

Portsmouth School Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 28, 2013, Minutes  
Public Session

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Croston, Chair; Terri Cortvriend, Vice Chair; Thomas Vadney, Clerk; Fred Faerber, John Wojichowski, Emily Copeland and Andrew Kelly.

**Also Present:** Dr. Lynn Krizic, Superintendent; Jeffrey Schoonover, Interim Director of Instruction & Assessment; and Christopher DiIuro, Director of Finance and Administration.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Andrew Kelly

A motion was duly made and seconded 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.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The School Committee held a moment of silence for our military troops in harm's way.

#### 1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Croston reported that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting, and a vote was taken on a personnel matter that would not be reported out tonight. 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 reported that at the last meeting, there was an extensive discussion about coaching and coaching vacancies. There will be an Executive Session on June 10<sup>th</sup>, and all the coaching reappointments will be invited for a discussion; and anything going forward will be presented at the next School Committee meeting. At this time, we will keep any changes in the policy in abeyance until such a time as we get a better handle on what procedural steps we deem necessary. There will be no policy revisions at this time.

PHS graduation will be held on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Copeland reported that she recently attended the Junior Book Awards, and a few weeks ago the High School Parents Helping Students PTO Book Awards. She would like to have more people and students aware of these awards. At the Junior Book Award, one student received a \$60,000 scholarship to RPI. Many other monetary awards were also made. She felt that freshman should be made aware of these awards that would be offered in their senior year.

Dr. Krizic advised that the PHS Awards Night will be held on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, where many scholarships and awards will be presented.

Mr. Croston thanked Andrew Kelly for representing the School Committee and attending the induction of the lord mayor of Portsmouth, England, in celebration of Portsmouth's 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Lord Mayor will visit Portsmouth on Labor Day for the parade and the gala, which will be at the Glen.

2. **RECOGNITIONS**

A. Retirees: The School Committee recognized the following staff retirees, and Mr. Croston presented them with a plaque: Sue Marsden, Meryl Moore, Nancy P. Fitzgerald, Karen Heller, Cynthia Jilling, Joseph Matheus, Linda Richards, and Mary Paiva.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATIONS**

A. PHS Liaison Report: Ms. Amundson was unable to attend the meeting due to her final track meet for PHS. She will attend the June 11<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting to receive her plaque and introduce next year's PHS Student Liaison.

Dr. Krizic recognized Rachel Amundson, the PHS Liaison to the School Committee, for her contributions and service to the School Committee during the 2012-13 school year. Rachel is a member of the Graduating Class of 2013.

B. Superintendent's Weekly Updates 2.41 and 2.43:

Mr. Wojichowski noted that the RI Board of Education approved the next generation of science standards and requested a presentation of the new standards in the fall. Dr. Krizic reported that we have already started work on implementing the new standards and are presenting it to teachers.

Mr. Schoonover reported that he will give a presentation to the School Committee in the future. We still have the NECAP Science Assessment until 2016; and now that the new standards are out and states are adopting them, there will be new assessments that will begin in 2016-2017. It is never too soon to educate teachers in the new standards and looking at the science curriculum and modifying it to the new standards.

Mr. Croston commented that regarding Special Education Programming at PHS, a request for an increase in staff from 1.2 to 1.6 FTE needs to be presented to the School Committee for approval.

- C. Newport County Regional Special Education Budget Update: Rachel Santa, Director of NCRSE, and Gina Augustus, Finance Director, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the updated Special Education budget. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period. Mr. Croston requested that there be better communication between NCRSE and the School Committee because in order to have an accurate budget, we need to be better informed. Portsmouth's share would be \$1.9 million, an increase of \$296.741.

5. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- A. March 26, 2013 Executive Session: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Vadney to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2013, Executive Session. So voted 6-0.
- B. March 26, 2013 Public Session: Withdrawn from the agenda.
- C. April 11, 2013 Public Session: Withdrawn from the agenda.
- D. April 17, 2013 Executive Session: Withdrawn from the agenda.
- E. April 17, 2013 Public Session: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Vadney to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2013, Public Session. So voted 6-0.
- F. April 22, 2013 Executive Session: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Vadney to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2013, Executive Session. Mr. Croston made an amendment to the motion to add that there are more minutes under seal with Attorney Christopher Behan. The amendment was seconded by Mr. Vadney and passed 6-0. The original motion passed 6-0.
- G. April 22, 2013 Public Session: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Vadney to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2013, Public Session. So voted 6-0.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Rescission of Teacher Non Renewals
- B. Appointment of PHS Fine Arts Department Chair
- C. Appointment of Instructional Coach at Hathaway
- D. Appointment – PMS Summer School Coordinator
- E. Appointment – PHS Summer School Coordinator
- F. Teacher Resignation – Diane Rich, PHS English Teacher and Department Chair

A motion made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Fred Faerber to approve the consent agenda as presented. So voted 6-0.

Dr. Krizic announced the following appointments:

- A. PHS Fine Arts Department Chair – Mel Johnson
- B. Instructional Coach at Hathaway – Jodi Clark
- C. PMS Summer School Coordinator – Rebecca Silveira
- D. PHS Summer School Coordinator – Charity Shea
- E. Accepted the resignation of Diane Rich, PHS English Teacher and Department Chair.

7. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. A Powerpoint presentation of the K-5 Recess Committee was given by Mrs. Elizabeth Viveiros, Principal of Melville School; and Suzanne Madden, Principal of Hathaway School.
- B. A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Vadney to approve the addition of PHS Girls' Volleyball as a Fall Varsity Sport. Financial support will be discussed at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. So voted 6-0.
- C. A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Wojichowski to approve the Federal Grant Application for FY14. Mr. Schoonover gave a Powerpoint presentation of the Federal Grant Application. So voted 6-0.
- D. A discussion of the Federal 2013-2014 Free/Reduced Lunch Guidelines was held. It was felt that it is important that all families be made aware of this benefit.
- E. A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Wojichowski to increase the price of school lunches by 15 cents for the 2013-14 school year. Lunches in the elementary schools will be \$2.50, and lunches in secondary schools will be \$2.75. So voted 6-0.
- F. A motion was made to by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Wojichowski to approve the April Financials. So voted 6-0.
- G. A motion was made to by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Wojichowski to approve the first reading of the Fund Policy. So voted 6-0.
- H. A motion was made to by Ms. Cortvriend and seconded by Mr. Wojichowski to approve the technology upgrades for the elementary schools, using anticipated surplus funds from the current school year. So voted 6-0.

- I. A motion was made to by Ms. Cortvriend and seconded by Mr. Faerber to approve a fee waiver for the Portsmouth Community Theater. After discussion, a motion made by Mrs. Copeland and seconded by Mr. Faerber to table the motion. So voted 6-0.

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Strategic Plan: Mrs. Copeland reported that they have had core information sessions at PMS and PHS as well as with all the PTOs except the PHSO, which will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup>. A full report will be given on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Technology: Mr. Vadney reported that the next subcommittee meeting will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Croston reported for Mr. Kelly on the Health and Wellness subcommittee that met prior to this meeting. He stated that we received a report on work place wellness and Think Your Drink report. Both Melville and Hathaway received the USDA Bronze Award for Health and Nutrition. Each school received a \$500 check for health initiatives.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Ziegler  
Acting Recording Secretary for

Thomas Vadney, Clerk