

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 @ 7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Laurel Steinhauser, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

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

Members Absent: none

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Dawn Davis Director of Student Services, Eric Martin Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

Student Representative: Caitlin Walsh

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Replacement of Board of Education Member

Vacancy due to S. Benham resignation. The Republican Town Committee is recommending Angela Hammond. Ms. Hammond introduced herself to the Board.

T. Lavoy moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education that Angela Hammond be appointed to fill the vacancy, seconded by M. Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Angela Hammond was sworn in by Town Clerk Michael Tierney.
Angela Hammond joined the Board.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of March 5, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of Caring for Classroom Teacher Donations to Gildersleeve, \$8,577.85

M. Scata corrected the meeting date in her report for CREC from 3/21/24 to 3/20/24

K. Nagy-Maruschock moved to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by M. Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

6. Audience of Citizens - none

7. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – Board of Education Appreciation Month

Students handed out gifts that were crafted and submitted from each school.

8. Student Representative Report

Caitlin reported the high school band and chorus are traveling to Disney on 4/10/24 for workshop classes. On 3/28/24 the sophomore class will be hosting their annual auction. SAT, PSATS and AP testing being conducted in May. The musical Matilda will be the weekend of 3/22/24.

9. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Britton reported the resignation of Meagan Franklin, paraprofessional and Nicole Ringuette, special education teacher in the Rise program. Dr. Britton included communication on written testimony for submission regarding the act concerning school resources. CAPSS is advocating for more excess cost fund. Dr. Britton attended the science of reading. Mr. Martin and Dr. Britton are reviewing the draft of the new evaluation plan. PEDEC committee is hard at work on the evaluation plan as well. The Personnel committee will be meeting with the bargaining units for a one year extension to the contract. Presented the BOE budget at last Tuesday's public hearing. Dr. Britton gave an update on the condition of the tennis courts. There may be a solution to fix the courts minimally so they may be practiced on only. It will be a longer term capital challenge to fully repair all four courts, L. Steinhauer would like to include this as an agenda item for a future meeting to look at the plan submitted five years ago to fix the courts. Dr. Britton reported that he is in the process of organizing the selection committee for the Director of Pupil Services position. There will be three committees; paper screening led by K. Lawson, interview led by R. Walstrom, and performance task led by E. Martin. The Board members are invited to participate in all committees, and to let Dr. Britton know which committee they would like to participate.

B. Director of Student Services – Dawn Davis – reported that a stabilization is taking place and the numbers are coming down. Outplacement dropped to 21 from 24 last month. Update on EL multi language students. LEAP and RISE program updates. Looking at chronic absenteeism. Special education transportation update.

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

11. Old Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Educator Diversity Plan (2nd reading)
No questions from the Board

M. Scata moved to approve the educator diversity plan as presented, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

12. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum – L. Steinhauer – next meeting on 3/20/24

B. Policy – M. Scata – met on 3/13/24, discussed cell phone policy. Next meeting on 4/17/24

C. Personnel – L. Steinhauer – no report

D. Buildings and Grounds – K. Nagy-Maruschock – will schedule a meeting soon

E. Liaison

1. CREC – M. Scata – next meeting 3/21/24

2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – discussed EV charging stations, planning & zoning permits upcoming, and Brainard place update.

3. Youth Services Advisory Board – T. Lavoy – next meeting on 4/16/24. Easter egg hunt will be 3/23/24 at 11a.

4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – S. Spear – 4/15/24 is the next meeting. Reviewed the last equity newsletter.

5. Land and Building Usage Committee – D. Murphy – met on 3/18/24. Toured Gildersleeve and Brownstone buildings. Attendees discussed ideas. Next meeting on 4/15/24.

13. Audience of Citizens - none

14. Board of Education Member Comments

K. Nagy-Maruschock – welcomed Angela. Thanked the schools for the gifts. Commented on the track and tennis courts.

S. Spear – attended the Gildersleeve literary and arts festival, it was wonderful.

T. Lavoy – welcomed Angela. The art show last Friday at the library had amazing artwork.

M Scata – welcomed Angela. On 3/13/24 she met with the legislative group.

L. Steinhauser – welcomed Angela.

15. Executive Session – none

16. Executive Session Action - none

17. Adjournment

**M. Scata moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm, seconded by D. Murphy.
Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Tricia Dean
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk