

Portsmouth School Committee
March 12, 2013
Public Session

The meeting was called to order by the Mr. Croston at 5:30 PM.

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

Also Present: Dr. Lynn Krizic, Superintendent; Jeffrey Schoonover, Interim Director of Instruction and Assessment; 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 R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters; and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 7-0.

Public Session recessed at 5:30 PM and resumed at 7:08 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT & SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATION:**

Mr. Croston stated that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting. Two votes were taken and passed unanimously. Mrs. Cortvriend cited the laws that the votes were taken under. A motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber. So voted 7-0.

Mr. Croston stated that a report that came out yesterday questioned whether or not the School Department was filtering certain religious and orientation sites by ACLU. Our network was tested, and cited sites can be accessed.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

3. **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

A. Superintendent's Weekly Update: Dr. Krizic responded to questions raised regarding her Superintendent's Weekly Update.

4. **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

A. February 25, 2013 Public Session

B. February 26, 2013 Public Session

C. February 27, 2013 Public Session

A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes of the February 25th, 26th, and 27th public sessions. So voted 7-0.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Custodian Resignation for Retirement – J. Matheus
- B. PHS Coaching Appointments

A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Wojichowski to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 7-0.

Dr. Krizic announced the following coaching appointments:

- Scott Singer, Head Coach, Boys Lacrosse
- Caitlin Gavin, Volunteer Assistant Coach, Girls Lacrosse
- Jeff Costa, Volunteer Assistant Coach, Baseball

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- A. Approve Employment Contract of Director of Finance and Administration: A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend and was seconded by Mr. Faerber to approve the contract for the Director of Finance and Administration conditioned upon receipt of certification within the next six (6) months and a credit check. Mrs. Copeland amended the motion to revise the section of the contract regarding medical benefits to “Upon retirement, the employee shall receive four (4) years of medical benefits, unless he obtains employment during those four (4) years that provide for said benefits.” The amendment was seconded by Mr. Faerber. So voted 7-0. A motion to amend the pension language to allow the Director of Finance and Administration to set up a 403b independently with no cost to the district was made by Mr. Faerber and was seconded by Ms. Cortvriend. So voted 7-0. The original motion was passed 7-0. Mr. DiIuro was seated at the Administrators’ table for the remainder of the meeting. Dr. Krizic described Mr. DiIuro’s background and the financial impact statement total for the 2012-13 school year (\$92,798).
- B. Approve Settlement Agreement with Employee A: Mr. Croston removed this item from the agenda.
- C. Review PHS Band Booster Inaugural Trip Financials: Mr. Croston removed this item from the agenda.
- D. Discussion re State Aid Formula: A meeting to discuss the state aid formula will be held at Bryant University on March 27th. Portsmouth is being significantly affected by the state aid plan. Mr. Croston invited anyone who was interested in attending to go with him. Mr. Fitzmorris made a public statement regarding all of the East Bay communities losing money except Barrington. Mr. Croston would like a policy created regarding disbursing money.

- E. Discussion/Transfer - 75% of Medicaid Balance from Regional Special Education Account to the District Account. A motion was made by Ms. Cortvriend to authorize the transfer of 75 percent of the available Medicaid dollars as of today. Seconded by Mr. Faerber. Mr. Croston stated that the fund would go to the surplus account. Dr. Krzic was concerned about adding it to our surplus and stated that we may come back in four months to ask to take funds out of surplus. The motion passed 7-0.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Strategic Plan: Mrs. Copeland reported that the subcommittee met on March 5th to review the results of the electronic survey. The committee agreed that it was a useful initial outreach to the community. The committee also noted that while 247 responses is a small sample, it did give some insight into the concerns and opinions of various stakeholder groups. The individual comments and results also highlighted other topics for discussion in which the subcommittee may wish to address more deeply in a future survey. The survey results will be posted online for the public's information. The main agenda item before the Subcommittee was to compare/contrast what committee members perceived to be some of the positive and negative features of nine different strategic plans. The committee members had individually reviewed the plans over the past couple of weeks. The committee examined the following strategic plans/scorecards: Barrington, Cumberland, South Kingstown, and Westerly, RI; Holliston, Lexington, Marlborough, and Newton, MA; and Seattle, WA. All of these communities' plans are available online on each district's website. The Subcommittee began discussion on potential core areas for focus and particular features that might be important ones to include in a Portsmouth strategic plan.
- B. Technology: Mr. Vadney discussed the details of the trip to Reading, MA, to see their Bring Your Own Device Program in action. Mr. Faerber and Mr. Wojichowski had questions regarding the Cox internet connection. Mr. Croston explained the internet options on Aquidneck Island.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for:

Thomas Vadney, Clerk