

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 @ 7:00 pm
Portland High School Media Center**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Laurel Steinhauser, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm

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

Members Absent: Sarah Spear

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

Student Representative: Leah Masal and 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 March 7, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of March 18, 2023 Board of Education Retreat Minutes

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

5. Audience of Citizens – Debbie Law, Bell Court – spoke in favor of feeding children non-processed food, supports implementing foreign languages for grades K-12, and spoke to the importance of sleep in children.

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – Board Member Appreciation Month – video presentation of a compilation of students and staff thanking the Board. A thank you to staff who worked to submit pictures and videos and a special thank you to Corey Toussaint who did an amazing job of editing.

7. Student Representative Report – Dorothy Riley reported Freshman, Sophomore's, and Juniors are taking the PSAT and SAT's; Once Upon a Mattress play was performed and received well. Leah Masal reported spring sports have started; winter sports awards are Wednesday, 3/22/23 at 6pm; Capstone decisions were made last Thursday.

8. Communications and Updates

- A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Britton reported that winter sports have wrapped up and it was a successful season. Once Upon a Mattress performance was amazing with all the talent of the performers. The budget hearing and workshop went well, there was good feedback on the presentation. Budget deliberations will be 3/28/23 at 7pm. Track update – engineering firm came back with an analysis. Due to the special needs of the track the bid came back \$700,000 over budget. There is a strong willingness from First Selectman Curly and the Board of Selectmen to work together to get this done. Proposed reallocation of town funding to apply to the \$700k to get the project started. There will be a Public hearing 3/28/23 at 6pm, with a Special Town Meeting following at 6:30pm to vote upon the appropriation. Thanked the Board members for a successful retreat meeting last Saturday, Nick did a nice job of sharing his expertise. Facility Study Committee meeting will be 4/3/23 and hopefully it will be the final meeting before presenting to the town. New legislative bills in Hartford under discussion shared with the Board. Around June/July the Board will look at any new policy updates.
- B. Director of Student Services Report – D. Davis reported that today was crazy sock day for down syndrome awareness. Numbers have been stable; IEP-260, 504-105, ELL-60. We are eligible for an implementation stipend for CTSEDS. TSOL finished standardized testing and the difference of a 1.0 teacher vs .5 teacher has made a big impact. Transition academy is moving forward, will start interviews soon.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

- A. ED-099 Healthy Food Certification

Motion: To recommend to the full Board that the Portland School District approve the following considerations as outlined in the SDE Operational Memorandum March 1, 2023 requiring each local board of education or governing authority for all Connecticut public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to take action annually to certify whether all food items sold to students separately from reimbursable meals will or will not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS).

Consideration #1 Healthy Food Option: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Portland Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Moved by M. Scata, seconded by K. Nagy-Maruschock. Discussion. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Consideration #2 Combined Food and Beverage Exemptions: The Portland Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the

location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

Moved by M. Scata, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

10. Old Business (Discussion/Possible Action) - none

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – meeting for 3/22/23 being rescheduled
- B. Policy – M. Scata – next meeting 3/22/23
- C. Personnel – next meeting 4/6/23
- D. Buildings and Grounds – M. Scata – no update
- E. Liaison
 - 1. CREC – M. Scata – last Wednesday’s meeting they participated in a financial audit. Annual meeting is scheduled for May.
 - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – discussed track update
 - 3. Committee on Solidarity – T. Lavoy – next meeting 4/11/23
 - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – T. Lavoy – next meeting 5/8/23
 - 5. School Facilities Study Committee – M. Scata – next meeting 4/3/23
 - 6. Youth Services Advisory Board – no report

12. Audience of Citizens – none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

- D Murphy expressed thanks for the video of recognition.
- K. Nagy-Maruschock expressed thanks for the video of recognition.
- S. Benham expressed apologies for missing the retreat as she had an unfortunate event at her home. She would like to look into HOSA, a program similar to DECA, that is a program for healthcare.
- T. Lavoy expressed thanks for the video of recognition. He thanked Ryan Curley, First Selectman, for being willing to push forward with the track.
- M. Scata expressed thanks for the video of recognition. CABE has a book discussion coming up that will be featured on zoom.
- L. Steinhauser attended the Gildersleeve Art Show and Book Fair. It was a wonderful event with tremendous effort from the event coordinators. The musical last weekend was incredible. The combined effect of all these events truly makes Portland a wonderful place to be. Thanked the administrative team and teachers for all their efforts. Also expressed thanks for the video of recognition.

14. Executive Session – none

15. Executive Session Action - none

16. Adjournment

K. Nagy-Maruschock moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57p.m., seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk