

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2023 @ 7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Laurel Steinhauser, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: none

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Dawn Davis Director of Student Services

Student Representative: Dorothy Riley

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of May 16, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of May 24, 2023 Special Joint BOE/BOS Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip PHS Cross Country to Copake Falls, NY, August 24, 2023

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

5. Audience of Citizens –

Debbie Law, Bell Court - asked the Board to consider foreign language K-12, sleep issues, and implement a program during school to ask questions and have kids answer as a group.

Maureen Muir, Clear View Dr - spoke in favor of combining schools

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight

A. NHS Go Baby Go – Dylan Bernard presented the history, purpose, overview and how Portland schools are contributing to this program. Students participating in the program shared their thoughts.

B. Retirement Recognitions – Retirees Sharon Fuller, Patty Blodgett, Stuart Noelte, and Marlene McKinley were recognized.

7. Student Representative Report – Dorothy Riley reported that the high school and middle school band performed in the Memorial Day parade, chorus performed at the Yard Goats game, senior breakfast held, graduation next Monday, capstone night last week, thanked three advisors

that helped with Capstone, prom on May 12th, track state opened with new school record for 4x400, and golf team won 1st place in golf open.

8. Communications and Updates

- A. Superintendent's Report – enrollment report submitted with corrections, total enrollment is 1,232. Letter submitted from Jen Witschy. Juneteenth event announced. Many end of year events taking place. This year graduation is Monday, June 12, 2023. Ceremony will be inside if rain. June 14th last day of school. July 3rd summer program starts, to include summer online enrichment program, literacy program, summer enrichment program in person, and ESY programs. Hosting Youth Services summer camp and Middletown stage company musical. Kindergarten enrollment discussed, if above a certain number may consider 6th section. Special education enrollment bump up, watching closely. Personnel committee on June 14th. Nearly fully staffed for next year. New hires include Special Ed Transition program teacher, art teacher, music teacher, counselor for hs and new Special education teacher for GS. Math interventionist and maternity leave position still open. Leadership team planning summer retreats, book discussion and strategic planning goals. Board retreat date to be scheduled around August. Bob Shea gave an update on the track. State budget on way to governor. M Scata gave an update.
- B. Assistant to Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs – Dr. Britton gave a report on behalf of S. Fragola. Final payroll coming in. Still in deficit. Mitigation plan for deficit - tap into year 2 of IDEA grant, extra 25K in open choice funding, and 79k in ESSER funds not earmarked.
- C. Director of Student Services – D. Davis- submitted report. 275 IEP's, 16 outplacement, 68 enrollment and special programs, 96 504's, EL dropped by 4. CTSEDS is up and running. All state mandated testing completed. Last link scores reviewed. Extended School Year programming underway. Special Ed prevalence rates discussed. IDEA grant submitted and accepted by the state. Transition teacher hired. Looking at high school special education rates. Location for Transition Academy has not yet been secured.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

- A. Discussion of School Facilities Recommendation – discussion on the Boards vision for this project. D Murphy gave an overview of the school facilities committee work to date. M. Scata added input about the committee's work. S Benham inquired about information on student future population growth. Discussion. Dr Britton reported on Friar's work with the school and future work. Discussion on spec ed report process.

10. Old Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

- A. Superintendent of Schools Evaluation (*discussed under Executive Session*)
- B. Board of Education Self-Evaluation (*discussed under Executive Session*)

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – L. Steinhauser – May meeting. Discussed grading, summer curriculum writing hours
- B. Policy – M. Scata – next meeting July 12
- C. Personnel – L. Steinhauser – next meeting June 14
- D. Buildings and Grounds – M. Scata – no report

E. Liaison

1. CREC – M. Scata – next meeting June 21, she was elected secretary treasurer
2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – no report
3. Committee on Solidarity – T. Lavoy – no report
4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – T. Lavoy- report sent out by Eric Martin
5. School Facilities Study Committee – M. Scata – no additional report

12. Audience of Citizens

Debbie Law, Bell Court -spoke regarding special education and root causes.

Elizabeth Trojanowski, Old Marlborough Tpke -thanked the schools facility committee for their hard work, spoke in favor of a single building, and gave an idea of securing grant funding for a shared space library for the community.

Jennifer Witschy, Fox Run Rd -asked that people not refer to a potential school facility as a mega-plex, but rather the concept of grade wings.

Jen Quinn, Green View Dr –has concerns about special education population, decrease in staffing, parking, playground space, and cafeteria space.

13. Board of Education Member Comments

S. Spear – congrats to retirees, congrats to staff and students

K. Nagy-Maruschock – concerned with traffic, parking and few other things from the school facilities discussion. Safety concerns as well.

S Benham – thanked school spotlight, congrats to retirees

D Murphy – proposed visiting a school of similar size or structure that has been recommended in the plan

M Scata – congrats to retirees, CABE legislative update on June 15th

L Steinhauser – happy summer

14. Executive Session – for the purpose of Superintendent of Schools Evaluation and Board of Education Self-Evaluation

M Scata moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of Superintendent of Schools Evaluation, and Board of Education Self-Evaluation and invite Superintendent Dr. Britton, seconded by S Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered Executive Session: 9:34 pm

Exited Executive Session: 9:44 pm

15. Executive Session Action - none

16. Adjournment

T. Lavoy moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm, seconded by M. Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk