

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; 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, and Hayley McClintock, High School Liaison

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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 Mrs. King. So voted 7-0.

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

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **RECOGNITION AGENDA**

A. **Employees**

1. **2011 State Representative for School Band and Orchestra's "Fifty Directors that Make a Difference"** Mr. Ted Rausch, PHS Band Director, was commended for being selected as the 2011 State Representative for School Band and Orchestra's "Fifty Directors that Make a Difference. This award is bestowed upon one high school music director in the state of Rhode Island and is given to educators whose incredible diversity in style, geography, and demographic setting, mirrors the similarly wide range of thriving music programs throughout the country

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mrs. Perrotti reported that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting, and one vote was taken on a litigation matter.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Georgiana Murphy, President of Council 94, Local 2669, urged the School Committee to not privatize custodial services. She stated that they believe it will hurt the education of Portsmouth's children. The non-certified union was the first to voluntarily take a pay freeze, and they are willing to make reasonable changes to their retirement benefits. She believes the union and negotiations subcommittee can reach a fair contract. She invited all School Com-

mittee members to attend the mediation session on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 4:00 PM, at the Administration Building.

The following individuals also spoke in opposition of privatizing custodial and maintenance services: Sharon Allan (former payroll clerk and officer of Local 2669); Bob Ibbotson (PHS custodian); Donna Marley (paraprofessional and treasurer of Local 2669); Richard Weida (PHS head custodian); Lisa Fischer (parent); Amanda Boswell (PHS teacher and parent); Mary Stockard (Melville teacher); David Rodrigues (resident and custodian for Middletown School Department); Patricia McCarthy (PHS teacher).

## 5. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION

- A. **Report from PHS Liaison.** Hayley McClintock reported that business is winding down for the Student Council. They held a successful blood drive last week and are trying to regain their first place status in the state. They are having an egg hunt for elementary students this Saturday. They will also be doing beach clean-up. They plan to give some of their extra funds to various high school clubs in need. The Student Council is also focusing on additional service projects. Senior project preparation is starting to pick up, and the big presentations will be held in May. She congratulated Mr. Rausch on his award, and she stated that the custodians really do make a difference in the school communities.
- B. **Report on February Financials.** Mr. Dunham reported that all the revenue is being received as projected, and there are no indications that 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 surplus in the Miscellaneous Revenue budget line is from the Federal Employee Retiree Reinsurance Program, and a rebate from WB Mason (approximately \$8,000) that all districts that belong to the state purchasing consortium receive. The total expenditure line has a year-end positive projection of \$444,000 at this time. This is slightly more than one percent of the budget, which could disappear quickly with some bad weather or emergencies. 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. The March report will begin to reflect the financial rewards of a mild winter, which all other things remaining equal, should improve the end of year outlook. As the year moves forward, the budget may be impacted by events such as adverse weather conditions, student placement and registration, the difficult financial climate, and the outstanding unsettled labor agreement with Council 94. All of these conditions will be continuously monitored, and the budget will be managed accordingly.

## 6. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. February 28, 2012: A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2012, meeting as presented. So voted 7-0.

2. March 13, 2012: A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2012, meeting as presented. So voted 5-0 2. Mr. Harris and Ms. Wedge abstained due to their absence from that meeting.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Volpicelli requested that Item 7.A.2 be moved to the Business Agenda.

A. **Personnel**

1. **Principal Retirement.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the School Committee accepts the resignation for retirement of Joanne M. Olson, Principal of Melville School, effective June 30, 2012.
2. **Appt. – Interim Assistant Principal, PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the Superintendent’s appointment, Recommendation #1-3/27/12, to the position of Interim Assistant Principal at Portsmouth High School, effective immediately.”
3. **Coaching Appt. – PMS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, “that the Committee affirms the coaching appointment at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2011-12 spring season, as presented.”

B. **Policies**

1. **Approval of Second Reading and Adoption of Policies:**

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

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item A.2. So voted 7-0. Dr. Krizic announced the appointment of Caitlin Poplawski, Softball Coach at Portsmouth Middle School. Mrs. Perrotti acknowledged the retirement of Dr. Olson.

8. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. **Request for Donation to PHS Post Prom Party.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the donation of \$1,000 to the PHS Post Prom Party. So voted 6-1. Mrs. Perrotti was opposed.

- B. Agenda Item Request – Discussion/Action re Need to Replace Assistant Principal at PHS for FY13** (Requested by Ms. Volpicelli) Ms. Volpicelli stated that at this time, she is not in support of filling the vacant high school assistant principal position for the next school year because of the tough economic times. Much discussion took place. Mr. Littlefield and Mr. Goss spoke in support of filling the position. Mr. Littlefield believes that eliminating this critical administrative position will do a disservice to students, staff, and the community. The new statewide teacher evaluation system that is being implemented places demands on school leaders like never before. The intent is to give every teacher the attention they deserve and to give them a thorough and complete evaluation. The curriculum is being aligned to common core standards, as the nation and our state demand accountability from our schools. Curriculum and assessment must be aligned. Mr. Littlefield stated that the high school is not overly staffed or top heavy with administrators compared to schools similar in size and demographics. He named the high schools in Rhode Island that have a principal and two assistant principals and stated that all but one of them also have a school resource officer on campus to keep a safe and orderly atmosphere. He stressed that filling the assistant principal position is critical for the high school to move forward in this time of high accountability. He urged the School Committee to approve the appointment of the interim assistant principal, who will help get through graduation and the end of school year, and to approve the continuance of the assistant principal position so that everyone can be provided with the support and supervision they need. Dr. Krizic spoke in support of filling the assistant principal position. She stated that never before have there been so many significant academic initiatives being implemented. In order to fully support our teaching staff with all of those changes, the assistant principal position is critical and necessary. In addition, we are using data even more effectively, and the stakes are getting higher in terms of accountability. She stated that she is always looking for economic efficiencies, but certainly not in this case. Mr. Littlefield invited Ms. Volpicelli to visit him and his team at Portsmouth High School to see what it is like, to see what they do, and to see their interaction with students, parents, and teachers. He stated that they are providing the leadership and support and supervision absolutely necessary to move forward and meet the challenges ahead of us. Ms. Volpicelli made a motion to not fill the assistant principal position at Portsmouth High School for the 2012-13 school year. Seconded by Mrs. King. The motion failed 2-5. Ms. Volpicelli and Mrs. King voted in favor.

From Consent Agenda:

7. A. 2. **Appt. – Interim Assistant Principal, PHS.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-3/27/12, to the position of Interim Assistant Principal at Portsmouth High School, effective immediately. So voted 7-0.

- C. Agenda Item Request – Presentation/Discussion/Action of Custodial and Maintenance Staff Budget Costs and Associated Retiree Pension and OPEB Costs** (Requested by Mr. Harris)

Mr. Croston called Point of Order. He made a motion to appeal the rejection of his agenda item request by the Chair. Mrs. Perrotti stated that Mr. Croston did not submit his request in accordance with the timeline listed in the School Committee By-Laws. The motion failed 2-5. Mr. Croston and Mr. Vadney voted in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to direct the Finance Director to generate an RFP to seek a private contractor that would require that all of our existing custodial and maintenance staff be rehired. Seconded by Mrs. Perrotti. Mr. Harris gave a Powerpoint presentation on the custodial and maintenance staff budget costs and associated retiree pension and OPEB costs. Much discussion took place. Mrs. Perrotti commended Mr. Harris on his presentation.

Portsmouth High School Head Custodian, Rick Weida, NEA Portsmouth President Joseph Cassady, Helen Furriel, John McDaid, Martha Costa, Karen Gleason, Andrew Kelly, and President of Rhode Island Council 94 Jay Michael Downing, spoke in opposition of outsourcing. Town Council President Joe Robicheau encouraged the School Committee to explore outsourcing.

The motion failed 2-5. Mr. Harris and Mrs. Perrotti voted in favor.

- D. **Approve the Formation/Membership of the Building Committee for the Purpose of Serving in an Advisory Capacity to the Facilities Subcommittee and School Committee.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the formation and membership of the Building Committee for the purpose of serving in an advisory capacity to the Facilities Subcommittee and School Committee. So voted 7-0.
- E. **Presentation/Discussion/Action on FY12 Warrant.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the FY12 Building Warrant. So voted 7-0.
- F. **Presentation/Discussion/Action on FY13 Warrant.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the FY13 Building Warrant. So voted 7-0.
- G. **Presentation/Discussion/Action on 5-Year Capital Plan.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the 5-year Capital Plan. Mr. Dunham explained the details of the plan. So voted 7-0.
- H. **Discussion/Action – Authorizing Utility Contract.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mrs. King to authorize the Finance Office to authorize Direct Energy to lock in the best per unit price for natural gas for a period not-to-exceed two years and to bring the contract to a future meeting for ratification. So voted 7-0.
- I. **Discussion/Action – Axion Business Technologies Settlement.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to accept the settlement with Axion Business Technologies in the amount of \$10,000. So voted 7-0.

9. **SUBCOMMITTEE COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Facilities.** Mr. Croston reported that Chief Lynch attended the meeting that was held for the Facilities and Building Committees. The focus of the committee is on fire code upgrades. This was a consideration of past school committees and town councils. A large sum of money was voted to be set aside several years ago, but it was never bonded. The department had waivers for its elementary schools, which expired in September. The schools are out of compliance. The Town Council should be aware, and he hopes that at a future Town Council meeting, he can be more clear on that. We have to sprinkle our elementary schools, and it will cost us approximately \$2 million over two year.
- B. **Finance.** No report.
- C. **Health and Wellness.** No report.
- D. **Negotiations.** Mr. Harris stated that the next negotiations session with Council 94 will take place on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- E. **Policy.** Mrs. King reported that the next subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- F. **Personnel.** No report.
- G. **Technology.** Mr. Vadney will put a candidate on the next meeting for approval.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for

Marilyn King, Clerk