

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE**

September 13, 2004

The meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Steven Onos at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Eastman, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Gilboy, Mr. McQuinn, Mr. Onos, and Mr. Reuscher. Also in attendance were Wendy Houlihan, Suzanne Godin and Polly Ward.

Report of the Secretary

1. Upon a motion by Mr. Eastman and seconded by Mr. Gilboy, the Board voted to approve the minutes for the special and regular meetings on Monday, July 12, 2004 and the special meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2004.

Approved: 6-0

Report of the Chairperson

1. Chairperson Onos announced the date for the next regular meeting of the Board of Education on Wednesday, October 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Report of the Superintendent

1. Superintendent Houlihan reported that 3,109 students were enrolled in South Portland Schools as of September 1. Ms. Houlihan added that these figures compared with the projections made by Planning Decisions. Assistant Superintendent Godin reported on the 21st Century Grant Learning Program.
2. Superintendent Houlihan reported on the entry plan focus group meetings and district goals.
3. The Director of Volunteers & Business Partnerships, Jane Eberle, spoke of the volunteer coordinators and the breadth of community involvement in the schools.
4. Superintendent Houlihan announced that South Portland School Department was selected to receive the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the American Lung Association of Maine, specifically citing Memorial Middle School as improving the school environment. Assistant Principal Kevin Perkins spoke briefly on behalf of Memorial Middle School.
5. Superintendent Houlihan reported on new business items on the agenda.

Audience of Citizens – Topics on the Agenda (No public comment)

Report of Committees

1. Finance Committee:
Mr. Edwards reported on the status of the school budget.
2. Buildings & Grounds Committee:
Mr. McQuinn reported that maintenance continues in all facilities.
3. Report of the Master Building Committee:
Mr. Onos reported that Brown School opened on time and that there is an extensive punch list of items to be completed. He also reported that Dyer renovations are in progress.

New Business

1. Upon a motion by Mr. Reuscher and seconded by Mr. McQuinn, the Board voted to approve the personnel items.

Approved: 6-0

2. Upon a motion by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Eastman, the Board voted to approve a resolution take the steps necessary to investigate the potential legal and financial impact of the Palesky Tax Cap Initiative on school budgets and programs and to inform all constituencies of the results of our investigation and the potential impact on our students, staff and programs.

Approved: 6-0

3. Upon a motion by Mr. Eastman and seconded by Mr. Onos, the Board voted to accept a \$50,000 Smaller Learning Communities Grant from the Federal Department of Education.

Approved: 6-0

4. Upon a motion by Mr. McQuinn and seconded by Mr. Reuscher, the Board voted to adopt a 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan pursuant to applicable state and federal law, which plan is intended to comply with Section 457(b) of the Internal Code of 1986 as amended ("Code") and any regulations issued thereunder and is further intended to replace in its entirety any previously adopted plan intended to comply with Section 457 of the Code.

Approved: 6-0

5. Upon a motion by Mr. Reuscher and seconded by Mr. Edwards, the Board voted to direct the Superintendent to form a Facilities Committee for the purpose of assessing the current conditions of Mahoney Middle School, Memorial Middle School and South Portland High School to include the physical plants, capacity needs and educational programming.

Approved: 6-0

6. Upon a motion by Mr. McQuinn and seconded by Mr. Gilboy, the Board voted to accept a donation of a Lanier, Model #7328 photocopier from HMS Host.

Approved: 6-0

Audience of Citizens – Open Discussion

Lynn LaRochelle, 13, Free Street, expressed her concern about the mile and one-half distance delineated in a Board of Education Policy and feels that the policy should be reviewed and amended. She also is concerned for the children walking, as there are many registered sex offenders in South Portland and that the crossing guard does not arrive until after 7:30 a.m.

James Minott, Principal of Brown Elementary, reported a smooth opening of the new Brown School and gave thanks to all citizens of South Portland for voting to improve the schools. He also expressed his appreciation to the Brown Staff, the Master Building Committee, School Board, City Council, HKTA/Architects, Superintendent Houlihan and the Central Office staff for their part in ensuring a successful school opening.

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Audience of Citizens – Open Discussion (Continued)

Linda Parker, 22 Randall Street, spoke in support of Lynn LaRochelle and volunteered to take time to get names, addresses, and phone numbers of students who would ride the bus.

Kathryn Germani, Principal of Mahoney Middle School, explained that the bus that Lynn LaRochelle spoke about is reserved for Special Education students.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. McQuinn and seconded by Mr. Gilboy, the Board voted to adjourn.

Approved: 6-0
Time: 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy H. Houlihan
Recording Secretary