

Board of Education
Special Meeting/Retreat
March 18, 2023

The Board of Education held a board retreat on March 18, 2023 at Portland High School. Attending were Superintendent Charles Britton, Laurel Streinhauser, Dave Murphy, Kim Marushock, Sarah Spear and Meg Scata.. Nick Caruso, CAFE - Sr. Staff Associate for Field Services and Coordinator of Technology facilitated the retreat. Tim Lavoy attended remotely. Stacey Benham was absent.

Retreat was called to order at 8:30 AM.

Agenda included a discussion of Board Goals, moving a reconfiguration of districts schools and bond issues.

Discussion followed.

No actions were taken as a result of the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:27AM

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Scata
Secretary of the Board

Draft minutes for Board Approval

Summary of the discussion from the Special Meeting 3.18.23

Nick Caruso, Sr. Staff Associate for
Field Services and
Coordinator of Technology

Nick Caruso facilitated the discussion. Charles reviewed the history of the facilities study by Gordian, the year-long Board facilities study committee and the Town of Portland Facilities Study Committee and the information to date.

Our next meeting in April is a decisive meeting with the anticipated recommendation(s) by the committee to charge Charles with the task of compiling all of the data related to our decision for Draft report in May of 2023.

We developed a tentative timeline of next steps:

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| Facilities Study Committee meeting | Vote on recommendation(s) | April 3, 2023 |
| Report - draft to be reviewed | Charles Britton | May 23 |
| Report to Board of Education and Board of Selectmen | Charles and Lou | June 2023 |
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| The next steps should be simultaneous | | |
| Board of Ed | Develop Ed Specs | July 2023 to June 2024 |
| Board of Selectmen | Form a Building Committee to begin to collect the data on building values, future use of and /or disposal of properties | Committee has no control over this but it is something we can encourage due to the short time to 11/24. |
| Board of Ed | Communications Plan Possibly have the Lighthouse modules from CAFE for developing a plan | Reaching out with vision, plans, and the "why" that this is a great plan Focus on academic and develop the talking points |
| | Invite public to view condition of the schools | |
| | Articulate the Problem and explain the solution Focus on the data to make the argument | |

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| | Vision of the Graduate and Strategic Plan | |
| | Identify a core group of community members that can lead the support | |
| Be ready for the referendum | Positive pressure and information to all stakeholders | Possibly November 2024 Or Spring of 2025 in a special referendum for the plan |
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It must be noted that there are several points to be taken into consideration as we gather on April 6.

Several committee members have already indicated they can not vote for a plan that does not address potentially what is going to happen to closing one building and possibly repurposing another.

Taxpayers, potential increases to mill rate must be considered in the overall decision and must be informed.

Talking points must focus on good for education, good for the community

Nuanced language - we can counter the arguments being offered: community likes small schools, no mingling of early elementary and upper elementary students, etc.