

ZOOM MEETING LINK;

<https://portsmouthschoolsri-org.zoom.us/j/83354734934?pwd=MkNCMHFud1hoeWhhKzhjZHhrMnFkZz09>

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Ms. Copeland, on Tuesday evening, February 9, 2021. The meeting is all virtual tonight. 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, February 9, 2021. No votes were taken. At the end of the last meeting on January 19, 2021, an Executive Session was held.

2. MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES (Meeting Dates 1/19/2021 & 2/9/2021)

Ms. Copeland requested a motion to seal the Executive Session minutes of 01/19/2021 & 02/09/2021. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6-0. EC=yes, FF=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, KM=yes, IK=yes, JCP-Absent

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

A. Roll Call

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

Let the record reflect that all School Committee Members are present this evening with the exception of Mr. Juan Carlos Payero, who is absent this evening, February 9, 2021.

Also Present: Dr. Thomas Kenworthy, Superintendent; Ms. Elizabeth Vivieros, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Christopher DiIuro, Director of Finance; Dr. Lisa Colwell, Director of Pupil Personnel.

B. Joint Town Council/School Committee Meeting with State Legislators

Chair, Ms. Copeland reported on the Joint Town Council/School Committee Meeting with State Legislators. At the last meeting, we officially approved our 20/21 agenda and we met in combination with the Town Council with the State Representatives. All were present except for Representative Edwards and they commented on the request the Town and the School made and they also promised to get back to us. Ms. Copeland felt it was a very productive session. It seems as though there is not going to be a lot of decision making perhaps this year on changing the state funding formula as one of the comments that came out. They may have us doing a Study Committee. Some of the committees were divided up, with committee assignments. We just have to be sure to get back to them in a couple months when the Legislature gets under way.

C. Hathaway Community Meeting

Superintendent Kenworthy, Assistant Superintendent Vivieros, and the School Committee Members were invited to a Howard Hathaway Elementary School Community Meeting. Mr. Vadney, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Payero and Ms. Copeland attended representing the School Committee. Mr. Payero gave some lovely remarks explaining to the elementary school students what a School Committee member does. It was well done. Ms. Kelly is going to be going to the Melville School Community Meeting later this week.

D. New School Committee E-mail Changes

This topic is very important for anyone wanting to contact members of the School Committee. Ms. Copeland reported that the Portsmouth School District has changed the e-mail addresses. Now, rather than @portsmouthsc.com, members are reachable by @portsmouthschoolsri.org. If you have sent a member an e-mail and not received a response, it may have gone to the old address.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

A. Finance

Mr. Faerber reported that the Finance Subcommittee had met on January 27, 2021, and was a first look at the prospective revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year 21/22. Estimated revenues and expenditures were provided and a discussion of alternatives. Projected revenues and shortfalls, especially from the state aid, Little Compton and ETE Enrollment were discussed. No votes were taken.

B. Policy

Ms. McDaid presented her report on the Policy Subcommittee. The meeting was held on Monday, February 8, 2021. There were two policies discussed that were voted on for moving forward. They voted to retire policies that were outdated. The retiring policies as well as revised policies will all be brought before the whole School Committee for a vote. This makes for a clean, undisputed handling of policy matters in the district.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment this evening.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. Personnel Update

Superintendent Kenworthy reported out on his Personnel Updates since his last meeting. The appointments, resignations, and retirements are as follows:

APPOINTMENTS

Heidi Osman	General School Aide	Hathaway
Victoria Gendreau	Assistant Gymnastics Coach	PHS

RESIGNATIONS

Shanik Pimental	Paraprofessional/RBT	PMS
Samantha Dupere	Special Ed Teacher	Melville
Bailey Sheehan	Social Worker	PMS
Allison Gaumond	General School Aide	Hathaway

RETIREMENTS

Elizabeth King	Grade 2 Teacher	Hathaway
Michael Marra	Social Studies Teacher	PHS
Susan Janik	Grade 5 Teacher	PMS

B. District Updates

Superintendent Kenworthy reported on his District Updates since the last meeting. He was happy to report that the District Asymptomatic Testing Program continues to expand. We have had at least one voluntary testing session for students and staff at each of our schools. We continue to test weekly. The one mandatory group is our winter athletes at PMS and PHS. All of that has increased each week and we are aiming for a set test schedule with day of week, which school, and which group we are testing. We want to release that information shortly to the staff and the general public throughout the district. He once again thanked Ms. Alvarnas and the nursing staff, who are key people when we have our testing in each of our buildings.

On January 25, 2021, we held our Professional Development Day. All district staff participated in the morning in the second session of our Racial Equity and Social Justice Professional Development Series. This work connects to both our district's Strategic Plan and to one of Superintendent Kenworthy's annual goals set by the School Committee this year. The staff goals include:

- Looking to explore the issues of racial equity and social justice in our district.
- Identify areas for improvement and make the necessary changes.

We are grateful for the work of our Racial Equity Ad Hoc Subcommittee and each of our schools in working towards having a team in place to address this kind of work. The teams include both staff and community representation in each of those groups.

Superintendent Kenworthy was happy to report that at the end of January, our District Leadership Team, made up of all of our school and Central Office Administrators, participated in a virtual walk-thru at Howard Hathaway Elementary School. We felt this was definitely something we were missing this year. We meet a few times a month with that group and typically, prior to COVID, one of those meetings had been a walk-thru of a school we identified, we had a protocol, we had best practices and all of that was put on hold with COVID. He thanked Assistant Superintendent Vivieros for working toward a protocol we can use for virtual walk-thru and to Ms. Little and her staff at Hathaway School for having her school go first in this effort. We are going to continue these visits with Melville coming up at the end of this month. We will then be doing PMS and PHS later in the year. This is helping district leaders keep an eye on just what our teaching and learning environments look like right now. It is safe to say that every classroom in our district has at least one or more distance learners at the same time that the teacher has a group of students in front of them. That looks a little different from school to school, class to class, but it is a different world for teachers to navigate these days.

Over the next few months, Superintendent Kenworthy will be meeting virtually with the staff of each school as well as the different parent organizations throughout the district. He is planning these as annual, informal check-ins, open discussions, etc. So far, he has been able to meet with parent organizations from PMS and PHS and looking forward to meeting with the other groups over the next few months.

This past week, the district celebrated National School Counselors Week sponsored by the American School Counselors Association. The National School Counselors Week highlights the impact that school counselors have helping students achieve success and plan for their futures. School Counselors are actively engaged in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents. They work in close partnership with parents, teachers and other educators to help students realize their full potential. We want to thank all of our dedicated school counselors and how fortunate we are to have at least one in all of our schools.

During the month of February, we have opened up our virtual pre-registration for Kindergarten. PHS has started to engage with both Portsmouth and Little Compton families for next year's Freshman class. Superintendent Kenworthy was pleased to announce tonight that we will be holding on February 25, 2021, our first CTE Virtual Open House. This session will provide more information on each of our four RIDE approved Career and Tech

Programs. These programs, as you know, are open to Portsmouth students and students from other districts who can attend, if accepted, at no cost to the families. Information on all of these events can be found on our website.

At the last Town Council Meeting, Town Administrator, Mr. Rainer, officially announced that over the next few weeks, Portsmouth will begin operating a municipal vaccination site at the Raytheon Facility. This site will be open to town residents and eventually, town and school department employees following the schedule outlined by the Rhode Island Department of Health. Right now they are concentrating on the 75+ age group and then over the next weeks and months open to other groups. We want to express our thanks to Mr. James Dean, Facilities Director, and Mr. Steve Costa, IT Director, for their assistance in setting this all up in their shared roles with the town and the school department and will continue to do so.

Next week is Winter Break for all of our schools. School will resume in-person learning schedules on February 22, 2021. We want everyone to enjoy the week but a reminder to families that we must adhere to the RIDH Quarantine Guidelines in regards to a return to in-person learning. Please make sure you are connecting with our schools if your family will be traveling.

Ms. Copeland reported at the end of Superintendent Kenworthy's updates that School Committee Member, Mr. Juan Carlos Payero,, was asked by the Commissioner of Education, Ms. Infante-Green, to serve as a member on the Rhode Island Learning, Equity and Accelerated Pathways Leap Task Force.

7. TEACHING AND LEARNING

A. Enrollment Update

Assistant Superintendent Vivieros was presenting the Past-Present-Future Enrollment Projections for our district. Before beginning her presentation, she took a moment to explain the PHS programing and how families who plan on their students attend our high school can get additional information.:

- 8th Grade Parent Night was held on January 28, 2021 which included
 - Freshman Academy Presentation
 - 8th Grade Scheduling and Transition to 9th Grade
 - PHS Course Offerings Review for 8th Grade Students
 - Program of Studies
- CTE Open House: February 25, 2021. More information about this virtual CTE Open House will be going out to families soon.

The information being reviewed this evening comes from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) and assists the PSD with our RIDE required enrollment projections. NESDEC has been serving School districts in New England since 1946 and prepares over 250 enrollment projections and updates for school districts throughout New England. These ten year projections are designed to provide districts with yearly, up to date enrollment information that can be used for educational planning and allocation of necessary resources. They are using historical data, births, student migration, drop outs, transfers and housing trends in their analysis process.

There has been a consistent decrease in enrollment in the PSD from 2010 to 2020, with a total projected decrease in enrollment of 17.4% throughout that ten years. This is a total of 407 students. The actual percentage using today's enrollment data is 16%, a total decrease of 436 students.

Looking ahead, NESDEC has provided us with our ten-year enrollment projections. As you can see, they are predicting that our enrollment continues to take a slight dip next year, then moving forward there appears to be a slight increase in each of the following years. This is projecting Portsmouth to have a 2.6% increase in enrollment over the next ten years, a total of approximately 58 students.

When looking ahead at ten-year projections by grade level, our elementary schools are looking to increase their overall enrollment by 19%. Our middle school also increasing by 12.7% and our high school will decrease by 18.6%. This correlates with the decrease we have seen over the last ten years at the elementary and middle school level.

NESDEC provides the “Big Picture” projections for New England. All six states are projected to have a decrease in enrollment through 2028. Rhode Island is projected to have a decrease of 4.5%. If the enrollment projections hold true, this places our increase of 2.6% above the norm for the projected changes in the Rhode Island school district.

8. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. January 19, 2021

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for approval of the School Committee minutes of January 19, 2021. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. Mr. Payero requested a number of minor edits which should be included in the minutes of January 19, 2021. It is requested that with these changes incorporated into the minutes of January 19, 2021, the minutes be put forth for approval.

- Section I - B – Name listed as Juan Carlos Payero
- Section 2 – Sub A -Racial Equity Meeting took place on January 7, 2021, not January 6, 2021
- Section 3 Public Comment – Comment regarding a previous Agenda Item and therefore request move the comment to the previous agenda item
- Section 11 Executive Session Motion – Mr. Payero vote missing from Executive Session Motion and it was a yes.

With these changes made to the minutes of January 19, 2021, Ms. Copeland requested a vote for the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously by a vote of 6-0. TV-yes, AS-yes, FF-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, EC-yes, JCP-Absent

B. January 19, 2021 Executive Session

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for approval of the School Committee Executive Minutes on January 19, 2021. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. Mr. Vadney requested to amend the minutes regarding the start time of the meeting to 9:05 p.m., which has already been corrected and will be forwarded to Ms. Souza tomorrow. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. EC-yes, AS-yes, TV-yes, FF-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JCP-absent.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Homeschool Requests

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda as written. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. EC-yes, TV-yes, FF-yes, AS-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JCP-Absent

Portsmouth School Committee

February 9, 2021

Public Session

10. BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Action Meeting Procedures/Bylaws Policy BED (Final Read)

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Discussion/Action of Business Item A. Ms. McDaid made the motion for Discussion/Action Meeting Procedures /Bylaws Policy BED (Final Read). Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. EC-yes, FF-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, AS-yes, TV-yes, JCP-Absent

B. Discuss/Action – Appointment of Legal Counsel to serve at the pleasure of the School Committee

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Discussion/Action of Business Item B. Mr. Faerber made the motion for Discussion/Action – Appointment of Legal Counsel to serve at the pleasure of the School Committee. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. Mr. Faerber made an amendment to read “Appointment of Legal Counsel the firm of Hanos, Carroll, Lombardo, LLC to serve at the pleasure of the School Committee”. The motion passed unanimously 6-0. EC-yes, TV-yes, FF-yes, AS-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JCP-absent.

C. Discuss/Action FY22 Revised Budget Timeline

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Discussion/Action Budget Item C. Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action FY22 Revised Budget Timeline. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. EC-yes, FF-yes, AS-yes, TV-yes, IK-yes, KM-yes, JCP-absent.

12. 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 February 9, 2021. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. EC-yes, FF-yes, AS-yes, TV-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JCP-absent.

Ms. Copeland made an announcement that the School Committee members are hoping the next meeting will be in person if the State of R.I. opens up the restrictions. The School Committee members would either be in person or virtual, depending on their personal preference. The public would still need to attend by ZOOM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- February 23, 2021
- March 9, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Massarotti, Recording Secretary for:

Thomas Vadney, Clerk