

Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Minutes of Tuesday, July 9, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Portland High School Media Center

Board Members Present:

Laurel Steinhauser
Angela Hammond
Tim Lavoy
Dave Murphy
Kim Nagy-Maruschock
Meg Scata
Sarah Spear

Board Members Absent:

None

Administration Present:

Dr. Charles D. Britton, Superintendent of Schools
Stephanie Fragola, Assistant to the Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs

Student Representative:

None

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Laurel Steinhauser, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

L Steinhauser made a brief statement as follows: The Board is currently in negotiations with teachers and administrators. The negotiations committee would like to obtain input from the Board regarding the strategy in handling an issue in collective bargaining. Under the Freedom of Information Act, a public agency may convene to discuss strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining and it does not qualify as a meeting. Thus, there is no agenda, minutes or posting necessary. Under FOIA, this is called a non-meeting. Board members please plan to stay a few minutes after the Board meeting to attend the non-meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

T. Lavoy moved to approve the agenda, seconded by K. Nagy-Maruschock. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of June 4, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co Donation to Gildersleeve, \$171.80
- C. Approval of Grynn & Barrett Enterprises Donation to Gildersleeve, \$267.76
- D. Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip PHS Cross Country to Richmond NH August 22-25, 2024

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

5. Audience of Citizens - none

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight - none

7. Student Representative Report - none

8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Britton reported that he received a resignation from Hailey Davis, paraprofessional.

This is the first meeting of the new school year. The school year ended smoothly.

Dr. Britton thanked Stephanie for her work. He reviewed the deficit and the steps taken to manage a very difficult set of circumstances. On June 18th, at a town meeting, the Town approved a \$375,000 supplemental. S. Fragola explained that there is some funding left that will be given back once all outstanding items are paid.

The school consolidation was moved to a referendum this November. Dr. Britton reviewed the process to get the grant application submitted by the deadline of June 30th. He sent a letter to state representatives and the Board, with the spirit of the letter being to impress the fact that we are due more than an average school. Dr. Britton outlined the points he made on why he feels this way. A Hammond asked that the Board receive a copy of the completed grant application.

The state published the reimbursement rate, we are at 51%. We need to educate the community on the full fiscal package.

We received a 2-year grant from the state, the Summer Mental Health grant. This will provide clinical support services in the extended school year program through the park and rec camp.

S. McLaughlin explained how the program works, and staffing utilized. A Hammond inquired on the amount requested, how it will be spent, and to receive a copy of the grant. Parents will be informed that their child will be using these services.

Dr. Britton gave an update on the Extended School Year program, which hosts 90 students.

This is the final summer utilizing relief funding for the Summer Learning program. This program targets literacy and math instruction. There are 23 students in grade 1-5, 20 students in grade 6-12, and the online program hosts 50 students.

All positions have been filled aside from a few paraeducator positions, a sixth grade position, and a few special education positions.

The summer leadership retreat will be held this Wednesday and Thursday, followed by the summer Board retreat on 7/20/24.

Anxious Generation Book talk is being held on July 25th with selected teachers and administrators.

D Muphy asked that the new Director of Student Services look at the transportation cost. He would like to see a plan on how we can improve.

B. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs – S. Fragola

Authorized spending report distributed and reviewed. Have not paid ESY yet.

Projecting that we are in a good position budget wise.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Appointment of Director of Student Services

Dr. Britton introduced Sara McLaughlin, the Director of Student Services chosen candidate.

Board members gave comments.

M. Scata moved to appoint Sara McLaughlin as Director of Student Services commencing with the 2024-2025 school year and to authorize Dr. Charles Britton, Superintendent, to enter into

a contract with Ms. McLaughlin, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

B. Appointment of 1-Year Interim Gildersleeve Principal

Dr. Britton introduced Tracey Graf, the interim Gildersleeve Principal chosen candidate.

Board members gave comments.

K. Nagy-Maruschock moved to appoint Tracey Graf as the 1-year Interim Principal of Gildersleeve Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year and to authorize Dr. Charles Britton, Superintendent, to enter into a contract with Ms. Graf, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

C. Memorandum of Understanding for Contract Extension Agreement for Portland Federation of Paraprofessionals AFT (*discussed under executive session*)

10. Old Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Board of Education Self-Evaluation (*discussed under executive session*)

11. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum – L. Steinhauser – no report

B. Policy – M. Scata – Working on mandated policies. Next meeting on 8/14/24.

C. Personnel – L. Steinhauser – negotiations with administrators and teachers ongoing.

D. Buildings and Grounds – K. Nagy-Maruschock – no meeting scheduled.

E. Liaison

1. CREC – M. Scata – new superintendent, and new executive assistant director. Next meeting in August.

2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – no report

3. Youth Services Advisory Board – T. Lavoy – no report

4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – S. Spear – no report

5. Land and Building Usage Committee – D. Murphy – team gave an update at the last BOS meeting.

12. Audience of Citizens - none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

Angela Hammond – welcome new appointees. Would like to attend some CABE webinars. Thanked Dr. Britton for his work on the grants. Inquired about the pickleball courts.

Tim Lavoy – welcome new appointees.

Dave Murphy – welcome new appointees. Thanked Dr. Britton and Stephanie for their work on the grant.

Kim Nagy-Maruschock – welcome new appointees. Would like to hear about the track fundraiser results.

Meg Scata – CABE received a grant for professional development for Board members. Webinar on school financing. Mentors are being provided to Board members.

Sarah Spear – Thanked Dr. Britton for his work on the grants. Welcome new appointees.

Laurel Steinhauser – reminder for summer new Board member orientation on Aug 8th hosted by CABE. CABE/CAPSS convention on Nov 15th and 16th.

14. Executive Session – for the purpose of Board of Education Self-Evaluation, and MOU for Contract Extension Agreement with Portland Federation of Paraprofessionals

M. Scata moved to enter executive session for the purpose of Board of Education Self-

Evaluation, and MOU for Contract Extension Agreement with Portland Federation of Paraprofessionals and invite the superintendent, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Entered Executive Session: 7:16 pm

Exited Executive Session: 7:37 pm

15. Executive Session Action

Memorandum of Understanding for Contract Extension Agreement for Portland Federation Paraprofessionals AFT

S. Spear moved to approve the memorandum of understanding to extend the Portland Federation of Paraprofessionals AFT, Connecticut Local #469, AFT, AFT-CIO bargaining agreement through June 30, 2026, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

16. Adjournment

M. Scata moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm, seconded by K. Nagy-Maruschock. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk