

Portsmouth School Committee  
May 22, 2012, Meeting  
Public Session

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Mr. Harris, at 6:00 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 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; Stephen Robinson, School Department Attorney

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

A motion was made by Mrs. King 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 6:01 PM and resumed at 7:05 PM.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Harris reported that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting. One vote was taken to move into arbitration with Council 94 due to an impasse in negotiations. The vote passed 5-1. Mr. Croston was opposed. A motion was made by Mrs. King and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 6-0.

Mr. Harris thanked the Portsmouth Middle School teachers for giving up their Saturday to take 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on an educational field trip to New York City. He also thanked Dr. Lynn Krizic for serving as a chaperone on the trip.

Ms. Wedge announced that the annual Special Needs Recognition Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM, at the PMS Little Theatre.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Larry Fitzmorris, 50 Kristen Court, requested that the appointments of the Melville Principal and PMS Assistant Principal be moved to the Business Agenda to be voted on separately by members of the School Committee. So moved by Mr. Croston. Seconded by Mr. Vadney. Dr. Krizic reminded the Committee that they have the ability to move Consent Agenda items to the Business Agenda for discussion purposes. The motion failed 2-4. Mr. Croston and Mr. Vadney voted in favor.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

Dr. Krizic announced that the Town Council will hold its annual budget hearing on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium at Portsmouth Middle School.

- A. **Late Start Plan for FY13.** Dr. Krizic made a presentation on the late start plan for the 2012-13 school year. The plan provides teachers and administrators with the opportunity to meet once per month (second Wednesdays beginning in September and ending in May) for approximately 75 minutes to discuss in department/grade level(s) professional learning communities District wide initiatives (e.g., new math and science curriculum); School level school improvement efforts; Curriculum alignment discussions; Implementation of Common Core Standards, Power Standards and Proficiency Scales; and provide the opportunity for staff to analyze student work and student data on a timely basis. Supervision at no cost to families would be provided to students whose parents need to bring them to school at their regular start times. The School Committee will be presented with the recommendation to approve the Late Start Plan at the June 12<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. An overview of the Late Start Plan can be found at:  
<http://portsmouthschoolsri.net/education/page/download.php?fileinfo=TGF0ZSBTdGFydCBQbGFuIGZvciAyMDEyLTEzIFNjaG9vbCBZZWFyLnBkZjo6Oi93d3c3L3NjaG9vbHMvcmkvcG9ydHNTb3V0aC9pbWFnZXMvYXR0YWNoLzY4MjQvMzc4XzY4MjRfYXR0YWNoXzIwNDcucGRm>
- B. **Report on April Financials.** Mr. Dunham reported that all projected revenue has been received to date. At this time, there are no projected budget shortfalls for the 2011-12 school year. The expenditure line is projected to have a year-end positive projection, representing approximately 1.5 percent of the operating budget. Mr. Dunham suggested that the School Committee considers using some of funds to pay for one-time expenditures identified in next year's budget in order to adjust for the budget reduction decision made by the Town Council.
- C. **PHS Liaison:** Hayley McClintock introduced Rachel Amundson, the newly elected student council president. Ms. Amundson will serve as the PHS school liaison to the School Committee in the 2012-13 school year.

5. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2012, meeting. So voted 4-0-2. Mr. Harris and Ms. Volpicelli abstained due to their absence from that meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2012, meeting. So voted 5-0-1. Mrs. King abstained due to her absence from that meeting.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Croston made a motion to move Item C from the Consent Agenda to the end of the Business Agenda and to briefly recess to discuss it with Administration. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 6-0.

- A. **Appointment – Melville Principal**
- B. **Appointment – PMS Assistant Principal**
- C. **Appointment – Part-time Clerk** (Central Administration). This item was moved to the Business Agenda.
- D. **Resignation for Retirement of PMS Library Aide**
- E. **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals**
- F. **Second Reading and Adoption of Policies**
  - 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
- G. **Approve Facility Use Fees**
- H. **Approve Lunch Price Increase**

A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item C. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0. Dr. Krizic announced the appointment of Elizabeth Viveiros to the position of Melville Principal and Lisa Little to the position of PMS Assistant Principal.

7. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. **Election of Chairman.** Ms. Volpicelli nominated Mrs. King to the position of School Committee Chair. Seconded by Mr. Vadney. So voted 4-2. Mr. Croston and Ms. Wedge were opposed. This action created a vacancy in the School Committee Clerk position. Mrs. King appointed Ms. Volpicelli as Clerk.
- B. **Approve Charter for Portsmouth Joint Subcommittee on Fiscal Health.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the charter for the Portsmouth Joint Subcommittee on Fiscal Health. So voted 6-0. This subcommittee is a collaborative committee made up of members of the School Committee and Town Council, along with the Superintendent and Town Administrator.

- C. **Budget Transfers.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the budget transfers as presented. So voted 6-0. The transfer of \$50,000 is to be used for the purchase of math textbooks at Grades 4, 5, 8, and 9.
- D. **Transfer Fund Balance to Town Contingent on Same Level of Funding Increase for FY13.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to transfer \$1 million of fund balance to the Town fund balance account if the Town Council budget increases the appropriation to the School Department by \$850,000 for the FY13 school year. Much discussion took place. Mr. Croston amended the motion to provide \$500,000 of surplus dollars to the Town and provide \$500,000 of surplus dollars to reduce the \$850,000 appropriation to \$350,000. There was no second to the motion. The original motion passed 4-2. Mr. Croston and Ms. Wedge were opposed. Mr. Harris stated that our fund balance can be used at our discretion. Mr. Croston asked Dr. Krizic for a legal opinion on the use of our fund balance.
- E. **Bid Award - OPEB.** Mr. Dunham requested that this item be postponed to the next meeting.
- F. **Contract for Accounting Assistance.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris to approve the contract for accounting assistance. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.
- G. **Agenda Item Request – Transfer Funds for Pavement of PMS Playground** (Requested by Mr. Croston) A motion was made by Mr. Croston and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the transfer of \$25,000 from the gate receipts account for the pavement of the PMS playground. So voted 6-0.
- H. **Discussion/Action – Proposed Antenna Installations for Portsmouth Water and Fire District Meter Reading System.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the proposed antenna installation for the Portsmouth Water and Fire District's meter reading system. So voted 6-0.
- I. **Authorization to Engage Nyhart for the Purpose of Conducting a Limited Interim Year GASB 45 Valuation, for a fee not-to-exceed \$1,750.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to engage Nyhart for the purpose of conducting a limited interim year GASB 45 valuation for a fee not-to-exceed \$1,750. Mr. Dunham explained that OPEB is the amount of money we are liable for for our post-employment medical benefits to retirees. It has to be measured every two years per GASB 45. Mr. Dunham stated that it is a good idea to go through with the interim valuation because we have made so many positive changes in our labor contracts and policies. The interim valuation could show a \$5 million reduction in the unfunded liability from \$10 million down to \$5 million. So voted 6-0.
- J. **Discussion/Action re Council 94 Negotiations.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to declare an impasse with Council 94 mediation negotiations and to move to arbitration. So voted 5-1. Mr. Croston was opposed.

Mr. Croston requested a 2-minute recess.

Item C from the Consent Agenda:

- C. **Appointment – Part-time Clerk** (Central Administration). The Committee agreed to table this item to the next meeting.

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Facilities.** Dr. Krizic reported that she sent an email to our legislative delegation to appeal on our behalf to their Finance Committee Chair on the house and senate level for the reimbursement funds we are requesting for our capital projects.
- B. **Finance.** No report.
- C. **Health and Wellness.** Ms. Volpicelli reported that the Health and Wellness subcommittee reviewed survey results and developed a series of recommendations for implementation. The next Health and Wellness subcommittee meeting will be held in the fall of 2012.
- D. **Negotiations.** Mr. Harris reported that the School Committee voted to go into arbitration with Council 94.
- E. **Policy.** Mrs. King stated that the review of the policy book is an ongoing process with Dr. Krizic.
- F. **Personnel.** Ms. Volpicelli reported that the Personnel subcommittee will be meeting to review the evaluation survey results for the Superintendent and prepare a report for the School Committee.
- G. **Portsmouth Joint Subcommittee on Fiscal Health.** Mr. Harris reported that this subcommittee has been formed as a fiscal discussion group with the Town Council and consists of two School Committee members (Mr. Harris and Mrs. King), the Town Administrator, and two Town Council members. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
- H. **Technology.** Mr. Vadney reported that the Technology Subcommittee held their first meeting in May, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Wedge adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Angela Volpicelli, Clerk