

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 @ 7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

M. Scata, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

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

Members Absent: Laurel Steinhauser

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Stephanie Fragola Business and Financial Affairs, Eric Martin Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology

Student Representative: Leah Masal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

T. Lavoy moved to approve the agenda, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of February 7, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of February 23, 2023 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes

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

5. Audience of Citizens – none

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – Equity Leadership Team, Read Alouds – Valley View
Members of the leadership team introduced themselves. The team looks at children's literature and selects readings to utilize vocabulary words and conversations to align with the vision of the graduate program. Topics include identity, diversity, and differences. The team showed a video presentation. Author Peter Reynolds will be presenting at Valley View next week.

7. Student Representative Report – L. Masal reported seniors had their senior trip to NY City, last Wednesday was capstone night, spring sports starting up at the end of March, and spring production is March 17th & 18th.

8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Britton reported he received two resignations; A. Halpin, Special Education Teacher who will work until the end of the school year, and A. Byrd,

paraprofessional. Enrollment report submitted. Thanked the Board members as March is Board Appreciation month. Look forward to the next edition of the Rivereast for a special message to the Board. The budget has been modified slightly. Document submitted to the Board shows the original 3.98% increase has been reduced by \$77,000 to 3.64% increase. Dr. Britton would like to wait until spring before making a decision on cuts. He explained cuts in the Board approved budget and insurance adjustments. Explained the TBD teacher position. Serving students free breakfast and lunch from now until the end of this school year. Submitted meal participation information to the Board. S. Fragola explained the reimbursement program and its impact on the budget. For informational purposes, submitted state mandates to school districts. Dr. Britton notified he was invited to participate in NEASC collaborating committee to visit Westport high school in April. NEASC accreditation will be discussed. Next spring or next fall our high school will be up for accreditation.

- B. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs – S. Fragola – Submitted authorized spending report through March 3, 2023. Reviewed Open Choice, Hartford reimbursement, Medicaid, and Mental Health Grant. Waiting for transportation and heating costs, but as of right now in surplus.
- C. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Report – E. Martin – report submitted and reviewed. Cyber Security course at high school has been offered and they have 20 students signed up. Expressed gratitude to the equity leadership team and their work at all schools. Recognized the Board for their dedication. This Friday is last professional development day of the year. Discussion on world languages. Sign language has been added as a language option.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

- A. RFP Award to ESS for Substitute Staffing Services for a Three-Year Period beginning July 1, 2023 for fiscal Years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 (*discussed in Executive Session*)
- B. Memorandum of Understanding for Extra Curricular Stipends (*discussed in Executive Session*)

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

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – next meeting 3/22/23
- B. Policy – M. Scata – meeting 3/22/23
- C. Personnel – S. Spear - discussed ESS and MOU, placeholder in for March/April meeting
- D. Buildings and Grounds – M. Scata – no report
- E. Liaison
 - 1. CREC – M. Scata – meeting 3/15/23
 - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – no report
 - 3. Committee on Solidarity – T. Lavoy – working toward goals and opportunities
 - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – T. Lavoy– meeting will be moved and will happen every other month, next meeting 5/8/23
 - 5. School Facilities Study Committee – M. Scata – met last night and was a very productive meeting. No decision yet. 4/3/23 is next meeting.
 - 6. Youth Services Advisory Board – LGBTQ and wellness activities being planned

12. Audience of Citizens – C. Scott, Culver Lane – expressed disappointment in not conducting midterm and final exams.

13. Board of Education Member Comments

S. Benham expressed thanks for the Board recognition.

S. Spear expressed appreciation to the two staff members that have resigned.

D. Murphy expressed appreciation to the two staff members that have resigned and thanked for the Board recognition.

K. Nagy-Maruschock expressed appreciation for the Board recognition.

T. Lavoy expressed thanks for the Board recognition. Asked about the midterms and finals not being conducted. Dr. Britton explained there are several reasons why and it would take a more thorough discussion.

Dr. Britton - March 18th is the Board retreat

M. Scata thanked the Board for all their hard work and for the recognition

14. Executive Session – For the Purpose of RFP Award to ESS for Substitute Staffing Services and For the Purpose of MOU for Extra Curricular Stipends

S. Spear moved to enter into executive session for the purpose of RFP Award to ESS for Substitute Staffing Services and For the Purpose of MOU for Extra Curricular Stipends and invite Superintendent Dr. Britton and Stephanie Fragola, seconded by K. Nagy-Maruschock. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

Entered Executive Session: 8:20 pm

Exited Executive Session: 8:58 pm

15. Executive Session Action

S. Benham moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education to authorize the Superintendent to execute and deliver on behalf of the Portland Public Schools a contract with ESS for the purpose of Substitute Staffing Services for a three year period beginning July 1, 2023 until fiscal year ending 2026, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

S. Benham moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with Portland-CEA updating the stipends authorized for the 2022-23 school year, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

16. Adjournment

T. Lavoy moved to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m., seconded by K. Nagy-Maruschock. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk