

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cynthia Perrotti, Chair; Marilyn King, Clerk; David Croston; Thomas Vadney; 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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonathan Harris, Vice Chair; and Angela Volpicelli

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 5-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:30 PM and resumed at 7:10 PM.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **RECOGNITION AGENDA**

A. **Students.**

1. **PMS Science Fair Winners:** Portsmouth Middle School students achieving significant levels of distinction for the science projects presented at the recent Junior Division of the Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair (RISEF) were recognized. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the following PMS students were honored: Abbey Bloom (Top 10% in State and First Grant – “Hydroponics and Soil”); Julia Rotar (Second Grant – “Sand Effects on Plant Growth”); and Mary Stack (Third Grant – “Measuring Glucose in Fruit”). The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students recognized were: Amy Drake (Top 10% in State and First Grant – “Hot vs. Cold”); Taylor Kirkpatrick (First Grant – “Aquality”); and Summer Gerry (Second Grant – “Magnets and Plants”).

3. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** Mrs. Perrotti reported that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting. One vote was taken and was approved unanimously to modify the terms of Dr. Krizic’s contract.

Mrs. Perrotti thanked the Portsmouth Public Education Foundation for hosting the annual Kitchen Tour fundraiser. She appreciates their efforts to raise funds for the district. Mrs. Perrotti announced the Portsmouth Middle School brick fundraiser for their playground project.

Mrs. Perrotti announced with deep regret that she was resigning from the School Committee effective May 15, 2012, due to personal reasons. In her remarks, she expressed her appreciation to School Committee members, administrators, staff, and the community for their work and support. Mrs. Perrotti thanked the community for electing her to the School Committee as well as thanked members of the School Committee for electing her to serve as School Committee Chair. Mrs. Perrotti received a standing ovation by the audience.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Spring Scantron Performance Report:** Mr. Jeffrey Schoonover presented the Spring Scantron results which highlighted the math, reading, and/or language performance of students in Grades 2 through 10. Several factors were identified as affecting student performance, including but not limited to, lack of alignment between Rhode Island standards and national standards and lack of aligned, quality instructional materials available to students and staff.
- B. **K-5 Math and Algebra 1 Curriculum Adoption Process:** Mr. Schoonover gave a report on the district's efforts in adopting new math textbooks for Grades K-5 and 8-9. Currently, teachers are evaluating several different textbook options using an evaluation tool developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. It is anticipated that the new math textbooks would be implemented in the 2012-13 school year in Grades K-3 at Hathaway, Grades 4-5 at PMS, and in Grades 8-9 (Algebra) at both PMS and PHS. At the June School Committee meeting, new textbook recommendations will be brought forth.
- C. **FY11-12 Summer School:** Mr. Schoonover reviewed the summer school program that will be offered to students in Grades 9-12. Course recovery classes in Math, English, Social Studies, and Science will be provided using an online program with support provided by a classroom teacher two hours daily over the course of 25 days. Bridge classes in Math and English will be provided to selected incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and current 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. These classes are designed to assist in providing students with the support necessary to address skill deficits and will be provided 90 minutes a day over the course of 20 days. Students who do not successfully complete their Senior Projects will have an opportunity to enroll in a summer school class designed to assist them in meeting this graduation requirement. Course recovery and Senior Project classes will have a tuition cost of \$200, and each Bridge class will have a tuition cost of \$100. Information on the High School Summer School Program will be sent out to families in the next few weeks.
- D. **FY13 School Lunch Pricing:** Mr. Dunham reviewed the proposed FY13 School Lunch prices. In order to ensure compliance with regulations put forth by the National School Lunch program and anticipated requirements to the lunch program for next school year, a \$.05 increase for elementary, middle, and high school lunches was recommended. A formal recommendation will be presented to the School Committee at its next meeting.
- E. **FY12 School Calendar/Last Day of School Change:** Dr. Krizic reported that due to the use of an emergency day to address issues related to the hurricane last August, the end of the school year, as required by law, was modified. Therefore, the last day of school for the 2011-12 school year will be Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.

F. **NECAP Science Testing Dates:** Mr. Schoonover reported that during the month of May, the NECAP Science test will be administered to students in Grades 4, 8, and 11.

G. **Tentative Building Use Fee – FY13:** Mr. Dunham presented the proposed Facility Use Fees effective for the 2012-13 school year. In developing the proposed fees, Mr. Dunham reviewed the Facility Use Fee structure of approximately 14 other school districts. He also indicated that it had been several years since the School Committee made any adjustments or changes to the fees. These fees will be presented for approval at the next School Committee meeting.

6. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

1. **April 10, 2012:** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mr. Vadney to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2012, meeting. So voted 4-0-1. Mrs. King abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Personnel**

1. **Resignation – Systems Administrator**
2. **Resignation – Part-time Office Assistant, Central Administration**
3. **Leave of Absence Requests (FMLA)**
4. **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals**

B. **Home School Requests**

1. **Approval of Request for Permission to Home School (#28-5/12)**

C. **Policies**

1. **Second Reading and Adoption of Policies in Section 3000:**

- 3435 Fund Balance
- 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

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 5-0. Dr. Krizic announced the recall of Chris Dolos and Sarah Jakob.

8. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. **Agenda Item Request – Approval of Clause Removal in Administrator’s Contract** (Requested by Mrs. Perrotti). Mrs. Perrotti reported that a motion was made in Executive Session to modify the last sentence in Paragraph VIII. E. of Dr. Krizic’s contract to reflect 12 months instead of 6. That motion was approved unanimously.
- B. **Appoint Two Members to a Bi-Partisan Joint Town Council/School Committee Subcommittee.** Mrs. Perrotti appointed Jon Harris and Marilyn King to serve on the Bi-Partisan Joint Town Council/School Committee Subcommittee.
- C. **Approve Staff Appreciation Resolution.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to approve the Staff Appreciation Resolution. So voted 5-0. The resolution honors teachers and all support staff and declares May 7<sup>th</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup> as Staff Appreciation Week.

Mrs. Perrotti recused herself from the meeting.

- D. **Agenda Item Request – Presentation of Privatization Facts.** (Requested by Mr. Robert Kittredge) Mr. Croston stated his opposition to the presentation. Michael Downey, Council 94 President, asked that the presentation not be given because the School Committee is in contract negotiations with Council 94, and discussion regarding pensions should be done in negotiations. Dr. Krizic explained that citizens are allowed to give presentations to the School Committee, and this presentation is not in conflict with the spirit of the Council 94 negotiations. She requested that the School Committee allow Mr. Kittredge to present. Mr. Kittredge gave a Powerpoint presentation on privatization facts that he researched. He stated that he is not looking to take anyone’s job away. He feels that it is the School Committee’s due diligence to explore cost savings to the school district.
- E. **Agenda Item Request – Discussion of Use of Title 1 Funds** (Requested by Mr. Croston) A discussion of the Title I program at Hathaway was held. Mr. Croston advocated for the parent-liaison position. He would like to see a budget and explanation as to why changes are being made to the program, and he wants the School Committee to make a recommendation to administration. Dr. Krizic explained that she wants to give the staff the opportunity to refine and expand programs they are putting in place. She does not want those programmatic decisions to be ultimately decided at the School Committee table. The discussion will continue at a June meeting. Mr. Croston would like to have an update on the kindergarten at that same meeting.
- F. **Authorize \$1,000 towards Pension Study.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to authorize \$1,000 towards the Pension Study. So voted 4-0.
- G. **Approve Natural Gas Contract.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the natural gas contract. So voted 4-0.

#### H. **First Reading of Policies**

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the first reading of the following policies:

- 1112 Other Media: Communications from Outside the Schools
- 1250 Visits to Schools
- 1330 Community Use of School Facilities
- 1440 Parent/Guardian Involvement in Chapter I Programs(eliminate)
- 1500 Smoking Policy for School Visitors
- 1600 Advertising in Schools (New)
- 6144.5 Social Networking and Text Messaging (New)

So voted 4-0.

- I. **Authorize Private Fundraising Effort to Improve the Track and Field Facilities at PHS.** A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to authorize the private fundraising effort to improve the track and field facilities at PHS. Mr. Croston amended the motion to allow the specific donor levels and recognition levels of the PHS Arts and Athletic Complex as presented by the Committee. So voted 4-0. Mr. Clement advocated for the fundraising effort. Mr. Croston amended his motion to provide for naming rights to the scoreboard, reserving School Committee approval on any physical changes to the scoreboard. He spoke of his past experience with the gymnasium, saying he wished he had put the core donors' logos on the gymnasium floor. He added for approval signage in the field, limited to no more than four, that will not conflict with striping, permission to put anything on the sidelines on fences that would meet the 4' fence criteria around the field, and signage on the press booth and Booster Shack be no larger than the physical surface area. His restrictions are that all signage face inward to the field and not be directly visible to neighboring properties and Route 24. The contract shall have a morals clause enabling the School Committee to withdraw sponsorship due to conviction in a Court of Law; and any product or service restricted from sale in the district shall be prohibited from advertising. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 4-0.

#### 9. **SUBCOMMITTEE COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Facilities.** Mr. Croston reported that a presentation of the School Department's 5-Year Capital Plan had been made to the Town Council. We are awaiting legislative and RIDE approval of Phase 2.
- B. **Finance.** No report.
- C. **Health and Wellness:** Absent
- D. **Negotiations:** Absent

E. **Policy:** Mrs. King reported that work on revising and updating the policy manual continues.

F. **Personnel:** Absent

G. **Technology:** Mr. Vadney reported that the first meeting of the newly formed Technology Subcommittee will be held on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Portsmouth High School.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn the meeting. So voted 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Marilyn King, Clerk