



# Portland Public Schools

## BOE Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

### February 21, 2024

### **Meeting Agenda (Virtual) @ 3:30pm**

**Virtual Meeting Link: [meet.google.com/cfi-pwhx-hbe](https://meet.google.com/cfi-pwhx-hbe)**

#### I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:32pm. In attendance: Kim Nagy-Maruschock, Laurel Steinhauser, Eric Martin, Charles Britton, Rob Jones, and Michelle Stotler. Absent: Stacey Benham.

#### II. PHS English Elective Course Proposal - [\*Mystery and Mayhem\*](#)

Following up to the changes proposed to the English 12 curriculum at the last meeting, Rob Jones presented a proposal for a new 12th grade English literature elective course entitled “Mystery and Mayhem.” The idea for this course came from student feedback, and is designed to appeal to and continue to engage second semester seniors. The committee supports this proposal and recommended it be brought to the full Board for approval on March 5th.

#### III. PHS History Elective Course Proposal - [\*Contemporary Issues through Multimedia\*](#)

Michelle Stotler presented a proposal for a Social Studies course entitled “Contemporary Issues Through Multimedia,” an update to the currently offered “Contemporary Issues” course. The proposed changes will introduce a media literacy component, looking at contemporary issues from different perspectives through the lens of multimedia, including social media, documentary, AI, podcasts, etc. These changes are driven by feedback from students, and they will make the course more rigorous, relevant, and high-interest to students. The committee supports this proposal and recommended it be brought to the full Board for approval on March 5th.

#### IV. CSDE State Personnel Development Grant Opportunity

CSDE has received federal funds and is looking to pilot a professional development opportunity to improve K-6 math instruction and achievement. Portland has been invited to be part of the pilot cohort, which will include 5 districts. The invitation is not tied to performance metrics. Portland was invited to be a part of the pilot cohort because the grant coordinator knows Eric and because the state was pleased with Portland’s efforts utilizing SIG funds. This is a 2 year grant that is a K-6 math professional development opportunity for our staff. The goals include: 1. Establishing evidence based practices for math instruction, 2. Strengthening the quality of IEP math goals, 3. Putting in place stronger practices for monitoring IEP goals, and 4. Increasing capacity of teachers to communicate to families. Portland would look to implement this with teachers in grades 3-6. The grant includes stipends for two district coaches and a week-long training to prepare them to coach other staff, stipends for two special education teachers and up to 8 classroom teachers to participate in the professional development work,

and \$32,000 for the district to cover subs and any additional costs related to math instruction. This grant does not require any changes to curriculum. The committee supports the idea and encouraged Eric to seek more information. This will be brought to the full Board at the March 19th meeting.

V. Meeting adjourned at 4:23pm.

**Next Meeting: March 20, 2024**

Submitted by Laurel Steinhauser