

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<https://portsmouthschoolsri-org.zoom.us/j/817174722727?pwd=SEV6ZEQrTIV5TXZYcGRPazEwL2VIZz09>

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The open public meeting was called to order by the Chair, Ms. Copeland, on Tuesday evening, April 13, 2021. Ms. Copeland led the group in the pledge of allegiance and requested a moment of silence in honor of our armed forces in harm's way.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

RIGL 42-46-5 sections:

(a)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that such person or person affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting (advance notice has been provided);

(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

Chair, Ms. Copeland, reported that an Executive Session had been held prior to the public meeting this evening, April 13, 2021. No votes were taken.

2. MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES from 3/23/21 and 4/13/21

Ms. Copeland requested a motion to seal the Executive Session minutes of tonight, 4/13/21, and from the last Executive Session held 3/23/21. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 7-0. EC=yes, FF=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, KM=yes, IK=yes, JCP=yes.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

A. Roll Call

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Emily Copeland: | Present | Thomas Vadney | Present |
| Fred Faerber: | Present | Karen McDaid: | Present |
| Juan Carlos Payero: | Present | Isabelle Kelly: | Present |
| Allen Shers: | Present | Rita Kenahan (LC) | Absent |

Let the record reflect that all School Committee Members are present this evening, April 13, 2021, located in the library of Portsmouth High School.

Present: Dr. Thomas Kenworthy, Superintendent; Dr. Elizabeth Viveiros, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Christopher DiIuro, Director of Finance; Dr. Lisa Colwell, Director of Pupil Personnel. Ms. Mary Ann Carroll, Attorney for the Portsmouth School District.

B. Emergency Evacuation Plan

It was noted by Ms. Copeland that should it be necessary to vacate the PHS building, please follow the exit signs and the meeting location is at the New Gym.

C. NSBA Virtual Conference Update

Superintendent Kenworthy, Ms. Copeland, and Ms. McDaid attended the National School Board Association Virtual Conference last weekend, over Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They will present this at a report back item at a future meeting. They split the meetings pretty well with Superintendent Kenworthy attending the Social

Equity Injustice sessions. Ms. McDaid attended a lot of the policy related work and Ms. Copeland attended a lot of the governance and school committee improvement sessions. Plans are to put this on as an agenda item briefing when we complete the budget work. There were some useful sessions.

D. PHSO Meeting Update

Ms. Copeland thanked the PHSO group for inviting her to their meeting last week. She heard about the plans for the prom and post prom parties and also a little about the budget.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

A. Personnel

Ms. Copeland reported on the Personnel Subcommittee. The three items discussed are on the Business Agenda as F, G, and H. The committee determined to forward these items on to the full School Committee and will be discussed this evening.

B. Racial Equity & Social Justice

Mr. Payero presented the report this evening for the Racial Equity & Social Justice Subcommittee. The most recent meeting of the Racial Equity and Social Justice Subcommittee was held on April 8, 2021. At that meeting, a reorganization was discussed that was decided to do as the subcommittee moves into the second year of the work they are looking to do that not only allows for the work to be done most effectively in our school buildings but also allows for direct input to happen at the school level. We will be building school-based teams and will enable to take into consideration their own individual culture to see what policies best work at the school level and will report back to the greater committee that will encompass all of the schools with community members moving forward, very similar to the way we do in the Health and Wellness Subcommittee. There was some discussion as to what year two could look like and being able to get some outside assistance as our work goes to the next step. The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2021, and in addition to that, we will also have our fourth staff PD on this topic on May 17, 2021.

C. Policy

Ms. McDaid reported on the Policy Subcommittee which had just met on April 12, 2021. The policies discussed included five different policies. Three were moved to be presented to the School Committee on the agenda at the next meeting. The three policies included:

- Family Medical Leave Act Policy
- Educational Philosophy School District Mission Policy
- Annual Budget Policy

The subcommittee also voted to move forward a recommendation to remove a policy which has been replaced by another policy. In addition to that, discussion was also held on the Non-discrimination Policy and some suggestions for revising that policy. It was decided to revise and keep it with the subcommittee for one more week.

5. RECOGNITIONS

A. Young Authors of America - PMS

Superintendent Kenworthy announced the names of students from PMS who entered a contest called “Young Authors of America”. Certificates will be mailed to these students and their families. Mr. Arruda thanked the teachers and the students on a job well done. The student receiving recognition as Outstanding Young Authors in America 20-21 include the following students:

Anabella Barber
Abigail Costa
Maddie DaSilva
Myra Delanoy
Dillon Fesmire
Tara Finnegan
Lily Gaiser
Corbin Hayes
Mollyana McGuire
Noah Quay
Athanasia Stefanopolous
Elena Sun
Niklas Svenstrup
Maciej Tabak
Ava Trout
Vivian White

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment this evening.

7. PHS LIAISON'S COMMUNICATIONA

A. PHS Liaison Report (Aislinn Sullivan & Reidyn Pardo De Zela)

- Spirit Week was held last week and fun activities were taking place during that week. A parade was held, along with dress-up days
- PSAT tests were held today for 10th Grade and SAT tests for 11th Grade
- May has AP tests scheduled for the end of the month.
- Senior activities are being planned now such as movie night and graduation and trying to find COVID safe and friendly ways to finish the senior year.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. Personnel Update

Superintendent Kenworthy began his Superintendent Updates by saying that there are no Personnel Updates since the last School Committee meeting.

B. District Updates (Snow Day Survey Results; Full Return April 26, 2021)

Superintendent Kenworthy reported on the Snow Day Survey Results. During the School Committee meeting in March, it was decided to send out a survey to determine feedback from parents, students, and interested community members. We received 1,000 responses, by far most popular survey we have every received with feedback on a topic we were looking for opinions about. We had more surveys returned at the elementary level. The two main choices allowed for a certain number of snow days each year which need to be made up at the end of the school year because 180 school days is a requirement of the state or eliminate snow days all together with virtual learning on those days and no days to make up at the end of the school year. There also were some creative ideas submitted. 45% of surveys were in favor of traditional snow days and 39% of survey for virtual learning on those snow days. 488 responded for snow days and 418 were for distance learning. Many comments came along with the 1,000 responses and Superintendent Kenworthy read some of those comments to the School Committee Members. The recommendation by Superintendent Kenworthy is based on this survey and he is opting for next year "the first weather-emergency day that happens will be a traditional snow day and anything

Portsmouth School Committee

April 13, 2021

Public Session

beyond that, just to have a definitive end date, we go with distance learning”. Should it be necessary, we can make needed adjustments. The last day of school for SY21-22 is Friday, June 16, 2022. The hope is not to have to go into another week to make up missed school days due to inclement weather. Everyone wants to know the end date in order to make work and vacation plans for the summer months.

Superintendent Kenworthy noted that schools will be closed for the traditional Spring Break next week. When we return to school on Monday, April 26, 2021, this will be a full transition to in-person learning opportunities for all grades. PHS and PMS have been making tremendous efforts to make sure we are ready for that. The majority of our district staff will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated by that time. We will, of course, keep all of our other mitigation efforts such as masking, cleaning protocols, symptom screening and asymptomatic testing in place. Superintendent Kenworthy thanked staff, families and students for all their cooperation and efforts to get us to this point. While school is not over and the pandemic is not over, he feels this is a huge turning point for us to be able to have gotten to this point by April 26, 2021.

Although our Spirit Week was a more toned down version of this event, we were able to have a parade on school grounds, the marching band performing and a victory by our Portsmouth football team. Season III will be wrapping up in a few weeks and we will then transition into the final Season IV in this COVID related athletic season into the more traditional season of baseball, softball, lacrosse, outdoor track. Sports we normally see in the spring. Mr. Trezvant will be on the agenda during our next School Committee Meeting to present a Season III recap and preview of the upcoming Season IV.

April is designated as “Month of the Military Child”. Portsmouth has the largest number of military population on Aquidneck Island although Middletown, Newport and Jamestown are part of the MIC3. We are very happy to have our military families with us and we value their contributions. We celebrate our students from military families and the sacrifices they make as their parents work to serve our country.

During the months of April and May, our students in all of our schools will be participating in components of the RI Comprehensive Assessment System. This includes RICAS, PSAT, SAT and RI NGSA Science Assessments. The schools have worked to adjust schedules so that students doing distance learning are able to come to the school building to take these assessments.

During our last School Committee Meeting, the committee members approved our school budget proposal. After we return from spring break, the Town Council will be holding budget hearings Monday thru Wednesday with Thursday as an if needed evening. The School Department presentation will take place on Wednesday evening, April 27, 2021. We look forward to any and all support that evening as we present our budget to the Portsmouth Town Council.

This evening, Superintendent Kenworthy wanted to officially announce that we have a new Doctor among us. Our Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Elizabeth Vivieros, has finished her Doctorate and dissertation phase from Northeastern University. A great accomplishment for her and congratulations from all of us in the Portsmouth School District. We are very proud.

Mr. Amaral announced that the Mock Trial advanced to the semi-finals this weekend. It turns out they beat Hendricken by one point.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. March 23, 2021

B. March 23, 2021 Executive Session

Portsmouth School Committee

April 13, 2021

Public Session

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for the approval of School Committee minutes of March 23, 2021, and the Executive Session minutes of March 23, 2021. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, TV=yes, FF=yes, AS=yes, KM=yes, IK=yes, JCP=yes.

10. BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Action One Year Extension to the Little Compton Tuition Agreement and Response from the Little Compton School Committee

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Discussion/Action One Year Extension to the Little Compton Tuition Agreement and Response from the Little Compton School Committee. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously rejected, 7-0. EC=no, TV=no, FF=no, AS=no, IK=no, KM=no, JCP=no.

B. Discuss/Action SY21-22 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Business Item B. Mr. Faerber made the motion for Discussion/Action SY21-22 School Committee Meeting Schedule. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed with the inclusion of a change suggested and so noted by Superintendent Kenworthy. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, FF=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, IK=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes.

C. Discuss/Action Facilities Management Services for Town and Schools Bid Award

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Business Item C. Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action Facilities Management Services for Town and Schools Bid Award. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6-1. EC=yes, FF=yes, TV=yes, IK=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes, AS=no.

D. Discuss/Action Postpone Transportation Efficiency Study Until SY21-22

Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action Postpone Transportation Efficiency Study Until SY21-22. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, FF=yes, AS=yes, TV=yes, IK=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes.

E. Discuss/Action Budget Transfers Greater Than \$5,000

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Business Item E. Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action Transfer Greater Than \$5,000. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, FF=yes, KM=yes, IK=yes, JCP=yes.

F. Discuss/Action Approval of Contract Renewal for Hathaway Principal

Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action Approval of Contract Renewal for Hathaway Principal. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, TV=yes, FF=yes, AS=yes, IK=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes.

G. Discuss/Action Approval of Contract Renewal for Director of Athletics

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Business Item G. Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action Approval of Contract Renewal for Director of Athletics. Mr. Payero seconded the motion. The motion passed, 6-1. EC=yes, TV=yes, FF=yes, IK=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes, AS=no.

H. Discuss/Action Job Description for Director of College and Career Readiness

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Discussion/Action Job Description for Director of College and Career Readiness. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed, 6-1. EC=yes, TV=yes, FF=yes, IK=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes, AS=no.

Portsmouth School Committee

April 13, 2021

Public Session

I. Discuss/Action School Committee Member Conduct Policy BC (Old 8005) (Final Read)

Ms. Copeland requested a motion from Ms. McDaid on Budget Item I. Ms. McDaid made a motion for Discussion/Action School Committee Member Conduct Policy BC (Old 8005) (Final Read). Mr. Faerber seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1. EC-yes, TV-yes, FF-yes, IK-yes, KM-yes, JCP-yes, AS-no.

J. Discuss/Action Committee Member Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy BCAB (Old 8015) (Final Read)

Ms. McDaid made a motion for Discussion/Action Committee Member Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy BCAB (Old 8015) (Final Read). Mr. Faerber seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1. EC-yes, TV-yes, FF-yes, IK-yes, KM-yes, JCP-yes, AS-no.

K. Discuss/Action Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs Policy EFAB (Old 5100.2) (Final Read)

Ms. McDaid made a motion for Discussion/Action Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs Policy EFAB (Old 5100.2) (Final Read). Mr. Faerber seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1. EC-yes, TV-yes, FF-yes, IK-yes, KM-yes, JCP-yes, AS-no.

L. Discuss/Action Naming of School Facilities Policy FF (Old 8020) (Final Read)

Ms. McDaid made a motion for Discussion/Action Naming of School Facilities Policy FF (Old 8020) (Final Read). Ms. Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1. EC-yes, TV-yes, FF-yes, IK-yes, KM-yes, JCP-yes, AS-no.

12. REPORTS

A. Financial Reports

1. Monthly Financials – February, 2021

Mr. DiIuro reported on the February financials. We are 2/3 through year and our financial position is strong and the district is on budget. No need for a vote. The School Committee accepts the report.

Ms. Copeland noted that we have the Budget Meeting with the Town Council on April 27, 2021. It is a public meeting. It can be viewed on WebEx.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion for adjournment of the meeting this evening. Mr. Faerber made a motion for adjournment of the meeting of April 13, 2021. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, FF-yes, AS-yes, TV-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JCP-yes.

Upcoming Meetings:

- April 27, 2021 – Town Budget Hearing
- May 11, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Massarotti, Recording Secretary for:

Thomas Vadney, Clerk