

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

L. Steinhauser, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

BOE Members Present: Laurel Steinhauser, Meg Scata, Tim Lavoy, Stacy Benham, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, Dave Murphy, Sarah Spear

Members Absent: none

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Stephanie Fragola Business and Financial Affairs, Eric Martin Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Technology, Dawn Davis Director of Student Services, Bob Shea Director of Facilities

Student Representative: Leah Masal, Dorothy Riley

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

T. Lavoy moved to approve the agenda, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of January 3, 2023 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of January 10, 2023 Budget Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of January 12, 2023 Budget Meeting Minutes

D. Accept Donation from Grynn & Barrett Enterprises to Gildersleeve School, \$1,263.24

M. Scata moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

5. Audience of Citizens – Jeff Poach, Penfield Hill – state trooper spoke in favor of armed security at the high school. He shared stats on school shootings, spoke about new state statute, and shared benchmarking opportunities with East Hampton.

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – none

7. Student Representative Report – L. Masal reported on spirit day and pep rally. D. Riley reported on winter sports.

8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr Britton welcomed new employees J. McGinley, Speech and Language Pathologist starting on February 1st and B. Paskowitz, Life Skills Teacher starting on February 9th. Dr. Britton attended a legislative breakfast for area Superintendents and a

Middlesex area Superintendent's meeting. He shared topics discussed to include district compliance, reading legislation, ECS formula, cap on excess cost sharing, mental health funding, HVAC funding, recruiting and retaining staff.

- B. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs
 - 1. Quarterly Report October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 – S. Fragola submitted and reviewed report. Retirement severance, electricity, and magnet school line items discussed.
- C. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Report – E Martin submitted and reviewed report. Highlights include SBDI grant, and community event Ryan's Story next Thursday. Thanked Dr. Britton, Mr. Cardona, and Mr. White for working on the wellness committee. Dr. Britton reviewed the work on the wellness policy in efforts to make sure practices are in alignment with policy. K-3 early literacy process discussed. Equity and Inclusion Coalition next steps intended reviewed. Curriculum website is live. Administrator PD that was cut from the budget discussed.

9. **New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)**

A. Middletown Stage Company Summer Program Facilities Request – Dr. Britton stated this is our third year working with the stage company. Time frame for rehearsals and show reviewed. Costs associated discussed.

M. Scata moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education the approval of the Middletown Stage Company's request to use the facilities at Portland Middle School for a summer theater program, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

B. PHS Course Proposal – Cybersecurity – E. Martin and D. Bernard - this was the first round of implementation for course proposals. E. Martin works with administrators to put together request proposal form that the educator submits. It then is submitted to the curriculum subcommittee for review and approval. From there it is forwarded to the BOE for final approval. Discussion on teaching load, process, and if other districts are implementing this course. D. Bernard will be looking to have this course be an opportunity for dual enrollment.

M. Scata moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education the approval of a Cybersecurity course at Portland High School, seconded by K. Nagy-Maruschock. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

10. **Old Business (Discussion/Possible Action)**

A. Approve 2023-2024 Superintendent of Schools Proposed Budget – Dr. Britton took feedback from last budget workshop. Paraprofessional at Valley View will be added and administrative assistant to Director of Curriculum and Assistant Principal removed. In place of administrative Assistant Dr. Britton will be recommending earmarking the difference in funding to explore the creation for a stipend position to support athletics at the high school. Insurance premium cost savings and 1 FTE teaching position recommendation reviewed. After adjusting line items for these changes, the Superintendents budget request remains the same. ESSER funding applied to this budget discussed. T. Lavoy proposed using the cost savings for insurance premium to decrease the overall budget amount. Discussion on the Board regarding cuts. L. Steinhauser reviewed that most of the increase is due to contractual obligations and mandated

obligations. Discussion on Board regarding stance on budget.

M. Scata moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education the adoption of the Portland Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$23,658,317.00, representing a 3.98% increase of the 2022-2023 adopted budget, seconded by S. Benham. MOTION CARRIED with 6 votes in favor and 1 opposition by T. Lavoy.

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – L Steinhauser – meeting in February
- B. Policy – M. Scata – meeting 1/25/23
- C. Personnel – L. Steinhauser – meeting next week
- D. Buildings and Grounds – M. Scata – meeting 1/19/23
- E. Liaison
 - 1. CREC – M. Scata – meeting 1/18/23 at 11a
 - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – thanked CERT and Fire Dept for warming center at high school. Proactive tree trimming discussed.
 - 3. Committee on Solidarity – T. Lavoy – meeting 2/21/23 at 7p
 - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – T. Lavoy– no report
 - 5. School Facilities Study Committee – M. Scata – meeting 2/8/23
 - 6. Youth Services Advisory Board – no report

12. Audience of Citizens – none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

- K. Nagy-Maruschock expressed her thanks for the budget process and collaboration.
- M. Scata heading to Washington for the NSBA equity presentation
- T. Lavoy requested an email when materials are updated in the google drive.

14. Executive Session – none

15. Executive Session Action - none

16. Adjournment

- T. Lavoy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m., seconded by M. Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk