse weather, student placement and registration, the difficult financial climate, and the outstanding unsettled labor agreement with Council 94. All these conditions will be continuously monitored, and the budget will be managed accordingly.

B. Tentative FY13 Staffing and Enrollment Plan. Dr. Krizic gave a presentation on the tentative FY13 Staffing and Enrollment Plan. A review of the factors affecting enrollment; tentative staffing plans at the elementary, middle, and high school levels; and next steps in the enrollment/staffing process were presented. A copy of the Powerpoint presentation can be found at: <http://portsmouthpublic.novusreview.com/#>

C. Math Software for Home/School Use in Grades K-8. Dr. Krizic shared the district's intent to purchase IXL math software for Grades K-8 to provide additional opportunities for students to practice math skills correlated to both the Common Core standards and RI state standards. The availability of IXL is not intended to serve as the curriculum but to provide further support to advance student understanding of math skills and standards. Logins and passwords will be provided to students for both home and school use. IXL generates reports for teachers. Once purchased, communication will be sent out to staff and parents.

6. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the December 19, 2011, and January 10, 2012, minutes. The December 19, 2011, minutes were approved 6-0; and the January 10, 2012, minutes were approved 5-0-1. Mr. Croston abstained.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Personnel

1. **Teacher Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Shirley Chace, English Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective with the last day of the 2011-12 school year."
2. **Teacher Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Patricia S. McCarthy, Math Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective with the last day of the 2011-12 school year."

3. **Teacher Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Bryn T. Weymouth, Grade 1 teacher at Melville School, effective with the last day of the 2011-12 school year."
4. **Appt. - Science Teacher, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-2/14/12, to the position of Science Teacher at Portsmouth High School, effective February 15, 2012."
5. **Appt. - Custodian, Category A, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-2/14/12, to the position of Custodian, Category A, at Portsmouth High School, effective immediately."
6. **Appt. - Custodian, Category A, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #3-2/14/12, to the position of Custodian, Category A, at Portsmouth High School, effective immediately."
7. **Appt. - Custodian, Category A, PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #4-2/14/12, to the position of Custodian, Category A, at Portsmouth Middle School, effective immediately."
8. **Request for Second Year Leave of Absence.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request for a second year leave of absence in accordance with the backup information."
9. **Requests for Second Year Leaves of Absence.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the requests for a second year leave of absence in accordance with the backup information, on the condition that funding is available from the Rhode Island Department of Education."

B. Home School Requests

1. **Approval of Request for Permission to Home School.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request to provide home schooling for the 2011-12 school year for student HS#26-2/12, as listed in the confidential memo dated February 7, 2012, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2."

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0. Dr. Krizic announced the following appointments:

4. Appointed Glenn Dewell as a science teacher at PHS for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year.
5. Appointed Nicholas Pacheco as a custodian at Portsmouth High School.

6. Appointed Paul Fisher as a custodian at Portsmouth High School.
7. Appointed David Homen as a custodian at Portsmouth Middle School.

8. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. **Teacher Non-Renewals (Uncertainty of Sufficient Funding and/or Programmatic Changes).** A motion was made by Mr. Harris that due to the uncertainty of local, Federal and/or State funding for the School Department's programs for the 2012-13 school year, and the School Committee's interest in achieving economic and/or program efficiencies which could result in program reductions, consolidation of classes, realignment of staff, and elimination of positions in order to effectively and efficiently use the department's assets, that the employment of Teachers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 formally ends following the completion of their current assignment with the Portsmouth School Department. This elimination will be effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year. As a result of these eliminations or reconstitutions, these positions can be eliminated due to uncertainty of sufficient funding and/or programmatic reductions. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- B. **Teacher Termination (Uncertainty of Sufficient Funding and/or Programmatic Changes).** A motion was made by Mr. Harris that due to the uncertainty of local, Federal and/or State funding for the School Department's programs for the 2012-13 school year, and the School Committee's interest in achieving economic and/or program efficiencies which could result in program reductions, consolidation of classes, realignment of staff, and elimination of positions in order to effectively and efficiently use the department's assets, that the employment of Teacher 11 formally ends following the completion of his/her current employment with the Portsmouth School Department. This elimination will be effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year. As a result of this elimination or reconstitution, this position can be eliminated due to the uncertainty of sufficient funding and/or programmatic reductions. Seconded by Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 5-1. Mr. Croston was opposed.
- C. **Non-Renewals (Limited Employment Contracts and Substitute Teachers).** A motion was made by Mr. Harris that due to the expiration of limited employment contracts of teachers and substitute teachers, that the employment of Teachers 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 formally ends following the completion of their current assignment with the Portsmouth School Department. Long-term substitutes and 1-year appointments are not eligible for continuous employment as a result these positions can be eliminated. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- D. **Teacher Non-Renewals (Part-Time - Less than 135 Days).** A motion was made by Mr. Harris that due to teaching contracts with less than the equivalent of 135 days for the 2011-12 school year, that the employment of Teachers 18, 19, 20, and 21 formally ends following the completion of their current assignment with the Portsmouth School Department. Teachers appointed to part-time positions are not entitled to rights of recall. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.

- E. **Teacher Non-Renewals (Declining Enrollment).** A motion was made by Mr. Harris that due to projected declines in enrollment for the 2012-13 school year, that the employment of Teachers 22, 23, and 24 formally ends following the completion of their current assignment with the Portsmouth School Department. As a result of declining enrollment, it will be necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which will result in a lack of positions. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 5-1. Mr. Croston was opposed.
- F. **Teacher Non-Renewals (Impact of Leaves of Absence).** A motion was made by Mr. Harris that due to the anticipated return of teachers with more seniority who will be or may be returning from a leave which would result in teachers with more seniority having eligibility for the positions, that the employment of Teacher 25 formally ends following the completion of his/her current assignment with the Portsmouth School Department. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- G. **Teacher Non-Renewals (Re-open Positions).** A motion was made by Mr. Harris that due to the desire of the School Department to re-open the positions for the 2012-13 school year because we believe that there are more qualified candidates, that the employment of Teachers 26 and 27 formally ends following the completion of their current assignment with the Portsmouth School Department. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- H. **Teacher Terminations (Performance).** A motion was made by Mr. Harris that due to the deficiencies noted in performance which have not been remedied as a result of placement on an Intensive Assistance Improvement Plan, that the employment of Teachers 28 and 29 be terminated following the completion of their current assignment with the Portsmouth School Department. Tenured individuals recommended for termination for deficiencies are entitled to a hearing before the School Committee. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- I. **Agenda Item Request - Introduction of Newport County Youth Rugby Football Club.** Requested by Mr. Christopher Gray. Mr. Ralph Craft and Mr. Chris Gray of Newport County Youth Rugby Football Club gave a presentation and requested distribution of organization flyers and ability to introduce rugby to Portsmouth students during the school day. The impact of this request on the current physical education curriculum will be discussed with physical education staff.
- J. **Agenda Item Request - Designate-A-Driver (Donating After-School Educational Transportation).** Requested by Mr. Christopher Gray. Mr. Gray gave a presentation on the Designate-A-Driver program involving the transportation for student athletes. Mr. Dunham and Mr. Trezvant will look into the possibility of participating in this program.
- K. **Bid Award - Education Facility Planner Bid.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston to award the contract for an Education Facility Planner to Studio JAED in Providence in the amount of \$79,000. Seconded by Mr. Harris. Mr. Croston stated that this is for Fire Code upgrades. This is money we must spend in order to get the 30 percent reimbursement from the State under health and safety upgrades. This study is principally

earmarked for health, safety, and fire code upgrades in our elementary schools. So voted 6-0.

- L. **Extension of Groundskeeping Contract.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the extension of the groundskeeping contract as presented. So voted 6-0.
- M. **Request for Extension of Temporary Payroll Services.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the extension of the temporary payroll services as presented. So voted 6-0.
- N. **Approval of Reallocation of Guidance Counseling Services for Grades 4-6.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the reallocation of guidance counseling services for Grades 4 through 6 at Portsmouth Middle School. Mr. Croston stated that he needed more information and requested that Items N, O, P, Q, and R be postponed until next month. Much discussion took place. Mr. Harris withdrew his motion and made a motion to table Items N, O, P, Q, and R until the February 28th meeting. Seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 6-0.
- O. **Approval of Part-Time Clerical Position at PMS for Grades 4 and 5.** The Superintendent requests approval of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves a part-time clerical position at Portsmouth Middle School, not-to-exceed 20 hours per week, for Grades 4 and 5." This item was tabled to the February 28, 2012, meeting.
- P. **Authorize Administration to Purchase Desks/Chairs for 4th/5th Grade.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee authorized Administration to purchase desks and chairs for the 4th and 5th Grades, using funds from the FY12 budget." This item was tabled to the February 28, 2012, meeting.
- Q. **Approval of School Name Designation for Grades 4 and 5, and Authorize Administration to File the Appropriate Paperwork with RIDE.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the school name designation for Grades 4 and 5 (Portsmouth Intermediate Center or Portsmouth Upper Elementary), and authorizes Administration to file the appropriate paperwork with RIDE." This item was tabled to the February 28, 2012, meeting.
- R. **Emergency Electrical Repairs to PHS Septic System.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the emergency electrical repairs to the PHS septic system as presented. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- S. **Approval of December 2011 Financials.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the December 2011 financial reports as presented. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- T. **Allocation of Funds for PHS Band Uniforms and PMS Playground Project.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the allocation of up to \$25,000 out of the Gate Receipts account for PHS band uniforms on the condition that the PHS Music Boosters matches or exceeds that amount through their fundraising efforts, and

allocating up to \$25,000 out of the Gate Receipts account for the PMS playground project, on the condition that the PMS Parents Group matches or exceeds that amount through their fundraising efforts. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. Much discussion took place. Mr. Jim Wilkinson, President of the PHS Music Boosters, stated that the current uniforms are 25 years old, and he gave an update on their fundraising efforts. To date they've raised about \$45,000 for uniforms. Mr. Croston thinks this is an adequate use of Gate Receipts. Mr. Harris recognized Dr. Krizic for bringing these ideas to the Finance Subcommittee meeting last week. So voted 6-0.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

- A. **Facilities.** Mr. Croston announced that a Facilities Planner was hired.
- B. **Finance.** Mrs. Perrotti stated that the Finance Subcommittee met on February 9, 2012. The subcommittee agreed that it would be useful to meet with our legislators soon. The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2012.
- C. **Health and Wellness.** Ms. Volpicelli reported that the Health and Wellness Subcommittee met on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, at the Administration Building. The group talked about revising the health and wellness policy. It was decided to use the Barrington policy as a framework. They will be recommending to the Policy Subcommittee that they would like a waiver of the first reading, approval of the second reading, and adoption of the policy so they can begin to communicate the changes. The subcommittee is doing a survey of all Portsmouth school principals and gathering data to gain a better understanding of what work and support the committee should focus on. The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at the Administration Building. There will not be another report until the second School Committee meeting in March.
- D. **Policy.** Mr. Vadney stated that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held on Friday, February 17, 2012.
- E. **Personnel.** Ms. Volpicelli reported that the Personnel Subcommittee held its first meeting on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at the Administration Building. The Superintendent's evaluation tool has been devised, which will allow teachers, principals, and the School Committee to give feedback. The feedback will be in a survey form. The feedback process will be confidential and anonymous. The projected timeframe for this evaluation process will be April 23, 2012 and be returned by May 10, 2012. At the same time, the survey will be given to the School Committee, who will be given two weeks to complete it. During the week of May 14, 2012, the data will be reviewed by the subcommittee.
- F. **Technology.** Mr. Vadney stated that the applications have been reviewed, and the recommended candidates will be presented to the School Committee at the February 28th meeting.

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10. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Volpicelli and was seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Special Note: School Committee meeting agendas and non-confidential meeting materials are now available on the school district's website www.portsmouthschoolsri.org. They are located under the School Committee tab and can be found on the Novus Solutions (agenda) link.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk