

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88337248874?pwd=QUJYdFBYRVFJektiZUU5VjVxdlmdz09>

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair, Ms. Copeland, welcomed the School Committee members and the public to the Virtual Meeting of October 27, 2020. then 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)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

(a)(3) Discussion regarding the matter of security including but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices.

2. MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Chair, Ms. Copeland, reported that an Executive Session had taken place prior to the Public Session. No votes were taken. She then requested a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. Mr. Faerber so moved and Ms. McDaid seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. EC-yes, FF-yes, AS-yes, TV-yes, KM-yes, JCP-yes.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

A. Roll Call

Emily Copeland:	Present	Thomas Vadney	Present
Juan Carlos Payero	Present	Fred Faerber	Present
Allen Shers:	Present	Karen McDaid	Present

Let the record reflect that all School Committee members are present this evening, October 27, 2020.

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

B. Emergency Evacuation Plan

The Emergency Evacuation Plan follows the plan of going to the area of the new gym and the tennis courts.

C. RIAS Chairs Meeting Update

Ms. Copeland reported on the RIASC Chairs Meeting Update. There was a lot of discussion on the opening of schools which took place that was not really relevant to Portsmouth given where we are in the process. There has been no waiver from the RIDE on testing requirements this year so it looks like testing is full speed ahead in the state of Rhode Island. Ms. Copeland did want to applaud the Commission of Education and her staff for making themselves available and communicating with the School Committees. There were a lot of the committees who had direct questions for the Commissioner and they were able to get some time with her.

4 SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

A. Health and Wellness

Mr. Payero reported out on the Health and Wellness Subcommittee. The first meeting was held last Thursday, a little later than we had planned with so much work going on throughout the district. Updates from the schools and other organizations represented on the subcommittee. We did discuss the attestation forms and what disconnects we are seeing in the population and possible ways that we could try to make it a little similar but no actions were taken but we are going to keep that discussion going. We did have a second read of our proposed Health and Wellness policy, which is a continuation of our work from the last academic year. The next meeting will be on December 2, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. via zoom. There were no votes taken and nothing to bring forth to the School Committee.

B. Policy

Ms. McDaid reported that the Policy Subcommittee had met on Monday, October 26, 2020. Five policies were discussed which are on the agenda this evening. For two of them, the first one had been approved last January with no changes made and that one continues to move forward. The second policy was tabled for discussion until after the elections were over. The other three policies were approved for a second read this evening.

C. Capital Planning

Mr. Shers presented the Capital Planning Subcommittee report this evening. The meeting was held earlier today, October 27, 2020. Four major agenda topics were discussed:

- Discussion and Action - allocation of remaining school safety Capital Funds.
- Discuss possible Administration Building projects. We have hired, as an example, the HR Director and allocation of various space and time and what would be the best set up going forward for communications and etc.
- Stage II Application. Working on this and will be coming back with recommendations
- Capital Planning and various items that we could look forward to and possibly invest in on the school campuses and possible looking at emergency generator at PMS and working on that as soon as possible.

There was one vote of unanimous approval for the Allocation of Remaining School Safety Capital Funds in the amount of \$33,436.00. This Allocation Remaining School Safety Capital Funds will need to be on the agenda at the next School Committee Meeting to be voted on by the School Committee members. Ms. Copeland questioned the need for a vote considering that these funds had already previously been approved. Superintendent Kenworthy will discuss that question with the school attorney, Ms. Carroll.

5. RECOGNITIONS

A. Joe Occhi-RIIL Boys Basketball Coach of the Year

Superintendent Kenworthy congratulated Mr. Occhi in recognition of his selection as RIIL Boys Basketball Coach of the Year for last year. Mr. Trezvant, Athletic Director at PHS, gave congratulatory remarks regarding this award and the character and overall contribution that Mr. Occhi brings to the PHS basketball program and the boys he coaches. State Representative, Ms. Cortvriend, also gave a congratulatory salute to Mr. Occhi for the hard work he gives to the boys and his work in the Town Portsmouth outside the basketball program. She presented him with a citation from the R.I. State House. Superintendent Kenworthy also noted that the Portsmouth School Department has a Certificate of Recognition to present to Mr. Occhi also. Mr. Occhi thanked everyone, saying this was a great group of kids and a pleasure to have this year. His only regret is that the team was unable to finish out the season. He thanked his staff also and they share in this award.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment this evening.

7. PHS LIAISON'S COMMUNICATION

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

- Seniors took the SAT on October 14, 2020
- Juniors taking PSAT on Thursday, October 29, 2020
- The Student Council will be hosting a Blood Drive on November 16, 2020, at St. John's Lodge. If the donor tells them they are donating for Portsmouth, it counts as a Portsmouth donation. This is also true for donating at any RI. Blood Center if you tell them you are making the donation for Portsmouth. The week is ending with a blood drive at St. Barnabas in Portsmouth.
- This week is Fall Spirit Week and the blood drive was a way of bringing the students together with a common goal for this week.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. Personnel Update

Superintendent Kenworthy began his Superintendent's Update with the Personnel Update on any new additions or changes since our last School Committee meeting on October 13, 2020. Since that time, we welcome two additional staff members.

These two staff members we welcome are:

- Catherine Zuffoletti – Clerical B/PMS
- Scott Medeiros – Maintenance/Administration

We have two resignations to announce this evening. They are:

- Elena Greffen – Special Education Teacher/Melville
- Brooke Degidio – Speech/Language Pathologist/Melville

B. District Updates

Dr. Kenworthy reported out that on October 14, 2020, he, along with Ms. Vivieros, and Mr. Amaral, met with the Little Compton School Committee virtually. It was a great session, answered questions, and we continue to enjoy that relationship.

All of our schools are having their PTO meetings virtually and have had their Open Houses virtually. They have all done a fantastic job putting programs together for parents and we have received very positive feedback. We are making the best of this situation.

C. COVID 19 Dashboard

Dr. Kenworthy presented the COVID 19 Dashboard to the School Committee members and the public session viewers. We know where we are in R.I. and nationally so it is no surprise that we are starting to see cases pop up in the Portsmouth School District as well. We are trying to be as prepared as possible and it has been a busy week in this regard. We did hear last week from the RI Dept. of Health telling us that a couple distance learning students had tested positive for COVID. We were able to determine that there was no activity within our schools with those students and we were comfortable with the Dept. of Health moving forward with working with the families but by the end of the week (Thursday evening) we did receive word of our first positive case of a PHS student in the school. Once again we worked in conjunction with the R. I. Dept. of Health to set up the contact tracing and moved forward with what we needed to do. On Sunday, we heard, based on our information, enough for Dr. Kenworthy to move forward on 4 suspected cases but R.I. Dept. of Health needed more time to gather the information there. Today we have received confirmation of students at Melville and one staff member who has tested positive for COVID. Tonight, we have 4 classes distance learning at Melville, 2 are connected to the first set of cases who developed on Sunday and 2 today. Even though they are all at Melville, the RI Dept. of Health is certain they are separate instances. Dr. Kenworthy sent out a communication today with the COVID Dashboard link to be continually updated for our PSD community. Three lessons learned during this period are:

- Stressing the need for patience to let the R.I. Dept. of Health and the PSD do what they need to do. They do a thorough job of what they need to do and we need to just trust them and allow the situation to unfold with the R.I. Dept. of Health. Our lines of communication have been very good with them.
- We have to use the K-12 testing sites that have been set up. If families use their own doctor or medical facilities, that information on students does not get to the RI Dept. of Health as quickly as through the K-12 testing sites. You do have to call or go on-line to make an appointment for the test but Dr. Kenworthy notes that he has not heard of anyone waiting longer than 48 hours for results. We have to stress on the PSD side, we have to use those sites as much as possible.
- Encourage everyone to take the Self Attestation questionnaire seriously and do it every day. PHS has the largest percentage of students not filling out the Self Attestation questionnaire on a daily basis. Answer the questions and take it seriously. By doing it through ASPEN, we get immediate results as who is following the protocol and who is not and being able to follow-up. Think about the questions you are answering.

Ms. Copeland confirmed that the PSD is being very transparent with information but it is not able to communicate any information until the RI Dept. of Health has done it's contact tracing which takes approximately 48 hours. When this information is received, the district will then determine the action for opening the classroom and/or providing a teacher or substitute if the staff member is the one affected by COVID. Ms. Copeland congratulated the staff for working so hard, both during school hours and after hours when the need arises, to meet the needs of our district. When cases of COVID were evident in the PSD, our administrators, principals, school nurses and RI Dept. of Health all worked tirelessly into the night and during the weekend to get the information sorted out, results formulated and a plan in action. Congratulations to you all for working and implementing the plan.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

A. Beginning of the Year Data Review

Assistant Superintendent Vivieros presented the report on the Beginning of the Year Data Review on the STAR Assessment Data. Testing was done until October 21, 2020. She presented some data on comparisons using last year's data and discussing our district's next steps. Portsmouth has been using the STAR Assessments for the past six years. It is given three times a year in Reading and Math and provides important data on student learning. STAR Assessments are adaptive and computer based, taking an average of 20 minutes to complete. Our schools use the STAR Assessments to develop academic interventions for students.

Last year was very difficult for assessing our students because of our quick transition to distance learning due to COVID. At that time STAR had not come up with protocols for assessments during long distance learning protocols and also students, families and staff were stressed at this new situation that the decision was made to not have students take the STAR Assessments at that time. The Fall, 2019, to Winter, 2019, there were increases throughout. Ms. Vivieros used a Power Point presentation to show the percentages of proficiency in all of our schools. The overall area of need in our district is reading at all levels. The math area shows us up in that area. We are developing some goals through the following steps:

- The first District MTSS meeting to discuss data and create term school goals will happen in the next few weeks.
- STAR Data will be shared with families
- School target teams are meeting and discussing non-responders.
- Intervention plans are being developed for our intervention and urgent intervention students.
- Schools are developing a list of full distance learning and hybrid students who are struggling and would benefit in returning to full in-person learning.

During the School Committee meeting of December 15, 2020, Ms. Vivieros will give a Teaching and Learning presentation about MTSS and the work that all the schools are doing and some of the goals that are being developed for each of our schools.

10. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. October 13, 2020

B. October 13, 2020 Executive Session

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion for approval of the School Committee minutes of October 13, 2020, and the Executive Session minutes of October 13, 2020. Mr. Faerber so moved and Ms. McDaid seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. EC=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, FF=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Homeschool Requests

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

12. BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Action FY22 Budget Timeline

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Discussion/Action FY22 Budget Timeline. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Payero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. EC=yes, TV=yes, FF=yes, AS=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes.

B. Discuss/Action Budget Transfer over \$5,000

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Discussion/Action Budget Transfer over \$5,000.00. 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, JCP=yes.

C. Discuss/Action COVID Grant Fund MOA

Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action COVID Grant Fund MOA. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. EC=yes, TV=yes, FF=yes, AS=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes.

D. Discuss/Review COVID-19 Expenditures

Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Review COVID-19 Expenditures. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The Discussion/Review COVID-19 Expenditures does not need a School Committee vote of approval. The money has been spent on COVID-19 and the review was informative and substantial as to the amount needed to meet the COVID crisis.

E. Discuss/Review Budget Transfers under \$5,000.

Discussion/Review Budget Transfers under \$5,000.00 does not need approval. This item is for discussion only and covers transfers from the beginning of the year through last week. These transfers were small.

F. Discuss Student Violence, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying Policy JICK (Second Read)

Ms. McDaid moved to table Item F. –Discuss Student Violence, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying Policy JICK (Second Read).

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G. Discuss Reporting Board Meeting Business Policy BEDK (Second Read)

Ms. McDaid made a motion for Discussion Reporting Board Meeting Business Policy BEDK (Second Read). Mr. Payero seconded the motion. These policies are being reviewed and a different coding system is in use now so the policies are being updated. A vote is not necessary tonight and a First Read of the policy has already been heard at a prior School Committee meeting.

H. Discuss Minutes Policy BEDG (Second Read)

Ms. McDaid made a motion for Discussion Minutes Policy BEDG (Second Read). Mr. Payero seconded the motion. No changes or discussion. First Read of this policy has already been heard at a prior School Committee meeting.

I. Discuss Meeting Procedures /Bylaws Policy BED (Second Read)

Ms. McDaid moved to table Item I. – Discuss Meeting Procedures/Bylaws Policy BED (Second Read).

J. Discuss Board Member Professional Development Opportunities Policy BIB (Second Read)

Ms. McDaid made a motion for Discussion Board Member Professional Development Opportunities Policy BIB (Second Read). Mr. Payero seconded the motion. This is in regards to the required six hours of Professional Development by School Committee members. This is a second read. During the next School Committee meeting, a Third Read will take place and the vote taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion for adjournment of tonight's meeting. 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, JCP-yes.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 17, 2020
- December 15, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Massarotti, Recording Secretary for:
Thomas Vadney, Clerk