

Portsmouth School Committee
June 12, 2012, Meeting
Public Session

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mrs. King, at 6:00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn King, Chair; Angela Volpicelli, Clerk; David Croston; Michael Daly; Thomas Vadney; and Sylvia Wedge (6:18 PM); Jonathan Harris, Vice Chair (6:47 PM)

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

A motion was made by Ms. Volpicelli 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. Mr. Croston requested point of order. He objected to Executive Session Agenda Item #1 being discussed in Executive Session, as he felt that the topic did not fall under items appropriate for closed session discussion according to RIGL 42-46-5. Discussion took place regarding whether or not the individuals involved had been properly notified of the discussion. Dr. Krizic explained that the crux of what Mrs. Melvin was planning to discuss regarded the selection and approval process for hiring individuals. Because there was an indirect risk or unintended consequence of any public discussion on this topic, Dr. Krizic and Mrs. King agreed to address it in closed session. Mr. Croston read RIGL 42-46-5 and made a motion to put this item on the next School Committee meeting agenda. Mr. Vadney seconded the motion. Much discussion took place. Mr. Croston amended his motion to include notifying the appropriate individuals and having a discussion about the events that took place in the process of hiring the elementary principal. Discussion continued, and Mr. Croston withdrew his motion. He then made a motion to move the item from the Executive Session agenda to the Business Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 5-0-1. Ms. Wedge abstained. Mr. Croston requested a legal opinion as to the role the School Committee has with reviewing all applicants.

A motion was made by Ms. Volpicelli 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. So voted 6-0.

The Public Session recessed at 6:43 PM and resumed at 7:15 PM.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **RECOGNITION**

- A. Hayley McClintock, the PHS Liaison to the School Committee, was recognized for her contributions and service to the School Committee during the 2011-12 school year. Hayley is a member of the graduating class of 2012 and will be attending Brown University in the fall.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. King reported that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting, and one vote was taken to move Item #1 from the Executive Session to the Business Agenda. A motion to seal the minutes was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0.

Mrs. King announced that she attended the Portsmouth High School graduation, and it was spectacular. Mr. Littlefield did a great job organizing everything.

Mrs. King shared that her vision as School Committee Chair was one where all school committee members were respectful to one another even in times of disagreement. She stated that she will not tolerate bullying or derogatory remarks between committee members during the meetings. The committee is a talented, intelligent group of people who have been elected for the purpose of bettering the schools for our students and their futures, and for all of the citizens of Portsmouth.

Mrs. King also introduced the recently appointed School Committee member, Michael Daly.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mrs. Melvin suggested that the items on the Consent Agenda be tabled until the School Committee had a chance to review all of the applications. She would like to see the School Committee involved in the appointments. She wants the School Committee to publicly state that the best candidates have applied and have been selected.

Mr. Larry Fitzmorris stated that he thinks it is inappropriate for the School Committee to approve the Consent Agenda items all together. He would like to see a reasonable content-contained discussion on each appointment.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Title 1 Program Overview.** Mr. Schoonover, Interim Director of Instruction and Assessment, reviewed all of the federal grants (Title I, Title II, and IDEA) received by the district and shared an overview of the changes made to Title I grant over the past five years. Mr. Schoonover outlined how the allocated FY13 federal funds were projected to be used to advance student achievement and professional development. He explained that each of the federal grants contained specific guidelines as to how allocated resources could be spent and that RIDE was the state agency responsible for approving the federal grants submitted by school districts in Rhode Island. The Powerpoint presentation can be found at <http://portsmouthpublic.novusagenda.com/BlueSheet.aspx?ItemID=325&MeetingID=19>.

- B. **21st Century Skills Report – 8th Grade.** Dr. Krizic presented an overview of the 21st Century Skills Assessment given to all 8th grade students in Rhode Island, which is an assessment through RIDE to help school districts gain an understanding of their students' knowledge and skills of the 24 ISTE-NETS 2007 standards. A copy of the Powerpoint presentation including assessment data at both the state and Portsmouth levels can be found at: <http://portsmouthpublic.novusagenda.com/BlueSheet.aspx?ItemID=326&MeetingID=19>

- C. **Report on May Financials.** Mr. Dunham, Director of Finance and Administration, provided an update on the current financial condition of the district as of May. He reported that the net projection of the revenue and expenditure budgets has a positive variance of \$568,000. Although this is a projection, the end-of-year audit may find some modifications that could impact the end of year balance. The budget will continue to be closely monitored and managed for the rest of the year to ensure the year is finished either balanced or with a surplus. The Committee may want to consider scheduling a Finance Subcommittee meeting to discuss if there are any funds from the projected 2013 surplus that may be used to reduce projected or proposed expenditures in the 2014 proposed budget. Mr. Dunham reminded the School Committee that for the most part, goods or services must be received prior to year end to be considered a 2013 expenditure.
- D. **Turf and Track Project Update.** In a discussion regarding the Turf and Track Project, Dr. Krizic shared that in assisting the group of individuals raising funds for the Turf Project at Portsmouth High School, it would be helpful to their fundraising efforts if there was more information to assist them with having a targeted goal. The concept of having a Request for Proposals (RFP) would be one strategy to gain the necessary information. The School Committee indicated that an RFP may be too preliminary at this time and would like this group to be invited to the June 26th meeting.

6. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2012, School Committee meeting was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli. So voted 6-0-1. Mr. Daly abstained as he was not a member of the School Committee at that time.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Croston requested that Items D, E, F, and G, be moved to the Business Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Vadney. The motion failed 2-5. Mr. Croston and Mr. Vadney voted in favor.

- A. **PHS Assistant Principal Resignation**
- B. **Director of Finance and Administration Resignation**
- C. **Custodian Retirement**
- D. **Appointment – PHS Assistant Principal**
- E. **Appointment – PHS English Department Chair/Teacher**
- F. **Appointment – PHS Science Department Chair/Teacher**
- G. **Appointment – PHS Math Department Chair/Teacher**

H. Coaching Appointment – PMS Girls’ Soccer Coach – Terry Gordon

I. Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewals

J. Approval of April Financial Reports

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-1. Mr. Croston was opposed. Dr. Krizic announced the following appointments:

D. PHS Assistant Principal – Mr. Chris Ashley

E. PHS English Department Chair/Teacher – Ms. Diane Babb Rich

F. PHS Science Department Chair/Teacher – Mrs. Kathleen Beebe

G. PHS Math Department Chair/Teacher – Ms. Katie Baskins

H. PMS Girls’ Soccer Coach – Terry Gordon

8. BUSINESS AGENDA

(Item 1 was moved from the Executive Session agenda to the Business Agenda)

1. Resident Kathleen Melvin shared her long standing concerns with the interview process used to hire individuals in the district. She recommended that the School Committee takes a more active role in the hiring process.

Regular Business Agenda:

A. **Selection of School Committee Clerk.** Mr. Harris nominated Ms. Volpicelli as School Committee Clerk. Seconded by Mr. Vadney. There were no other nominations. So voted 7-0.

B. **Approval of Late Start Days for FY’13.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the Late Start Days for FY’13. Mr. Croston amended the motion to approve the early start days subject to a review at our first meeting in January. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 7-0. The main motion was approved 7-0. Additional information can be found at:

<http://portsmouthpublic.novusagenda.com/BlueSheet.aspx?ItemID=340&MeetingID=19>

C. **Adoption of Grades K-5 Math Curriculum.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Mr. Croston to adopt the math curriculum for Grades K-5. So voted 7-0.

- D. **Adoption of Grades 8-9 Algebra Curriculum.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the algebra curriculum for Grades 8-9. So voted 7-0.
- E. **Adoption of the Grades K-8 Science Curriculum.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the science curriculum for Grades K-8. So voted 7-0.
- F. **Bid Award – OPEB.** Mr. Croston recused himself. A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the bid award for OPEB. So voted 6-0.
- G. **Approval of Food Service Contract Renewal.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the food service contract renewal with Chartwells. So voted 7-0.
- H. **Approval of \$50,000 Budget Transfer to Phase 2 Fund.** Mr. Croston requested to hold off on this item, as he doesn't see the need for the use of these funds at this time. He stated that he would rather fund the parent liaison position for another year. Mr. Dunham explained the need. The motion passed 6-1. Mr. Croston was opposed.
- I. **Approval of Budget Transfers.** A motion was made by Mr. Harris and was seconded by Ms. Volpicelli to approve the budget transfers as presented. So voted 7-0.
- J. **Agenda Item Request – Presentation/Review/Approval of Line-Item Detail of All Restricted Funds** (Requested by Mr. Croston). Mr. Croston requested that the Administration comes to the next School Committee meeting with detail about the restricted funds. Discussion took place about whether or not it is the School Committee's role to oversee and change how the restricted funds are used. Mr. Croston clarified that he is not asking the School Committee to manage the details but to approve the restricted funds as they do for the budget transfers. He wants to be able to approve the top line of Title 1 and Title 2. Mr. Dunham explained RIDE's role in approving how the restricted funds are used. Mr. Croston requested that the administration comes back with clarification on their view on what the School Committee's role is relative to federal funds.
- K. **Agenda Item Request – Discussion/Approval of Hathaway Parent/Home School Liaison Position** (Requested by Mr. Croston). Mr. Croston requested that the position of parent liaison remains at Hathaway School for FY13 and that the administration finds the resources necessary to continue the position. Much discussion took place. Mr. Croston made a motion to rehire the parent liaison position and allocate \$30,000 to come out of Medicaid funds, if possible, for a single year. Mr. Vadney seconded the motion. Three parents and the Hathaway School Nurse spoke in support of the position. Mr. Harris requested that the School Committee hears from the Hathaway principal about the position. Mrs. King tabled this item to the June 26th meeting. Mr. Croston requested that the item be put on the Business Agenda.

- L. **Establishment of July/August School Committee Meeting Dates.** The Committee agreed to have one meeting in July, which will be held on July 10th at 6:30 PM; and to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays in August. They also agreed to have a special meeting on June 18th for the purpose of hiring and recalling staff.

9. **SUBCOMMITTEE COMMUNICATION**

- A. **Facilities.** Mr. Dunham reported that the General Assembly approved all of Portsmouth's requests changing the reimbursement from 40% to 35%. At this time we are still awaiting the Town Council to approve the capital plan. The RFP is in the process of development; but at this time, it does not appear that the work at Melville can be completed in the summer of 2012.
- B. **Finance.** No report.
- C. **Health and Wellness.** No report.
- D. **Negotiations.** Mr. Harris reported that the process of arbitration has started with Council 94.
- E. **Personnel.** Ms. Volpicelli reported that the subcommittee met to review the results of the surveys and plan on giving a report to the School Committee at a future meeting.
- F. **Policy.** Mrs. King reported that the review of the policy book is ongoing.
- G. **Portsmouth Joint Subcommittee on Fiscal Health.** Mr. Harris stated that once the Town Council appoints their members to this subcommittee, a meeting will be scheduled.
- H. **Technology.** Mr. Vadney reported that the next Technology Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, June 18th, at 6:00 PM, at the PHS Library.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Angela Volpicelli, Clerk