

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2024 @ 7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Laurel Steinhauser, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: none

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Stephanie Fragola Assistant to Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Eric Martin, High School Principal Kate Lawson, High School Principal Mike Searson

Student Representative: Caitlin Walsh, Liam Rowe

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of February 6, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of Caring for Classroom Teacher Donations to Valley View, \$3,620.00

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

5. Audience of Citizens - none

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – Kid Governor, Brownstone Intermediate School Principal Mike Searson gave an overview of the Kid Governor program. He introduced 5th grade teachers Ally Furlong and Elizabeth Baio. They showed a presentation on Kid Governor and introduced Kid Governor candidate Roman Christensen. Roman shared his Kid Governor platform.

7. Student Representative Report

Liam reported that the PHS musical tickets are now on sale for the 3/22/24 and 3/23/24 shows. Seniors are hosting an Adams Roundup fundraiser on 3/30/24. Softball auction hosted on 3/28/24. Freshman hosting a badminton tournament 3/7/24. DECA will have their annual egg fundraiser.

Caitlin reported the National Honor Society hosted Go Baby Go. The juniors are preparing for college and will be attending a college fair. Spring sports are ramping up.

8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Britton reported the resignation of Board member Stacey Benham. He wished her the best; Received resignation from science teacher Caitlin Tenney; Enrollment report submitted; Submitted communication from Mike Sorano regarding school construction reimbursement. Dr. Britton and team will meet with DAS to go over the grant application. Dr. Britton gave information on site visits, blocking diagram and the Ed Spec Plan. Dr. Britton reached out to Peter Prowda to take another look at the demographics and resubmit the demographic study while factoring in the new apartment complex, and new kindergarten start age. Timeline and deadline dates reviewed; Included communication from CAPSS regarding Excess Cost grant.

B. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs – S. Fragola - Financial report submitted and reviewed. Classified salary line item reviewed.

C. Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology – Eric Martin - Report submitted. Dr. Britton stated under new business there are course revised proposals, and an educator diversity plan that Mr. Martin will include here in his report for review and take any questions. Mr. Martin reviewed the Educator Diversity Plan (item 9.E.) that is required by the state. The plan has been vetted by administrators and teachers. This is a first read of the plan with possible vote for approval at the next meeting, or continued discussion. Once approved by the Board, it will then go to the state for final approval. L. Steinhauser asked that Board members forward Mr. Martin questions ahead of the next meeting.

Mr. Martin reviewed the three course proposals and one course adjustment (item 9.D.). Ms. Lawson stated the teachers generated the English course proposals. Mr. Martin spoke to the impact to staffing because of these courses.

Mr. Martin reviewed the State Personnel Development Grant program. The program targets mathematics in grades 1-6. This does not need to go to the Board for a vote on participation. Mr. Martin addressed cyber security. L. Steinhauser inquired how we are addressing internet use during down time. Mr. Martin stated they do not see discrepancies during a certain time of day. The district is using a filtering security program to monitor usage. Acceptable Use Policy reviewed and discussed.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Approval of Middletown Stage Building Usage Application

Dr. Britton included the building use form, along with the price quote. Discussion around performance number of attendees and requiring police presence.

M. Scata moved to approve the Middletown Stage Building Usage Application, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Accept Items for Donors Choose

Dr. Britton reviewed the program.

S. Spear moved to accept items for Donors Choose as presented, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

C. NEASC Progress Update – Kate Lawson, PHS Principal

Ms. Lawson provided an update and presentation on the NEASC accreditation process.

The role of the Board in the accreditation process reviewed. The summary of the self-reflection should be ready to share with the Board in June.

D. Portland High School Course Adjustments

1. English 12 Course Adjustment

S. Spear moved to approve English 12 course adjustment, seconded by D. Murphy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Mystery and Mayhem ELA Elective

M. Scata moved to approve mystery and mayhem ELA elective, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Contemporary Issues through Multimedia Course

M. Scata moved to approve contemporary issues through multimedia course, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4.. Essentials of Math Pathway Inclusive of Three new Courses (Algebra I Essentials, Geometry Essentials, Algebra II Essentials)

T. Lavoy moved to approve essentials of math pathways inclusive of three new courses, seconded by M. Scata. Discussion: S. Spear stated her concern that this will segregate students. **6 in favor with one opposition by S. Spear. MOTION CARRIED.**

E. Educator Diversity Plan (*1st read*)

Discussed under 8.C.

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

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – L. Steinhauser – met on 2/21/24. Discussed elective course proposals and CSDE state personnel development grant opportunity.
- B. Policy – M. Scata – Next meeting 3/13/24
- C. Personnel – L. Steinhauser – met on 2/22/24. Discussed union contract extensions.
- D. Buildings and Grounds – K. Nagy-Maruschock – no report
- E. Liaison
 - 1. CREC – M. Scata – next meeting 3/21/24
 - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – discussed wells, route 9 traffic lights, grant to do master plan for downtown in planning process, Brainard place presentation at the next meeting, swore in new police officers.
 - 3. Youth Services Advisory Board – T. Lavoy – discussed easter events at the 3/5/24 meeting
 - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – S. Spear – Eric provided update in his report
 - 5. Land and Building Usage Committee – D. Murphy – 3/18/24 will be the first meeting. If people have ideas, please send them to him or the Chair Christina.

12. Audience of Citizens - none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

- S. Benham – thanked the Board and town for the opportunity to be elected to serve on the Board. It's been an amazing experience.
- D. Murphy – thanked Stacy for her service. Addressed Kim's comment about the school.
- K. Nagy-Maruschock – thanked Stacy for her service. Enjoyed Kid Governor segment. Appreciated the reading event at the school. Spoke to Ryan Curley's letter and states she is opposed to one school.

S. Spear – appreciation to Roman. Stacey will be missed.

M Scata – thanked Roman for his speech. March 7th is the Art Show at the library. Read across America event was fun. March 13th is CAFE’s day on the hill for people to advocate for schools.

L. Steinhauser – she invited the student representatives to attend the March 13th CAFE on the hill. Referenced article about cell phone use in schools. Workshop proposals for 2024 CAPPS convention is open. Thanked Stacy for her service.

14. Executive Session – none

15. Executive Session Action - none

16. Adjournment

M. Scata moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 pm, seconded by D. Murphy.

Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk