

HH06-30-20210606ZOOM MEETING LINK;

<https://portsmouthschoolsri-rg.zoom.us/j/86524461313?pwd=c3Y2UnhXYmR1WjQ0OX1vbEtyR1F6QT09>

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Ms. Copeland, on Tuesday evening, June 29, 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.

Ms. Copeland reported that an Executive Session had been held prior to the public meeting this evening, June 29, 2021. No votes were taken.

2. MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Ms. Copeland requested a motion to seal the Executive Session Minutes. Mr. Faerber made a motion to seal the minutes and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, FF=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, IK=yes, JCP=yes, KM=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)	Present

Please let the record reflect that all members are present this evening in person with the exception of Ms. Kelly, who is attending virtually this evening.

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. School, Committee Workshop Date

Ms. Copeland discussed the School Committee Workshop, which is a less formal format and gives School Committee Members more time to discuss topics in depth. She suggested two dates for consideration. The dates suggested are August 27, in the afternoon, or perhaps September 10, which would be first Friday after Labor Day. School Committee members offered their opinions about the suggested dates and it was decided that August 27, 2021, would be penciled in as the preferred date for this workshop. Ms. Copeland requested two topics for

discussion during the workshop. Her topics were High Performing School Committees and Superintendent evaluations. She requested that other School Committee Members send her e-mails with their suggestions for topics to be placed on the agenda.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

A. Personnel

Ms. Copeland presented the Personnel Subcommittee Update. The meeting was held and the topics discussed were Business Items B, E, and F which you will see below under the Business Agenda. The decision was to forward all of these for full consideration of the School Committee and they also reviewed the individual contract you are seeing on the agenda. Also discussed was the time table for reviewing individual contracts next year. We have a number of people on individual contracts and we need to decide when they will be reviewed.

5. RECOGNITIONS

Patricia Massarotti

Tonight, Superintendent Kenworthy recognized Mrs. Massarotti for her work as the School Committee Recording Secretary for the past five years. She has now decided to retire and has given her notice that tonight will be her last meeting. The School Committee members were very generous with their congratulations and Ms. Massarotti was most appreciative for the kind words and the recognition for her work with the School Committee.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment this evening.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. Personnel Update

During the Personnel Update, Dr. Kenworthy reports any changes that have taken place in the district since the last School Committee meeting. The following changes have occurred as we transition to the upcoming SY2021-2022. These include:

Appointments

Michaela Stewart	Special Education Teacher	Hathaway
Sara Morgan	Social Worker	PMS
Annelise Hague	Special Education Teacher	Melville
Alison Gaumont	General School Aide	Hathaway
Jennifer Sidwand	General School Aide	Hathaway
Heather Seibert	General School Aide	Melville
Jenny Campbell	General School Aide	Melville

Recall

Jenah Morrell	Grade 1 Teacher	Hathaway
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Resignations

Gabrielle Grieco	Social Studies Teacher	PHS
Elise Morrell	General School Aide	Hathaway
Heidi Osmond	General School Aide	Hathaway
Amy Wilt	General School Aide	Melville
Amy Buddemeyer	General School Aide	Hathaway
Rebecca Oliver	General School Aide	Melville

Leave Without Pay 2021-2022

Marielle Clair	Kindergarten Teacher	Melville
Robin Diotte	Art Teacher	Melville
Amanda Parks	Math Teacher	PHS

B. District Updates

Superintendent Kenworthy noted that the Graduation Ceremony for the PHS Graduating Class of 2021 was held on the traditional location, the Portsmouth High School Baseball Field. It was a lovely ceremony and our congratulations go to all the graduates of the Class of 2021 as they begin their future endeavors. The school year finished up for all other students on June 23, 2021. We take this opportunity to thank all students, staff and families for their cooperation helping us through this past school year. As we transition after the 4th of July, we will be starting us our traditional extended school year for students with IEP goals that require some extended services in the summer as well as our typical credit recovery work that will take place mostly for PHS students. These will run after the July 4th holiday and finish up the first or second week of August. As you know, we did present with our ESSER II Application. There is funding available to bring on some new innovative programs we could bring on during the summer, but timing has been not on our side so we have to see what type of demand exists for these types of programs. Dr. Viveiros is currently working with our principals. The programs will be based on the number of students and staff interested in these programs.

Beginning with the start of school, the first few days are dedicated to orientation activities for both staff students, with the Opening Day of School scheduled for September 7, 2021. There is much anticipation about what things my look like in the classrooms in our schools next year. We are still leaning on any updated guidance from the RIDE or the Dept. of Health. As of right now, we are still following guidelines in place at the end of the school year. We do expect updated guidance, but we have not received that as yet.

Superintendent Kenworthy wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Portsmouth Town Council. On June 14, 2021, the Town Council approved, as a final step, our Stage II Five Year Facilities Capital Plan. That has been submitted. At the last meeting, the Town took a final budget vote and was passed unanimously. No changes on the town side.

When our School Committee meetings resume after the July break, we will be back in the Portsmouth Town Hall Chambers. That is our plan right now. Our plan is to move as much as possible to a full, in-person protocol as possible. We will continue to keep the virtual option up for the public. Dr. Kenworthy is aware of how much that is appreciated by the community. It helps to increase our participation.

Superintendent Kenworthy had the official citations for Dr. Viveiros and Ms. Churgin for their leadership work around our Melville Outdoor Classroom and other initiatives that have made it possible to be recognized for the Green Ribbon Award. Congratulations to them and we will be forwarding them the citations.

Mr. Trezvant, Athletic Director, gave a presentation on the Spring Sports Season in the district. The season has just wrapped up. It went amazingly well. Last year we lost this season and we had 300+ registrations for this season. It has been a full calendar year since some of these students got on the field to compete. We offered Baseball, Softball, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Tennis, Co-ed Golf, Boys Track and Field, Girls Track & Field. At PMS, we offered Baseball, Softball and Track and Field. Our teams did really well this year, competing with high level schools all over the state. We had school records set this year by our athletes with great, great success. Varsity Baseball finished 10-2 earning #1 seed in playoffs but unfortunately they got bounced early in quarter finals; Softball finished 4-7 overall earning a 5th seed and getting bounced in the quarter finals also; our Boys Lacrosse Team had a phenomenal year finishing 7-4 earning a 3rd seed in Division 1; Girls Lacrosse had the

best years in the school's history, finishing 10-1 and making it to the finals where they lost to North Kingstown. Boys Tennis program was on the rocks for a while but good numbers coming in this year with a 6-4 record. A lot of first time athletes coming into the program. They competed in Division III, earning a 4th seed and making it to the semi-finals. Our Golf Program had the largest registration we have seen in our school history. We had over thirty students come out for the team. They finished 3rd in the Eastern Division. Our Boys and Girls Track Teams had phenomenal years. The Boys Track captured the Class B Championship in 15 years and Eastern Division runner ups and had phenomenal finish in state meet, finishing 6th overall. The Girls Track were Eastern Division Champs, runner-ups in Class B and finished 5th overall. We had a number of school records set. The PMS Spring Season records were Baseball 5-5 overall; Softball 7-3 overall; Track & Field overall 34. The Unified Basketball had an undefeated season, 5-0.

8. TEACHING AND LEARNING

A. End of Year STAR Data Review.

Assistant Superintendent Viveiros presented the End of Year STAR Data showing beginning and end of year proficiency by district and school specific. The MTSS District Goals for 2020-2021 included the following five goals. These are:

- All school leaders will utilize a district data collection document for collecting and analyzing student data: BOY, MOY, EOY
- All schools will have appropriate MTSS teams
- All schools will have set criteria for qualifying students for academic and social-emotional interventions
- All schools will use the district RTI Planning form in Aspen for consistency among schools and easy transition
- All schools will utilize Aspen to track minor and major behaviors and act appropriately

Ms. Forster presented the data in terms of the individual schools in the district. It was determined that Gr. 1 students at Melville exceeded their goal.

Mrs. Little, Principal of Hathaway School, made note that Hathaway School targeted Gr.1 also and was happy to see improvement in their data. We know we have work to do with students with IEP's. They will have a full-time Interventionist at Hathaway and we are excited about the difference that will make for our students. Hathaway reduced students from 24 to 12. Hathaway exceeding the goal for this school year and much to be proud of.

Mr. Arruda, Principal of PMS, began his presentation with a thank you to their Interventionist, Mr. Medeiros, and Literacy Specialist, Ms. Bixby. Mr. Arruda noted that in the Reading category from the Fall to the Spring, the number did drop for students in Urgent Intervention. For our Math category, we had an increase also in those students. Our Urgent Intervention and Intervention stayed about the same with only one minor change. For students with IEP's, we know there is work to be done and we are looking into new strategies this Fall with our Interventionist. In Gr. 8 we were concerned with decreasing the number of students with D's and F's. Our Baseline number was 38 students and at the end of Quarter 4 our number improved to 32 students with an exceed of goal by 2 students. Gr. 8 also had the greatest number of students who continued with Distance Learning for the entire year, even when we were able to bring students back into the building.

Mr. Amaral, Principal of Portsmouth High School, confirmed what Principal Arruda said earlier. The more students are in school, the better they do. For the last holdouts to continue Virtual Learning, we had full functioning learning program as well as for students with IEP's. We saw gains as students started to return back to school in the 4th quarter. The goal this year started out with modest goals as having 10% identified and 25% by the Spring/Year End. We went up 3x our goal. These plans were written and implemented and reviewed. It

was a benefit to students and will continue to benefit them. This is a work in progress but with the teams in place and using criteria that has been implemented for students.

9. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

- A. May 25, 2021
- B. June 8, 2021
- C. June 8, 2021 Executive Session

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for the approval of the School Committee minutes of May 25, 2021. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed, with edits, 6-0, with one abstention. EC-abstention, FF=yes, TV=yes, AS=yes, KM=yes, IK=yes, JCP=yes.

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for the approval of School Committee minutes of June 8, 2021, and the Executive Session minutes of June 8, 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. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Parental Request – Entrance Age Requirements

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0, with 6 approvals, 0 opposed, and one abstention. EC=yes, TV=yes, FF=yes, AS=yes, KM=yes, IK=yes, JCP=abstention

11. BUSINESS

A. Discuss Stage II Facilities Capital Plan

Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion Stage II Facilities Capital Plan. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. Superintendent Kenworthy proceeded with the discussion. At the June 14th, we received the final approval we needed. Finishing touches were made for the submission which was done in the last few days. The document is now in the hands of the School Building Authority at the Dept. of Education. We do expect some feedback by the first few weeks of July. It is quite a milestone and we did file on June 28, 2021, and we did submit our Stage I request back in 2019. We will be meeting with the School Building Authority collaboratively to answer questions and solve issues that pop up. In the meantime, we will be working with Colliers and Studio JAED. There is a lot of work with that and preparing the public for that vote in November. The focus of the plan is health and safety improvements including air quality and asbestos removal. Also included will be renovations to all school restrooms, installing air conditioning in the high school field house, installing an elevator in Hathaway School, and Memorial Drive improvements. Mr. Shers noted that the district will receive a 40% reimbursement with our focus around health and safety issues in the Stage II plan as well as an additional 5% bonus housing aid reimbursement for health and safety improvements. Mr. Faerber made note that interest rates are now at the lowest point they have probably been in our lifetime. The district hopes the plan is approved by the R.I. Council on Postsecondary Education in November or December.

B. Discuss/Action Contract for PHS Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning.

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Business Item B. Discussion/Action Contract for PHS Assistant Principal of Teaching and Learning. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. Superintendent Kenworthy presented a contract for Ms. Amanda Turcotte as the Assistant Principal for PHS of Teaching and Learning. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC=yes, TV=yes, FF=yes, AS=yes, KM=yes, IK=yes, JCP=yes.

C. Discuss/Action Food Service Management Contract Award

Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action Food Service Management Contract Award. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The motion passed for awarding a one-year contract to Chartwells as all other districts in the state are doing. The motion passed 6 affirmative and 1 negative. EC-yes, FF-yes, TV-yes, AS-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JCP-no.

D. Discuss/Action Climate Change Resolution

Mr. Payero moved to table Item D. Any School Committee member can make a motion to table a budget item without needing a second.

E. Discuss/Action One-Time COVID Bonus

Mr. Faerber made a motion for Discussion/Action One-Time COVID Bonus. Mr. Shers seconded the motion. Ms. Copeland requested a motion for a one-time COVID Bonus to acknowledge the herculean efforts of the Portsmouth School Department staff over this past year as well as their cooperation in helping us contain costs for the upcoming FY22 budget. This one-time bonus shall be paid to employees who were full time, that is they worked 135 days during FY21. Full-time NEA members, Council 24 members, and administrators shall each receive \$300.00. Part-time General School Aides and Bus Monitors shall each receive \$150.00. The total cost of these bonuses including payroll taxes shall be no more than \$105,000.00. Ms. Copeland requested that motion. Mr. Faerber so moved and 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

F. Discuss Superintendent Evaluation Process

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for Discussion Superintendent Evaluation Process. Mr. Faerber so moved and Mr. Shers seconded the motion. The Personnel Committee is not suggesting any major changes here. Superintendent Kenworthy noted that dates were plugged into the calendar for this year. After 4th weekend, Dr. Kenworthy will work on finalizing his self-evaluation and have that to the Chair by July 16th. The Chair will hand that out to each member along with the evaluation form. The August 6th deadline is when committee members would return the evaluations to the Chair. That process can even begin now. Committee members can reach out to set up an individual meeting. August 10th is our first School Committee meeting after the July break. At that meeting, during Executive Session, you will discuss and finalize the evaluation, and on August 24th is the final vote and salary related to that. We will also be talking about Superintendent's goals for the coming year. No vote on this. Information only.

12. REPORTS

A. Financial Reports

1. Monthly Financials – May 2021

Mr. DiIuro reported on the May 2021 Financials. It looks like for the year, we will have a slight surplus of about \$300,000.00 range.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Copeland requested a motion for adjournment. 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, IK-yes, JCP-yes.

Upcoming Meetings:

- No Meetings in July
- August 10, 2021
- August 24, 2021

Portsmouth School Committee

June 29, 2021

Public Session

Respectfully submitted by

Patricia Massarotti, Recording Secretary for:

Thomas Vadney, Clerk