

**PORTSMOUTH CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA**

**MINUTES**

The members of the Portsmouth City School Board held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2014, in the City Council Chamber, which is located in the City Hall Building, 801 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bridgeford called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Ms. Kathy L. Chambliss, the Clerk, recorded the proceedings of the meeting. The Board and the audience paused for a moment of silent prayer. Elisha M. Sharp, a preschooler at Olive Branch Preschool Center, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Aliya J. Lachey-Wagner, and Shelby L. Nelson, also preschoolers, offered a statement. Musical selections were provided by choral students from Olive Branch Preschool Center. Board members distributed gifts to the students as a token of appreciation for their participation in the meeting. Rev. Joseph Fleming recited the mission statement.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following Board members were present: Rev. Joseph A. Fleming, Mrs. Sarah D. Hinds, Mr. Ted J. Lamb, Mr. B. Keith Nance, Sr., Mr. Claude C. Parent, Ms. Linda D. Ridenour, Dr. Mark M. Whitaker, Mrs. Costella B. Williams, and Mr. James E. Bridgeford.

The following members of the professional staff were also in attendance: Dr. Patricia H. Fisher, Interim Superintendent; Mr. Christopher P. Steele, Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Planning; Ms. Brittany T. Dortch, Director of Accounting; Dr. Helen W. Taylor, Senior Director; Mr. Derrick A. Nottingham, Director of Research and Evaluation; Mr. Dean M. Schlaepfer, Director of Information Technology; Mrs. Paula M. Smith, Director of Human Resources; and Mr. Joseph L. Wiggins, Executive Administrator.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Dr. Whitaker moved to approve the agenda for Thursday, December 18, 2014 as amended. (*Delete Item 17 - Consideration of the appointment of members to the Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise Program Advisory Committee*); and move Item 22 – *Consideration of the appointment of a Division Superintendent and approval of the contract*). The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

**WHRO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

Mr. Bert Schmidt, president and CEO of WHRO, offered a report on the 2013-14, Annual Impact Statement, highlighting the following areas: resources and training, student services, additional educational resources, family and early learners, and Portsmouth's return on WHRO investment. Mr. Schmidt reported that Portsmouth Public Schools is one of 19 school divisions that own WHRO.

**CAFR**

Ms. Krista Edoff, CPA of Cherry Bekaert & Holland, Certified Public Accountants, presented the results of the June 30, 2014 audit. Ms. Edoff reported unmodified opinions, which are clean opinions on financial statements, state laws and regulations and federal grants. All three reports are clean audit opinions which, essentially is the best report you can hope for as an audit opinion. Ms. Edoff also spoke about financial statements (certain estimates built in), conduct of the audit, and new standards effective for this year.

#### **RETIRING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Bridgeford and Mr. Parent recognized the following retiring Board members. Each member was presented with a Distinguished Service Award.

Ms. Laural J. Armstrong (June 9, 2014 – November 4, 2014)  
Dr. Mark M. Whitaker (July 1, 2002- December 31, 2014)  
Ms. Linda D. Ridenour (August 1, 2013 – December 31, 2014)

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S APPOINTMENT**

Dr. Whitaker moved to approve the appointment of Dr. Elie Bracy, III as division superintendent and approval of the contract. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

Chairman Bridgeford provided the following date and figures associated with the superintendent's contract:

Start date- February 16, 2015  
Annual Salary- \$184,000.00  
Deferred Compensation - First year: 10%; Second year 11%; Third year 12%  
Car Allowance- \$9,200.00

#### **RESOLUTION**

Mr. Nance moved to approve the resolution recognizing Virginia Principals Appreciation Week, January 25-31, 2015. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Mr. Parent moved to approve the resolution in support of funding public education. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

#### **DISCIPLINE CASE**

Mr. Nance moved to suspend the student named in Discipline Case No. 2014-15/06 through June 16, 2015. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

#### **DISCIPLINE CASE**

Mr. Nance moved to suspend the student named in Discipline Case No. 2014-15/07 through June 16, 2015. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

#### **RECOGNITION**

Mr. Wiggins recognized the following schools for receiving the highest percentage of student attendance for November 2014. Each school will display an attendance banner.

*Elementary—Churchland Primary Elementary (95.96 percent)*

*Middle—Churchland Middle (95.15 percent)*

*High—Churchland High School (96.04 percent)*

*Center—Olive Branch Preschool Center (95.26 percent)*

#### **MINUTES**

Mr. Parent moved to approve the minutes for the Regular Monthly meeting held on Thursday, November 13, 2014, the Special Meeting held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, the Special Meeting held on Monday November 24, 2014, and the Special Meeting held on Tuesday, November 25, 2014. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, P.O. Box 5014, Portsmouth, VA 23703, 757-967-7298) addressed the Board as follows: *1)* welcomed Dr. Elie Bracy and his family, *2)* echoed the remarks of the Board relative to Ms. Ridenour, Dr. Whitaker and Ms. Armstrong, *3)* addressed Ms. Ridenour and Dr. Whitaker

#### **MONTHLY REPORT—CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Dr. Taylor offered a report in the area of instruction as follows: *1)* arts, *2)* English, *3)* programs, *4)* science, and VDOE/PPS. The minutes for I. C. Norcom and Cradock Middle Schools' Governance Committee meetings were also included.

#### **MONTHLY REPORT—HUMAN RESOURCES**

Mrs. Paula Smith offered a report as follows: *1)* Teacher of the Year 2014-2015, *2)* In-service Training, and *3)* partnerships.

#### **EMPLOYEE TRANSACTION REPORT**

Mr. Parent moved to approve the Employee Transaction Report for December 2014 and the addendum. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

Chairman Bridgeford shared a letter from Dr. Patricia H. Fisher, Interim Superintendent, relative to her upcoming retirement. Chairman Bridgeford also presented Dr. Fisher with a special accommodation citation.

#### **MONTHLY REPORT—BUDGET AND PLANNING**

Mr. Christopher Steele offered a report on the following: *1)* an Executive Communication Series Program, December 9, 2014, *2)* the Governor's biennial budget update, *3)* the quarterly appropriation, *4)* FY15 CIP projects update, *5)* current procurements, and *6)* School Board resolutions and City Council ordinances.

**RESOLUTION**

Dr. Whitaker move to approve the resolution requesting the Council of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia to re-appropriate funds to the Portsmouth City School Board. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Parent moved to approve the Financial Report for October 2014. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Parent moved to approve the Financial Report for November 2014. The motion carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

**M/WBE POLICIES**

Dr. Whitaker moved to approve certain policies regarding M/WBE. The motion carried by *seven* yes electronic votes (Rev. Fleming, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Nance, Mr. Parent, Dr. Whitaker, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Bridgeford) to *two* no votes (Ms. Ridenour, Mrs. Hinds).

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Fisher offered a report on the following: *1*) shared a letter of thanks from Mrs. Marsha D. Staples, Director of Education/Community Engagement, *2*) publicly thanked Mrs. Alisa Smith, and the PSF Board for their recognition program honoring Mr. Horace Savage, *3*) informational meeting for students and parents, December 10, 2014, *4*) fall principals meetings, *5*) closure of schools and administrative offices for the winter break, *6*) wished School Board members, students, parents, employees and community members a joyful holiday season.

**BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Dr. Whitaker – *1*) reflected upon the Superintendent search process of 2002; commended Chairman Bridgeford for his leadership in the Superintendent search of 2014, *2*) expressed that he is pleased with the appointment of Dr. Elie Bracy, III

Rev. Fleming – *1*) welcomed Dr. Elie Bracy, *2*) celebrated, commended and expressed his sincere appreciation for Dr. Patricia Fisher, noting she has left a legacy

Mr. Lamb – PTA Initiative update

Mr. Parent – *1*) echoed Rev. Fleming's remarks relative to Dr. Fisher, *2*) looking forward to working with Dr. Elie Bracy, *3*) Computer Science Education Week, Dec. 8-14, 2014, *4*) commended efforts of AAUW

Ms. Williams – *1*) will miss serving with Dr. Whitaker and Ms. Ridenour, *2*) looking forward to new Board members (Rev. Cardell Patillo and Dr. Ingrid Whitaker) coming on board *3*) welcomed Dr. Elie Bracy, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Chairman Bridgeford – wished everyone a happy, safe and restful holiday

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bridgeford adjourned the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

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JAMES E. BRIDGEFORD, CHAIRMAN

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KATHY L. CHAMBLISS, CLERK

JANUARY 29, 2015  

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DATE OF ADOPTION BY THE BOARD