

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

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Harris, Vice Chair; and Marilyn King, Clerk

A motion was made by Mr. Croston 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 5-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:30 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **RECOGNITIONS**

A. **Students.**

1. **PHS Cheerleader State Champions:** Portsmouth High School Cheerleaders Sabrina Aguiar, Kaitlyn Arruda, Rachael Chavous, Ashley Cotta, Brianna Dublin, Kaili Dunlap, Marissa Eaken, Lexi Farias, Hannah Fleming, Kelsey Garcia, Maggie Gorton, Erica Kelley, Amber McCollum, Erynn McGeown, Kaitlan Mitchell, Ashley Reynolds, Brittany Santos, Mary Sweeney, Ashley Underhill, Brooke Waters, and Eden Younkin were members of the 2011-12 Medium School Division RIIL Cheerleading Champions. The PHS cheerleaders attained this championship under the coaching leadership of Debora Valente. This was the fifth consecutive year the PHS cheerleaders have won this Rhode Island Interscholastic League competition.
2. **PMS/PHS All State Band and Chorus Selectees.** Rhode Island Music Educators Association (RIMEA) on an annual basis selects All-State musicians after a rigorous competition process. Portsmouth Middle School Students Kyle Hinton (Junior All State Band); Catherine Gaspard (Junior All State Treble Chorus); and John Billings, Amy Drake, Mashell Hinton, and Christopher Woodhead (Junior All State Orchestra); and, Portsmouth High School Students Collin Turcotte (Junior All State Band); Hunter Brokaw and Sam Boswell (Junior All State Orchestra); Margeaux Sippell and Jillian Zappala (Junior All State Mixed Chorus); Colin Davis (Senior All State Band), Steven Elleman (Senior All State Orchestra), and Alida Corr, Katherine Hobbs, Samantha Kirwin, Claire O'Connor, and Kirstie Urgasan (Senior All State Chorus) were awarded All-State recognition in their particular musical specialty.

3. **PMS Science Fair Winners.** This item was withdrawn and will be presented at the next meeting.
4. **PMS Spelling Bee Winner.** Nicole Fontaine, a fifth grade student at Portsmouth Middle School, was recognized for winning the Portsmouth Middle School school-level Spelling Bee competition, which qualified her for the State Spelling Bee competition representing Portsmouth Middle School.
3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti announced that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting, and no votes were taken. A motion was made by Mr. Croston to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Alan Shers stated that there are a lot of elderly people in town who have spare time and knowledge and could be a resource for the school department. He suggested creating a program that would accentuate this. He feels it would bring some of the community closer together.
5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**
 - A. **Model UN Student Presentation:** Members of the Portsmouth High School Model UN group made a presentation describing Model UN, identifying the life-long benefits of participating in Model UN, and sharing the successes and experiences of the members of Model UN in their recent Model UN competition in Boston. The team advisor is Mr. Joseph Cassidy.
 - B. **Stadium/Track Project Proposal.** Six members of the Portsmouth Community Keith Hamilton, Christine Jenkins, Ed and Julia Coll, Ted Clement, and Gary Eggeman made a presentation on the need for a field and track replacement at Portsmouth High School. The project as outlined would benefit the entire community and serve as the school department's largest classroom as it would be accessible for physical education classes, multiple athletic teams, the band program, and all other community athletic organizations. The anticipated cost to install a turf field and replace the track is \$1.6 million dollars with the majority of the funds to be obtained through fundraising. A motion was made by Mr. Croston to direct the Superintendent to have recommendations presented at the next School Committee meeting to enable this group of individuals to move forward with their fundraising efforts. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 5-0. A copy of the Powerpoint presentation is available at the following link:
<http://portsmouthpublic.novusreview.com/BlueSheet.aspx?ItemID=230&MeetingID=12>.
 - C. **Report on March 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 third quarter Little Compton invoice will be sent out later this week. The total expenditure line has a year-end positive projection

of \$505,000 at this time. This is between one and a quarter and one and a half percent of our current operating budget. The largest positive variances are in the salary line and associated employees benefits (Medicare and FICA) due to positions that have been and in some cases remain vacant, special education tuitions, and in the department's health insurance budget lines. This report reflects the surplus in the snow removal account and the anticipated surplus in the natural gas account due to the mildness of the winter and lower than expected natural gas costs. The department had challenged an unemployment claim earlier this year and has just been informed the challenge was successful. The amount of funds saved is less than \$2,000, but the message that the expenses are being monitored is an important one. The budget will continue to be closely monitored and managed for the rest of the year to ensure the years is finished either balanced or with a surplus.

6. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

1. **March 27, 2012.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2012, meeting. So voted 5-0.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA** (none)

8. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. **Approve First Reading of Identified Policies in Section 3000.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the following policies as a first reading. So voted 5-0.

3460 Financial Returns from Athletic Events
3510 Operation and Maintenance of Plant
3511 Facilities Code Compliance
3512 Energy Management
3520 Indoor Air Quality
3530 Heating, Ventilation, A/C and Refrigeration Requirements
3620 Building Security
3710 Bus Idling

- B. **Approve First Reading, Waive Second Reading, and Adopt Policy 3435 Fund Balance:** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mr. Vadney to approve the first reading, waive the second reading and adopt Policy 3435, Fund Balance. Ms. Volpicelli asked to table this item because Mrs. King, who is the Policy Subcommittee Chair, was absent; and she feels there are advantages to voting on this after the budget is approved by the Town Council. There was no second to table. Much discussion took place. Mrs. Perrotti amended the motion and to strike "up to 50 percent" in the fifth paragraph. Seconded by Mr. Croston. Mr. Fitzmorris urged the Committee to not rush the adoption of the policy. Mr. Robicheau asked the Committee to wait until after the

School Committee meets with the Town Council. Discussion continued. Mr. Croston amended the amendment to include striking the fourth paragraph regarding targeting a fund balance of not less than 4 percent. Mrs. Perrotti seconded the amendment. Discussion continued. Mrs. Perrotti made a motion to approve the policy as a first reading and to strike the fourth paragraph regarding the fund balance of not less than 4 percent. Seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 5-0. The amendment to strike “up to 50 percent” and change the language in the fifth paragraph to “The School Committee *may allocate the fund balance* for purposes...” was approved 4-0-1. Ms. Volpicelli abstained. Mr. Croston made a motion to approve the policy with the amendments as a first reading. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 4-1. Mr. Vadney was opposed.

- C. **Approve PMS Fundraising for Playground Improvements.** A motion to approve the Portsmouth Middle School fundraising for playground improvements was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mr. Vadney. So voted 5-0.
- D. **Approve February Financial Reports.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the February financial reports as presented. So voted 5-0.
- E. **Approve Budget Transfers.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the budget transfers as presented. So voted 5-0.
- F. **Approve RFP for OPEB Trust.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the RFP for the OPEB Trust. So voted 5-0.
- G. **Agenda Item Request – Appointment of Tech Committee Member** (Requested by Mr. Vadney). Mr. Vadney made a motion to approve the appointment of John McDaid as Auxiliary Member #2 to the Technology Subcommittee. Seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 5-0.
- H. **Agenda Item Request – Approve Layoff Notice Resolution** (Requested by Mr. Vadney). A motion was made by Mr. Vadney and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the layoff notice resolution. So voted 5-0.
- I. **Agenda Item Request – Approve Binding Arbitration Resolution** (Requested by Mr. Vadney). Mr. Vadney made a motion to approve the binding arbitration resolution. Seconded by Mr. Croston. So voted 5-0.
- J. **Approve the RIDE Stage 2 Submittal as Presented and Amended at Building Committee Meeting held April 9, 2012.** Mr. Croston made a motion to approve the RIDE Stage 2 submittal. It is a document that needs to go forth to RIDE and to General Assembly asking for health and safety code upgrades over a 2-year period, totaling \$2.485 million dollars. Seconded by Mr. Vadney. So voted 5-0.

9. **SUBCOMMITTEE COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Facilities.** Mr. Croston stated that the RIDE Stage 2 approval will be submitted within the next week or two. He would like to get it in front of the Board of Regents and legislature in this calendar year. He plans to present to the Town Council within the next month or so.
- B. **Finance.** Mrs. Perrotti stated that the Committee is looking forward to meeting with the Town Council and developing that relationship.
- C. **Negotiations.** Mrs. Perrotti stated that a mediation session was held last night.
- D. **Policy.** No report.
- E. **Personnel.** No report.
- F. **Technology.** Mr. Vadney stated that all members of the subcommittee have now been appointed. A first meeting of the subcommittee will be scheduled in the near future.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to adjourn the meeting. So voted 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk