

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 Sylvia Wedge

Also Present: Dr. Krizic, Superintendent; Mark Dunham, Director of Finance and Administration; Patti Cofield, Administrative Assistant; Hayley McClintock, High School Liaison

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. **RECOGNITIONS**

A. **Students**

1. **PHS Scholastic Arts Winners.** The School Committee recognized the following PHS students for their exemplary performance in the recent Rhode Island Scholastic Arts Competition: Ryan Ake (Gold Key Award-Photo Portfolio); Steven Elleman (Gold Key Award-Sculpture, and Silver Key Award-Printmaking); Caprice Nelson (Silver Key Award-Drawing); Sarah Petty (Silver Key Award-Drawing); Ben Riley (Silver Key Award-Drawing); and Tyler Rosenberg (Silver Key Award-Drawing). Art Teacher Rose Escobar presented a Powerpoint presentation containing the exemplary work of the PHS students who participated in the arts competition.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti reported on the hearing held February 15, 2012, at RIDE due to our May 10, 2011, request for an advisory opinion relating to seniority. The School Committee's sole witness was Dr. Lusi. The next hearing is tentatively scheduled to be held March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at which time NEA will present their witnesses. Mrs. Perrotti announced that Ms. Volpicelli and Mr. Quinn were absent from the meeting.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

- A. **PHS Liaison Report.** Hayley McClintock reported that the Student Council installed several new water filters with their funds. They are having an Egg Hunt at Hathaway on March 31<sup>st</sup> and a blood drive later in March. They are trying to plan more community service activities and are hoping to clean the local beaches in April. Last week, several students went to Guatemala to do humanities work.

**B. Student Achievement Data Presentation.** Mr. Jeff Schoonover, Interim Director of Instruction and Assessment, presented an overview of student performance on the state-mandated NECAP test (Grades 3 through 11), the Scantron Performance Assessment (Grades 3 through 10), and the Explore Test (Grade 8). These multiple data points provide the district, individual schools, and teachers with an opportunity to identify students needing additional instructional support; to evaluate current curriculum; and to establish instructional priorities for school improvement plans.

As a district, 87% of our students met or exceeded state standards on the NECAP reading assessment, and 76% of our students met or exceeded state standards on the NECAP math assessment. On the writing assessment, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the state, while our 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the state. Currently, the NECAP assessment is not aligned to the Common Core Standards in literacy and math. Information on the Common Core Standards can be found at the following link:

<http://www.corestandards.org/frequently-asked-questions>

On the Scantron Performance Assessment, 78% of our elementary students met or exceeded the standard in the area of reading; 86% met or exceeded in the area of math; and 80% met or exceeded in the area of language arts. At the middle school level, 72% of our students met or exceeded the standard in the area of reading; 80% met or exceeded in the area of math; and 69% met or exceeded in the area of language arts. At the high school level, 75% of student met or exceeded in the area of reading, and 82% met or exceeded in the area of math. The Scantron Performance Assessment has been aligned to the Common Core Standards and is a nationally benchmarked assessment. This is the first year this assessment was given to students. It will be administered again in the spring 2012 to enable teachers and parents to look at the growth of students. In the 2012-13 school year, the SCANTRON assessment will be administered in the early fall, winter, and spring.

On the Explore Test, a curriculum-based test aligned to college readiness standards and nationally benchmarked, 50% of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students met or exceeded standards on the Composite score. This is the first year this assessment was given to students.

Mr. Schoonover explained the importance of Portsmouth having a balanced assessment system that is coherent, comprehensive, and continuous. Superintendent Krizic shared that while we have much to celebrate here in Portsmouth, we are committed to continuously improving our student achievement and further advancing rigor in our curriculum.

The achievement presentation materials can be found at the following link:

<http://portsmouthpublic.novusreview.com/BlueSheet.aspx?ItemID=146&MeetingID=8>

## 6. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the January 24, 2012, minutes. So voted 5-0-1. Mrs. King abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Personnel**

1. **Assistant Principal Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Dr. Lori McEwen, Assistant Principal at Portsmouth High School, effective March 2, 2012."
2. **Request for Leave of Absence.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request for Family and Medical Leave in accordance with the backup information."

B. **Policies**

1. **Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Policies.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the second reading and adoption of the below policies as presented."

- 3120 Budget Planning and Preparation
- 3150 Budget
- 3155 Budget Preparation
- 3160 Adjustment of Accounts
- 3165 Fiscal Budget Requirements
- 3260 Disposal of School Property
- 3269 Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, and Donations to the District
- 3320 Purchases
- 3323 Soliciting Bids and Quotes
- 3323.1 Soliciting Bids (Local Purchasing)

- C. **Approval of January 2012 Financial Reports.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the January 2012 Financial Reports as presented."

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.

8. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. **Approval of Elimination of 4th/5th Grade House Leader and Creation of 4th/5th Grade Assistant Principal for FY13.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the elimination of the 4th/5th Grade House Leader position and create the position of 4th/5th Grade Assistant Principal for FY13. Seconded by Mrs. King. Much discussion took place. Mrs. King stated that she doesn't understand the necessity for an additional Assistant Principal because 5<sup>th</sup> grade was historically located at PMS. So voted 5-1. Mrs. King was opposed.

- B. Approval of Reallocation of Guidance Counseling Services for Grades 4-6.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the reallocation of guidance counseling services for Grades 4 through 6 at Portsmouth Middle School." A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to remove this item from the agenda. He believes the superintendent has the flexibility to make the change. So voted 6-0.
- C. 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." A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to remove this item from the agenda. He believes the superintendent has the flexibility to make the changes. So voted 6-0.
- D. 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." Mr. Croston made a motion to table this item until an RFP is put out but withdrew it after Mr. Dunham explained that we didn't have to get three bids because we used the US Bidders Community, and there are two large vendors there. Mr. Croston stated that he would like to see the financials on the bid. He made a motion to put a \$15,000 cap on it. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0. Mrs. Perrotti asked that the motion be amended to state that the purchase is for 4<sup>th</sup> grade only. Mr. Croston amended his motion, and it was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.
- E. 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." A motion to remove Item E was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.
- F. Budget Transfers.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the budget transfers as presented. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.
- G. Appointment of Technology Subcommittee Members.** A motion was made by Mr. Vadney and was seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the appointment of the Technology Subcommittee At-Large and Auxiliary members as presented. Mr. Croston stated that members of the internal Technology Subcommittee should not also be on this subcommittee, as the subcommittees would be working together. Therefore, he made a motion to remove At-Large Candidate #4 and replace him with Auxiliary Candidate #1. Seconded by Mr. Harris. So voted 6-0. Mr. Vadney announced the following appointments:

At-Large Members: Brenda Langlais, Linnea Wolf, Robert Hewett, and Jeff Swider; and Auxiliary Member: Roy Huck. Mr. Vadney announced that the School Committee has reopened applications for the Technology Subcommittee, as additional members are needed. Applications should be sent to Patti Cofield by March 13th, at [cofieldp@portsmouthschoolsri.org](mailto:cofieldp@portsmouthschoolsri.org).

- H. **Approval of Purchase of AutoCad Software for PHS.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the purchase of AutoCad LT Software for Portsmouth High School. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.
- I. **Bid Award - Multimedia Equipment and Installation at PHS.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to award the bid for multimedia equipment and installation at Portsmouth High School as presented. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.
- J. **Approval of First Reading of Policies.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the first reading of the below policies as presented. Seconded by Mrs. King.

- 3324 On-Call Services
- 3430 Periodic Financial Reports
- 3440 Inventories
- 3450 Monies in School Buildings
- 8060 Attorney (New)

A motion was made by Mr. Croston to change the last sentence in the second paragraph of Policy 8060 to read, "A simple majority of School Committee members may authorize a specific member to confer with legal counsel on its behalf solely for the purpose of having a special meeting." Seconded by Mr. Vadney. So voted 6-0. Mrs. Perrotti suggested adding that, "The Negotiation Subcommittee Chair is authorized to confer on Negotiation matters." That motion was made by Mr. Vadney and was seconded by Mr. Harris. So voted 6-0. The main motion for the other policies was approved 6-0.

- K. **Approve First Reading and Adoption of Policies.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the first reading, waive the second reading, and adopt the below policies as presented. So voted 6-0.

- 5100.1 Health and Wellness
- 5100.2 Allergy (New)
- 5210 Field Trips

- L. **Agenda Item Request - Discussion re Custodial Outsourcing.** Requested by Mr. Harris. Much discussion took place regarding custodial outsourcing. Mr. Harris stated that there is potentially a significant amount of savings by outsourcing custodial and maintenance services; and the only way to know is to put out an RFP for services. He

stated that when students in Grades K-8 don't have textbooks, for example, he feels it is the duty of the School Committee to find ways to save money to enhance the education of our students. The discussion will continue at a subsequent School Committee meeting.

- M. Develop Legislative Agenda.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to develop a legislative agenda. Dr. Krizic suggested deferring this item to the next meeting because of the lateness of this meeting. Mrs. Perrotti would like to formulate the agenda at that time, so she suggested that the School Committee members submit their agenda items to Mrs. Cofield before the next meeting. Once the agenda is formalized, a special meeting will be set up to discuss it with our legislators.
- N. Resolution in Opposition of Senate Bill S-2239.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the resolution in opposition of Senate Bill S-2239. So voted 6-0.
- O. Endorsement of Youth Art Month.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to endorse the observance of Youth Art Month and encourage the support of quality school art programs for all students. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted 6-0.

## 9. SUBCOMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

- A. Facilities.** Mr. Croston reported that the educational facility planner hired by the district toured both elementary schools during the week of winter break. The formation of a building committee as required by RIDE is in development.
- B. Finance.** Mrs. Perrotti reported that the Finance Subcommittee met on February 27<sup>th</sup> to continue deliberations on the 2012-13 budget.
- C. Policy.** Mrs. King reported that work continues on reviewing and revising school policies.
- D. Technology.** No Report.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. King. So voted. The meeting adjourned at 10:13 PM.

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

Portsmouth School Committee  
February 28, 2012 Meeting  
Public Session Minutes  
Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk