

Portsmouth School Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 11, 2013
Public Session

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Croston, Chair; Terri Cortvriend, Vice Chair; Thomas Vadney, Clerk; Emily Copeland; Fred Faerber; Andrew Kelly (8:24 PM); and John Wojichowski

Also Present: Dr. Lynn Krizic, Superintendent; Jeffrey Schoonover, Interim Director of Instruction and Assessment; Christopher DiIuro, Director of Finance and Administration; and Joseph Quinn, Little Compton School Committee Liaison

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Wojichowski to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 6-0.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATION

Mr. Croston reported that the PHS *Sound of Music* performance had sellout crowds all three nights. A scholarship concert was held on Tuesday, and the PHS National Arts Honor Society event was held on Wednesday. He also reported that the substance abuse study will be completed tomorrow and will be included on the April 23rd agenda.

Mr. Croston reported that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting, and no votes were taken. A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 6-0.

Mr. Croston stated that Mr. DiIuro attended the Funding Formula Summit at Bryant University. A discussion ensued about free and reduced lunches and the need to outreach more to parents, as it is important to count all qualified students when reporting to RIDE.

Mr. Vadney stated that he visited Hathaway School and read to Mrs. Grinnell's Grade 1 class. Mrs. Copeland stated that she read to a Grade 2 class.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

3. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION

A. Superintendent's Weekly Updates: Dr. Krizic responded to questions regarding her weekly updates to the School Committee. Mrs. Copeland commended Mr. Schoonover

for winning a mini-grant of \$12,000. Mr. Schoonover discussed summer school, which will be held from July 8th to August 9th. It will be a blended learning environment using direct instruction and computer use. He mentioned that EBEC and the Superintendents' Board will get together in the future to set up a regional summer school program. Further details about the summer school program will be provided at an upcoming meeting.

4. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- A. March 12, 2013 Executive Session: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to approve the March 12, 2013, Executive Session minutes. So voted 6-0.
- B. March 12, 2013 Public Session: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to approve the March 12, 2013, Public Session minutes. So voted 6-0.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Acceptance of Literacy Coach Resignation (B. Beitler)
- B. Approve Home Schooling Request
- C. PHS Coaching Appointments

A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Dr. Krizic announced the following coaching appointments: Mario Occhi, Assistant Softball Coach; and Patrick Holmes, Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach.

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. Approve Donation to Post Prom Committee: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to approve a donation of \$1000 to the Post Prom Committee from the Gate Receipts account. So voted 6-0.
- B. Discussion Relative to Athletic Policies and Procedures: Mrs. Copeland asked to have this item put on the agenda. Dr. Krizic stated that it has been some time since the Athletics Handbook has been updated. Athletic Director Steve Trezvant stated that athletes must attend a meeting at the beginning of the year, and students and parents must sign the handbook. Mrs. Copeland stated that when she was running for election, she heard from parents that there were communication concerns. She asked if the policies were being followed. Mr. Trezvant stated that all new coaches are informed of the policies they must follow. He meets with students and coaches to address concerns. He keeps a record of all concerns and complaints. Mrs. Copeland stated that parents are concerned about whether or not the complaints are being investigated. Discussion ensued about the grades required in order for students to be eligible to play. Mr. Trezvant stated

that he does check grades. Dr. Krizic thinks they should be checked weekly. Mr. Croston stated that the Committee plans to have Mr. Trezvant attend a future meeting to see what changes he foresees in the policy and how we can address drug abuse in the school, etc.

- C. Waiver of First Reading, Adoption of Access to Public Request (APRA) Policy: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to adopt the Access to Public Records policy including allowing a request to be made by email and to waive the second reading. Mr. Croston discussed the policy changes. The motion passed 6-0.
- D. Discuss/Review/Take Action on Membership Participation Agreement with The Trust: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to approve the Membership Participation Agreement with The Trust. Mr. DiIuro discussed the purpose of The Trust and described the new membership agreement. The biggest advantage of the new agreement is that contributed capital will be returned (\$89,581). So voted 6-0.
- E. Approve Capital Planning Subcommittee Charter: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Wojichowski to approve the Capital Planning Subcommittee Charter as presented. Mr. Croston summarized the purpose of the subcommittee. Mrs. Copeland stated that if the subcommittee can block a request as written, she wants the charter changed. She wants the School Committee to know all requests for proposed expenditures. Mr. Croston stated that the subcommittee will recommend changes to their charter. So voted 6-0. Mr. Croston stated that John Wojichowski, Fred Faerber, and Tom Vadney will be on the subcommittee.
- F. Approve Formation of Athletic Facilities Planning Committee: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to approve the formation of the Athletic Facilities Planning Committee. Mr. Croston discussed the rationale for this subcommittee. It will be under the Athletic Subcommittee. Mr. Faerber made a motion to accept the charter with changes as suggested and that the presidents of the PMS and PHS Athletic Boosters be members of the subcommittee. Mr. Wojichowski asked Mr. Faerber to add the PMS athletic fields to the subcommittee. The amendment passed 6-0. The main motion passed 6-0.
- G. Authorize Submission of Letter to RIDE regarding Reduction in Maintenance of Effort: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend to instruct our Council to send a letter from the Chair to RIDE requesting the possibility of a variance to maintenance of effort in the amount not-to-exceed \$240,000. Seconded by Mr. Faerber. Mr. Croston urged approval of the motion and provided rationale. He stated that Attorney Mary Ann Carroll is reviewing the concept. Mr. Croston asked if the Committee is willing to help the Town. Mrs. Copeland is concerned that reduction in maintenance of effort will have a long-term impact on the School Department's budget. She supports the motion provided that this year's budget total (before reduction) is next year's baseline. Mr. Croston stated that we

cannot offer a variance until it is approved. Mr. DiIuro stated that all varying methods to transfer funds failed. Mr. Faerber inquired as to where the \$240,000 comes from, and Mr. Croston replied that it comes from a “perceived” bond offering. The motion passed 6-1. Mr. Kelly was opposed. (Mr. Kelly joined the meeting at 8:24 PM.)

- H. Authorize RFP for Engineering Services for PHS Athletic Facilities Renovations (RFK Field/Track/Tennis Courts): A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to approve the wording for engineering services for the PHS facilities upgrade. So voted 7-0.
- I. Approve Budget Transfer of Funds to Purchase Technology Equipment: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve a budget transfer of funds to purchase technology equipment in the amount of \$212,800.44. Mr. DiIuro stated that surplus funds are available for this. Dr. Krizic stated that there is some sensitivity regarding surplus funds, so we want to use the funds in a wise and timely manner. So voted 7-0.
- J. Approve the Allocation of up to \$15,000 for Surveillance Cameras, Switches, Cabling and Miscellaneous Devices in Conjunction with Rhodeway Trial Proposal (Installation labor to be provided at no charge.) Mr. Croston moved this item to the April 23rd meeting. He stated that if a motion were to be taken, he would recuse himself because of a current business relationship.
- K. Review and Approve Trial Proposal by Rhodeway Networks for VizSafe and VizLocker services in all schools by June 1, 2013. Mr. Peter Mottur, Rhodeway Networks representative, discussed VizSafe and VizLocker services, which are mainly internet-based emergency response notification systems. There are 2-way push notifications between administrators and teachers. First responders can log into the system. Cameras can be pulled up in real-time, as well as building plans that show camera positions. The Police sign a memorandum of understanding. Photos taken are sent to all members on an authorized list when the send button is pressed. There would be four cameras in each school. Mr. Croston mentioned trying to blend this tool for emergency and day-to-day routine use. Principals could use the cameras for day-to-day use if a policy is set by the School Department. An audience member inquired about this service going out to bid. Mr. Croston stated that there is no motion to vote on. Mr. Mottur stated that as part of the trial, Rhodeway provides the service at no cost.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Strategic Plan: Mrs. Copeland discussed the progress being made on the Strategic Plan.
- B. Technology: No report.

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8. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and was seconded by Ms. Cortvriend to adjourn the meeting. So voted 7-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Thomas Vadney, Clerk