School Board Meeting March 12, 2012

1. Public Comment
   1. Ruth Gaunet- Recess time is short, 20 minutes – lack of movement at middle school – looking at research on outside play and recess. Presents information from Dr. John Ratey and other information – would like longer recess and more opportunity for recess.
   2. David Witham – ten vs seven point grade scale- encouraging to make decision now- facts will support a change. Message – better way to do this, and thinks it’s been proven. Thinks that we should level the playing field and diminish stress.
   3. Jess Lozan- weighted GPA – need a weighted GPA. Merit scholarships are based on 10 point scale, so had to do an appeal to override Received the scholarship after appeal. Two were $8000 and one was $2000.
2. Special Presentations
   1. Educators rising presentation – on equity in schools. 16 going to compete on different topics in education and within schools.
   2. Presenter Meghan McCarthy- Senior – Equity Gap- education gap due to students having different access to quality education. Excellent speech that will be presented at Educators Rising competition.
3. Demographic study
   1. NHSAA provides demographic study for free
   2. Statewide enrollment has been on decline
   3. Portsmouth Schools’ populations are stable, but goes up a little towards the end of the data collection (2028-2029)
   4. City building permits given out has spiked: multifamily 154; single family 25; prefabricated homes 11- building permits for multifamily needs to be watched as could mean more students.
4. Superintendent Report
   1. Budget explanation
5. Old Business
   1. Polling place update- requested to City Manager to move them out of the school buildings. City Manager said not feasible, need to have suitable buildings that are ADA compliant.
   2. Budget Process update – no changes to the budget right now. Formal meeting with City Council is May 9th – standalone presentation- then come back to get questions from public. Public hearing on budget is May 1st for School Board.
   3. District Communication Update- A new blog is linked to the twitter, face book, Instagram etc. Will be rolled out within the next week.
6. New Business
   1. Approval of graduation date - June 7th
   2. One leave year of absence for Beth Landry- Murphy
   3. Single readings on sexual harassment – employee / staff and sexual harassment students. Both policies are being updated with opportunity for appeal to Superintendent.
7. Grade Scale Discussion
   1. Where is the committee? Steve discussed the data and work the committee has gone through and looked at. Committee has come to agreement on importance of weighted GPA – Patrick is concerned it will impact the arts programs as their GPA is not weighted. There will be a high school presentation on Tuesday the 19th and community presentations thereafter. Board is concerned about merit scholarship problems.
   2. Superintendent evaluation has been redone and includes self-evaluation- three questions in each of the following categories:
      1. Progress toward goals
      2. Administration
      3. School board
   3. Future agenda items inclu   
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   4. \ de curriculum and program presentation.
8. Adjourned