

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

School Committee Chair Emily Copeland called the meeting to order on Tuesday evening, April 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Copeland led the group in the pledge of allegiance and requested a moment of silence for our troops in harm's way.

1. MOTION TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

A. April 14, 2026

Dr. Copeland stated that there was an executive session before the public session. There were no votes taken. The motion passed unanimously to seal the executive session minutes, 7-0 - EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-yes, BF-yes.

2. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

A. Roll Call

Present: Emily Copeland, Fred Faerber, Jack Delehanty, Karen McDaid, Brett Fox, Emily Skeeahan, Isabelle Kelly
Also Present: Ms. Charity Shea, Director of Student Services; Director of Human Resources; Dr. Elizabeth Viveiros, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher DiIuro, Director of Finance

B. Emergency Evacuation Plan

In the event of an emergency, please follow the exit signs in the Town Hall. We will meet across the street at the School Administration Building.

C. PHS National Art Honor Society (April 1, 2026)

The PHS National Art Honor Society has been rescheduled to May 21st at 2:00 p.m.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Building Committee (March 25, 2026)

Dr. Copeland provided an [update](#) on the Building Committee. The Rhode Island Department of Education was in attendance and provided an overview of the Stage II Construction process.

B. Policy Subcommittee (April 6, 2026)

The policy subcommittee met on April 6th and discussed several policies. The student attendance policy will be on a future school committee agenda.

C. Personnel Subcommittee-Executive Session (April 7, 2026)

The personnel subcommittee met, and the contracts on the agenda this evening were forwarded for approval.

D. Negotiations Subcommittee-Executive Session(April 14, 2026)

The negotiations subcommittee met earlier today and continue.

RECOGNITIONS

A. [Meritorious Action for Lifesaving Efforts by Cindy MacDonald](#)

4. PHS LIAISONS' COMMUNICATION

A. PHS Liaisons' Report

Our PHS Liaisons Grace Galvin and Katie Gavin provided an [update](#) from PHS.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

A. [Personnel & District Updates](#)

- Project Close Up
- Portsmouth FBLA Chapter
- School Updates
- Deputy Superintendent Search

Dr. Viveiros presented the [personnel and district updates](#).

8. PRESENTATION

A. [Staff Wellness/Professional Development Update](#) – Kim Aguiar, Director of Human Resources
Kim Aguiar provided an update on Staff Wellness Professional Development.

9. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. March 24, 2026 (Executive Session)

B. March 24, 2026

Dr. Copeland requested a motion, and Mr. Faerber made a motion for the approval of the School Committee's executive session minutes and public session minutes of March 24th. Ms. McDaid seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-yes, BF-yes.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Home Instruction Requests

Dr. Copeland requested a motion, and Mr. Faerber made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. McDaid seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-yes, BF-yes.

B. Recall of Certified Non-Renewal

Dr. Copeland requested a motion, and Mr. Faerber made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. McDaid seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-yes, BF-yes.

11. BUSINESS

A. Discussion/Action: SY2025-2026 School Calendar Update

Mr. Faerber motioned for discussion on the SY2025-2026 School Calendar. Ms. McDaid seconded the motion for discussion. Dr. Viverios [then presented](#) the proposed changes. The motion failed, 3-4. EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-no, KM-yes, IK-no, JD-no, BF-no. Dr. Copeland asked for a secondary motion to modify the Superintendent's motion. Ms. McDaid moved to revise the calendar so that the professional day and wellness day are held on May 22nd and June 18th, and that students are in school until June 17th. The motion passed, 4-3. EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-no, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-no, BF-no.

B. Discussion/Action: Virtual Instructional Day Plan for 2026-2027 School Year (To Be Used in Cases of Emergency)

Dr. Copeland asked for a motion, Mr. Faerber so moved for discussion/action on the Virtual Instructional Day plan for 2026-2027 (to be used in cases of emergency), Ms. McDaid seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-yes, BF-yes.

C. Discussion/Action: Contract for Deputy Superintendent

Dr. Copeland asked for a motion, Mr. Faerber so moved for discussion/action on the contract for Deputy Superintendent, Ms. McDaid seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-yes, BF-yes.

D. Discussion/Action: Contract Renewal for Melville Elementary School Principal

Dr. Copeland asked for a motion, Mr. Faerber so moved for discussion/action on the contract renewal for Melville Elementary School Principal, Ms. McDaid seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-yes, BF-yes.

E. Discussion/Action: Contract Renewal for Administrative Assistant to the High School Principal

Dr. Copeland asked for a motion, Mr. Faerber so moved for discussion/action on the contract renewal for Administrative Assistant to the High School Principal, Ms. McDaid seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. EC-yes, FF- yes, ES-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-yes, BF-yes.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings:

- School Budget Presentation to Town Council (April 28, 2026)
- Negotiations Subcommittee - Executive Session (April 27, 2026)
- Policy Subcommittee (May 4, 2026)
- Safety Subcommittee - Executive Session (May 6, 2026)
- School Committee Meeting (May 12, 2026)

Dr. Copeland requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Faerber made the motion, and Ms. McDaid seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, with a vote of 7-0: EC-yes, FF-yes, ES-yes, KM-yes, IK-yes, JD-yes, BF-yes. The public session was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Heather Khubchandani, Administrative Assistant to Portsmouth School Committee
Karen McDaid, Clerk