**School Board Minutes February 13th 2018**

**Taken by Kimberly McGlinchey**

**Public Comment**

* Aleida Morgan- High school – Would like to help guide a productive dialogue to help with problems at the high school, to forge partnerships and opportunities for parents to engage in the dialogue. In the Portsmouth Master Plan would like to see education as part of that Master Plan. Raise the bar on the community we are building by including education.

**Public Comment on FY19 Budget**

* Maya Bailey and Luanna Moto -Recycling proposal for the high school- ECO club has done a survey on recycling at the high school and hoping to make the process easier and more efficient for the custodians by purchasing a lift to lift the recycling into the dumpster. They stated the cost was $5000 and would like the School Board to match their fundraising for the lift.
* Kate Mitchell- Farm to School success and hopes that it will continue so the progress can continue.
* Faith Masterson – Farm to School in Kindergarten has been of great value and she would also like to see the momentum continue.
* Class of 1957 made a $3000 donation to the Educational Opportunity Fund. This was funding left over from their 60th reunion.

**Elementary School Principals Report**

* Teacher workshop day will be focused on Tech opportunities-sign up to do different tech opportunities, then work with PLCs to use programs.
* Closing the Gap- beyond the clock opportunities: MC3, PEAK and other engagements after school. Also working with Little League to gain scholarships.
* Math team from all 3 schools. They have been collecting data to observe progress.
* March 7th will be Math Night (rescheduled due to snow).
* STEAM Activities are aligned with NGSS and Google Resources.
* Rebot the robot visited.
* Work with New Heights on projects with robots.

**Literacy**

* Team is working on what works best and is useful for working with students. Looking for efficiency and effectiveness.

**Board comments:**

* Gary was interested in the bussing change and how that affected the daily happenings. Replied staffing was difficult and that as of 7:40 most were very busy. More having breakfast.
* Nancy asked about the PTO Activity- all three Principals indicated it was active
* Patrick commented on STEAM Committee and putting ideas together to see the results.
* Playground is moving along at Dondero with the help of Alice Carry. There has been a survey to staff to gain ideas. Using an Architect who designed the Dover Children’s Museum. Thinking about environment, gardens and playground.

**VAPING Presentation by Andy Korman and Shawn Dovovan**

* Passed around examples of devices.
* Expressed frustration in the size of the devices and the fact that they can easily be concealed.
* Currently there has been a survey to students (results in power point)
* There have been 22 suspensions and no repeat offenders
* When they confiscate the device it is typically nicotine or nothing inside. There has been no marijuana found.
* Hoping to alleviate student’s fears of using a bathroom and getting caught up in a vaping scene. Some students won’t use the bathroom during the school day. Letting students know they can use the staff bathrooms as needed has helped.
* High School is now running a marketing program to alert students to the risks of vaping, and they have a “see something, say something” text number students can respond to if they need.

**SRO Issue**

* The SRO issue at the high school has been resolved, but they need someone to step in during lunch time coverage if absent.
* Nancy mentioned the drug sniffing dogs as way to find students who are carrying drugs. Gary responded that that would not help build a trusting and caring community.

**Old Business – update on budget**

* They are $60,000 off from where they need to be even with the extra $400,000 salary differential. This was done mostly due to retirement offer. New positions include a preschool coordinator, world language teacher at Middle School, drug and alcohol counselor at High School and Farm to School Coordinator. Both Farm to School and the Drug and Alcohol counselor are grants that are running out. These will be sent as extras for City Council to decide if they will keep funding them. They are not included in the budget. Total increase will be 3.65%.
* Vote on the budget next Tuesday.
* Come armed with questions as our goal is to be at 3.25%

**Title II George and PD**

* Retirement incentive worked super- 12 teachers took the offer and the savings occurs when a new teacher is hired for $25000 to $30000. Although cost is $400,000 there will be substantial long term savings.

**New Business**

* Voted on extended contract for teachers with 2% increase- all yes
* Voted on 1 year extended contract for custodial supervision– all yes
* Draft of 2018-2019 calendar –
* Approved Maria Sillare for Future’s Board

**Committee Update**

* Sustainability and the athletic fields
* Preschool Committee – working with UNH and NH Charitable Foundation. They are helping and want to build off of Portsmouth’s momentum. There is a consultant through United Way helping with community engagement strategies.