

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/89429981962?pwd=eXpWdXZRK2t3bzRWZmxuMHdLQ3V1QT09>

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair, Ms. Copeland, welcomed the School Committee members and the public to the School Committee meeting of August 25, 2020, and to join her in the pledge of allegiance and requested a moment of silence in honor of our armed forces in harms way. This meeting continues to be a hybrid version of in-person with masks and virtual with some members participating in the meeting from home. We are hopeful that the Governor will announce soon that in-person meetings are approved. In the meantime, the public is participating virtually.

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
- (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 been held prior to the Public Session. She requested a motion to seal the Executive Minutes of August 25, 2020. Mr. Faerber made a motion to seal the Executive Minutes. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, FF=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, CH=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

A. Roll Call

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Emily Copeland: | Present | Thomas Vadney: | Present |
| Juan Carlos Payero: | Present | Catherine Holtman: | Present |
| Allen Shers: | Present | Karen McDaid | Present |
| Fred Faerber | Present | | |

Let the minutes reflect that all School Committee Members are present for the meeting held on August 25, 2020.

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

Mr. Vadney spoke of the recent passing of two well-known and highly regarded public servants of Aquidneck Island. Mr. Phillip Coen, Superintendent for Middletown Public Schools and the Administrator for Middletown, and Mr. Robert Driscoll, the Town Administrator for Portsmouth for many years. They will both be greatly missed here on Aquidneck Island and are appreciated for the time and effort they put into their work in public service.

Ms. Copeland announced that School Committee member, Ms. Catherine Holtman, will be resigning her seat on the Portsmouth School Committee as of September 1, 2020. She will return for the meeting September 8, 2020, for recognition of her work on the School Committee. Ms. Copeland will notify the Portsmouth Town Council of

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Portsmouth School Committee
August 25, 2020
Public Session

Ms. Holtman's resignation and they will determine her replacement for the remainder of her term on the School Committee.

B. School Committee Workshop Update

Ms. Copeland reported that a School Committee Workshop had been held on August 12, 2020. The discussions concerned the impending opening of school, the potential goals for the coming year, the Capital Plan progress, and potential legislative priorities concerning Portsmouth.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Policy

Ms. Holtman gave the report for the Policy Subcommittee. They met on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, to work on the Policy for Employee, Student and Visitor Mask/Face Covering Policy. This policy is on the Business Agenda this evening as a final read.

B. Capital

Mr. Shers reported that the Capital Spending Subcommittee met on Thursday, August 20, 2020. The discussion included items for the next five years. They wanted to analyze our necessities and capabilities with the needs of our district. On the agenda, we made maintenance and the normal five year improvements our priority. It should be noted that we have approximately 450,000 sq. ft. of approved buildings. If we were to replace it all, that would be around \$3,000,000 and we want to work to keep them in top-notch condition. We had approval from the state to extend our submission time several months if we wanted to do that. No votes were taken during the meeting. In attendance, besides Mr. Shers, were Ms. McDaid, Mr. Faerber, Superintendent Kenworthy, and Mr. DiIuro, and Mr. Dean.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. Personnel Update

Superintendent Kenworthy reported on his Personnel Update. The district has one resignation announcement from Ms. Megan Sullivan, long-time employee, an Alternative Learning Program teacher. She made the decision to take a teaching position closer to home. We will miss her. Superintendent Kenworthy also reported that staff member, Ms. Mary Saladino, Director of Student Services, has been granted a Leave of Absence. The new hires for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

- Ms. Melissa Gillespie – Special Educator/PHS
- Mr. Robert McKinley – Physics/General Science/PHS
- Ms. Shelby Santucci – K Special Educator/Interventionist
- Ms. Julia Wilson – Chemistry Teacher/PHS

B. District Leadership Retreat

The District Leadership Retreat was held last week, August 17 and August 18, 2020. The Retreat was held at Portsmouth Middle School with the requirements of masks and social distancing easily attainable. We discussed all matters relating to the opening of schools

C. Safety Update

Plans for School Safety 2020-21 are as follows:

- Superintendent and Police Chief will meet regularly

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Portsmouth School Committee

August 25, 2020

Public Session

- School Resources Officers (PPD officers) will be assigned to PMS and PHS; a PPD liaison has been established for school principals
- School Safety Officers (PSD employees) will be assigned to Hathaway and Melville
- PPD will increase patrols of all schools throughout the school day
- PPD will offer expertise for drills and safety

Public Comment: Ms. Tara Avoian, 167 Spring Hill Road. Her question regarding increase of patrols by local police. This plan is in collaboration between the PSD and the PPD. The comment was in regards to extra staff hires at the PPD to accommodate stops at the PSD schools. Superintendent Kenworthy did not know about that but noted that patrols of our school buildings will be on the route of the Police Department to make sure they are all covered during the day. Later in the meeting, Ms. Avoian also had a question about ventilation which was answered by Superintendent Kenworthy and Assistant Superintendent Vivieros.

D. School Reopening Update

School Reopening Readiness Updates. Right now everything is pending the announcement by Governor Raimondo on August 31, 2020. Dr. Kenworthy has already shared the slide with Metrics Released Governor Raimondo. We need to be flexible and adaptable. Last week, Portsmouth was highlighted by Governor Raimondo as one of the school districts meeting the requirements to be able to open.

The following benchmarks will help us determine readiness to fully open schools:

1. Statewide Readiness
2. Municipal Readiness
3. Testing Readiness
4. Supply Readiness
5. Operational Readiness

Items 1, 2, 3 are out of our hands as they represent state-wide readiness for the opening of schools in the state. Our focus right now is on Items 4 and 5 – Supply and Operational Readiness. As for supplies, we have ordered everything we will need to start the year and bring students back. Operational Readiness is our plans for the opening of school. We have seen the biggest change is in area of guidance. Facilities requirements have been upgraded by the state and I have put forward for your information the efforts we have made to meet the Operational Readiness guideline.

Cleaning is a major goal and maximum effort will go into this task in all of our buildings:

- Custodial schedules will be adjusted to maximize coverage during the day in restrooms, classroom needs, meal locations.
- Each building will get one additional custodial position that will be primarily disinfecting high touch, high traffic areas on a constant schedule.
- Indoor daily cleaning and disinfecting will be done with Virex (spray bottle and paper towels available in each classroom)
- Indoor and outdoor surfaces will be sanitized at the end of each week with MaxxClean, a product that kills viruses and prevents the spread (including Coronavirus) for up to 4 weeks.

Ventilation follows CDC Guidance for schools. The suggested steps are:

- Increase outdoor air ventilation
- Use fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly; improve air filtration

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- Use portable, high-efficiency particulate air filtration systems in “higher risk” areas

The PSD is working to make sure our ventilation systems are working and are testing our systems in all the buildings.

- We have ordered filters for all of our units
- Additional changes to the filters have been scheduled. Two fans have been purchased for each classroom
- Classrooms are recommended to set up maximum ventilation, i.e. all windows open, fan in one window blowing out and fan other end of classroom blowing out but not directly on any individual.
- Portable, high-efficiency air filtration systems for indoor spaces without windows (these spaces will also have fully functioning air ventilation systems).
- RIDE will be sending out a team to evaluate each building throughout the state for efforts related to air quality.

7. TEACHING AND LEARNING

A. Enrollment and CTE Update

Superintendent Kenworthy presented the Distance Learning Option numbers for students/families selecting this option for the 2020-2021 school year. As of 8/21/2020, those numbers looked as below:

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----|
| Melville Elementary School | 68 students | 20% |
| Hathaway Elementary School | 88 students | 19% |
| Portsmouth Middle School | 126 students | 19% |
| Portsmouth High School | 142 students | 16% |
| Total | 424 students | 18% |

It is expected that this number will fluctuate as the Governor makes her announcement regarding the opening of schools on August 31, 2020.

Public Comment: Ms. Rita Kenehan, 15 Indian Road, Little Compton. Is the district in agreement that equity is a planning priority in your distance learning plans? Dr. Kenworthy answered her question with a yes. Ms. Kenehan also questioned the use of a third-party program called Engenuity that would offer a third party as support for the teachers. That was never the platform that Portsmouth was going to use. Portsmouth teachers would use this program for support to look up information and use in conjunction with the work they are doing. It is going to be used to support teaching and learning. We want all of our students to have a comprehensive and rigorous education. The students will be on a home-room roster and communicating with that teacher but also will be taught by other staff members to support them. The distance learning students will have two points of contact for students and those in-school students have more contacts. Another question – what if a student gets sick, what is the plan. Work is going on to make sure students have all the information they may need if for some reason they or everyone can access learning platforms. Ms. Vivieros is confident that Portsmouth will be able to provide this cohesive education.

Question regarding the delivery of fans to the elementary school. Mr. Dean relayed that the pedestal fans for elementary level are all in and the PMS and PHS will be in before schools starts. This parent questioned whether windows will be closed during storms. The plan now is a case by case scenario. The PSD does plan to continue with improvements in this area.

Assistant Superintendent Vivieros gave a presentation on Career & Technical Education (CTE) Student Enrollment Programs for 2020/21. The current enrollment for CTE programs are as follows:

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Portsmouth School Committee
August 25, 2020
Public Session

| <u>COURSE</u> | <u># STUDENTS TAKING COURSE</u> | <u># STUDENTS APPLIED AND ACCEPTED</u> |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Education | 129 students | 63 students |
| Media | 177 students | 21 students |
| Engineering | 199 students | 70 students |
| Visual Arts | 83 students | 31 students |

Out of District Students enrolled in CTE program: 2019/20 22 students 2020/21 26 students

Enrollment Numbers for 2020/21 are as follows:

- Elementary Total 803 projected students
- PMS Total 671 projected students
- PHS Total 909 projected students
- Prudence Island 8 projected students
- Little Compton 105 projected students
- Total 2302 projected students (81 pending registration documents)

OPENING OF SCHOOL FORUM SCHEDULE (via ZOOM)

PMS Forum for Opening of School is scheduled for September 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

PHS Forum for Opening of School is scheduled for September 2, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Hathaway and Melville Forum for Opening of School scheduled for September 3, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

8. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

- A. June 9, 2020 Executive Session
- B. June 23, 2020 Executive Session
- C. August 3, 2020 Executive Session

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion for approval of the Executive Session School Committee minutes of June 9, 2020, June 23, 2020, and August 3, 2020. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, FF=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes, CH=yes.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Homeschool Requests

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion for the approval of the Consent Agenda as written. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, FF=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, CH=yes, KM=yes, JCP=yes

10. BUSINESS

- A. Discuss/Possible Action Council 94 Grievance

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion for Discussion/Possible Action Council 94 Grievance. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1. EC=yes, FF=yes, AS=yes, TV=yes, CH=yes, KM=yes, JCP=no.

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Portsmouth School Committee

August 25, 2020

Public Session

B. Discuss/Action Contract for PHS Interim Director of Student Services – 1 yr. Only

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion on Discussion/Action Contract for PHS Interim Director of Student Services – 1 year only. Mr. Faerber made the motion for Discussion/Action Contract for PHS Interim Director of Student Services – 1 year only. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, TV-yes, FF-yes, AS-yes, CH-yes, KM-yes, JCP-yes.

C. Discuss/Action Employee, Student and Visitor Mask/Face Covering Policy – EBBA (Final Read)

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion for Discussion/Action Employee, Student and Visitor Mask/Face Covering Policy – EBBA (Final Read). Mr. Faerber made the motion for Discussion/Action Employee, Student, Visitor Mask/Face Covering Policy – EBBA (Final Read). Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, TV-yes, AS-yes, FF-yes, CH-yes, KM-yes, JCP-yes.

D. Discuss/Action Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion for Business Item D. Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, AS-yes, FF-yes, TV-yes, CH-yes, KM-yes, JCP-yes.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to the request for a motion to adjourn the meeting this evening, Ms. Copeland thanked Ms. Holtman for her work on the School Committee. The group gave her a clapping ovation.

Chair, Ms. Copeland, requested a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting of August 25, 2020. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, FF-yes, AS-yes, TV-yes, KM-yes, JCP-yes. CH-yes.

Upcoming Meeting

- September 8, 2020
- September 22, 2020

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

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