

Portsmouth School Committee Meeting
September 25, 2012
Public Session

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Mr. Harris, at 6:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Harris, Vice Chair; David Croston; Michael Daly; Thomas Vadney; and Sylvia Wedge

Also Present: Dr. Krizic, Superintendent; Jeffrey Schoonover, Interim Director of Instruction and Assessment; John Souza, Interim Director of Finance and Administration; Patti Cofield, Administrative Assistant; and Rachel Amundson, PHS Liaison

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marilyn King, Chair; and Angela Volpicelli, Clerk

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mr. Daly to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation. So voted 5-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:31 PM and resumed at 7:00 PM.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Harris announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting, and no votes were taken. A motion to seal the minutes was made by Mr. Daly and was seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 5-0.

3. **STUDENT RECOGNITION**

A. PHS National Merit Semi-Finalist: The Committee presented a proclamation to Portsmouth High School Student Joseph Fiaschetti for qualifying as a National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalist in the 2013 competition.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT :**

John McDaid spoke in opposition of Business Agenda Item C and asked the School Committee to withdraw it from the agenda. He stated that the recommendation didn't fully reflect the Technology Subcommittee's discussion, which included exploring alternatives other than VDI.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

A. **PHS Liaison Report:** Rachel Amundson reported that the freshmen class elected their class officers at the beginning of the school year, and there is now a freshmen student council. Homecoming activities were being held that week, culminating with the pep rally on Friday, and the homecoming parade, football game, and homecoming dance on Saturday. Miss Amundson announced that a mascot contest was being held, and students could submit their ideas on what would best represent PHS for a mascot uniform. The

student council would then order the uniform, and mascot try-outs would be held. She also announced that PHS had their best ever blood drive over the summer; and another one was held last week, where over 90 people signed up to donate.

- B. PMS Playground Restoration: Grade 4 students Maeve Sullivan, Ellie Ramroth, Hailey Pratt, and Melanie Williams, represented the 4th and 5th graders at PMS, and presented the School Committee and Administration with thank you notes for supporting the PMS Playground Project.
- C. NECAP Science (2012) Report: Mr. Schoonover gave a Powerpoint presentation on the NECAP Science scores for Grades 4, 8, and 11. The presentation is available online at: <http://portsmouthpublic.novusagenda.com/BlueSheet.aspx?ItemID=607&MeetingID=30>.
- D. FY13 Enrollment Update: A Powerpoint presentation on the district's enrollment data for FY13 was given by Dr. Krzic. The presentation is available online at the following link: <http://portsmouthpublic.novusagenda.com/BlueSheet.aspx?ItemID=608&MeetingID=30>

6. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- A. August 20, 2012: A motion was made by Mr. Daly and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the August 20, 2012, minutes. So voted 4-0-1. Ms. Wedge abstained due to her absence from that meeting.
- B. September 11, 2012: A motion was made by Mr. Daly and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the August 20, 2012, minutes. So voted 5-0.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Croston requested that Item A be moved to the Business Agenda for discussion purposes. Seconded by Mr. Daly. So voted 5-0.

- A. Appointment – Family and Consumer Science Teacher, PMS. This item was moved to the Business Agenda.

- B. Approval of Home School Requests.

A motion was made by Mr. Daly and was seconded by Mr. Croston to approve the Consent Agenda as modified. So voted 5-0.

8. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

Item A was moved from the Consent Agenda:

- A. Appointment – Family and Consumer Science Teacher, PMS. A motion was made by Mr. Daly and was seconded by Mr. Vadney to approve the appointment of the Family

and Consumer Science Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School as presented. Mr. Croston amended the motion to approve the appointment effective the individual's first day back at work. There was no second to the motion. NEA Portsmouth President cautioned Mr. Croston about the Open Meetings law and stated that the discussion should not be held in Public Session. A motion was made by Mr. Croston to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1). Seconded by Mr. Vadney. So voted 5-0.

The Public Session recessed at 8:29 PM and resumed at 8:41 PM. Mr. Harris announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Daly and was seconded by Mr. Vadney to seal the minutes. So voted.

The motion was approved by a 4-1 vote to appoint the Family and Consumer Science Teacher as recommended by the Superintendent. Mr. Croston was opposed.

Business Agenda:

- A. Approval of Council 94 Contract: A motion was made by Mr. Daly to approve the substantive changes to the Council 94 contract. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 4-1. Mr. Croston was opposed. Mr. Harris summarized the changes.
- B. Approval of PMS Energy Improvements and Lighting Refit: A motion was made by Mr. Daly and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the PMS energy improvements and lighting refit. So voted 5-0.
- C. Authorization to have a Technology Study to Establish Long-Term Goals: A motion was made by Mr. Croston to withdraw this item from the agenda because he thought it was misleading. He requested that the item be revised, include Mr. Vadney's input, and be brought back at our next School Committee meeting. Mr. Harris suggested allocating funds to the Technology Subcommittee to decide how to move forward. Mr. Vadney stated that his impression was that the subcommittee was going to commission a 3 to 5 year plan, and the original intent was to allocate \$15,000. A motion was made by Mr. Croston to allocate \$5,000, if needed, to the Technology Subcommittee to go forward to conduct a technology study to establish long-term goals. Mr. Vadney amended the motion to \$15,000. Seconded by Ms. Wedge. So voted 5-0.
- D. Approval of Technology Equipment Purchase: The Committee agreed on the allocation of 76 computers to be purchased and/or leased, with a formal recommendation to be presented at a future School Committee meeting.
- E. Approve Second Reading and Adoption of Policy #8030 – Video and Audio Recording of School Committee Meetings: A motion was made by Mr. Daly and was seconded by Ms. Wedge to approve the second reading and adoption of Policy #8030. Mr. Croston amended the motion to include numbering the first two bulleted items on the policy and striking the last bullet regarding maintaining order at the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Vadney. So voted 3-2. Mr. Harris and Mr. Daly were opposed.

9. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Facilities: No report.
- B. Finance: No report.
- C. Health and Wellness: Absent
- D. Negotiations: No report.
- E. Personnel: Absent.
- F. Policy: Absent.
- G. Portsmouth Joint Subcommittee on Fiscal Health: No Report.
- H. Technology: Mr. Vadney reported that the next meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, 2012, at 6:00 PM, in the PHS Library.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and was seconded by Mr. Daly to adjourn the meeting. So voted 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Angela Volpicelli, Clerk