

**Portland Board of Education
Budget Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 @ 7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Britton, Superintendent, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: none

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Stephanie Fragola Assistant to Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs, Dawn Davis Director of Student Services, Eric Martin Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, Bob Shea Director of Facilities, Valley View Principal Jessica Bruenn, Middle School Principal Chuck Hershon, Gildersleeve Principal Ryan Walstrom, High School Principal Kate Lawson, Brownstone Principal Michael Searson

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- 3. Introduction** – Laurel Steinhauser, Board of Education Chair
Dr. Charles D. Britton, Superintendent of Schools

4. Public Comments - none

- 5. Review/Discussion – 2024-2025 Superintendent of Schools Proposed Budget Review, Discussion and Action Upon Budgetary Matters for the Forthcoming Fiscal Year. Board members and the public are advised that the Board may vote to approve the budget for the next fiscal year at this budget meeting. Action may also be taken to revise or modify the budget.**

Dr. Britton reviewed the process of building the budget. The budget has been vetted by all building administrators and central office administration. Dr Britton informed the Board what the main drivers of the budget are, which include: sunseting ESSER funding, sunseting SIG grant funding, health insurance increase, contractual step and wage increases, and new student support service expense. Dr. Britton shared with the Board the five rounds of reductions. The reduction to kindergarten section will not increase class size, due to the new age requirement. With the reduction to PE, there will be no impact to the program as the position will be shared by 2 - .5 FTE's, again this is due to smaller class sizes. Paraprofessional reduction discussion. The original reduction for a 1 FTE nurse has been eliminated. To make up the difference there will be a reduction of supplies and the lead nurse will be trained on basic athletic trainer duties. This will reduce the trainer line item by \$20k. Library media specialist reduction discussed. Two media specialists will be shared among VV, GIS and BIS. Dr. Britton gave the Board a list of total cuts. Reductions from grant funding was 4 paraprofessionals, 1 FTE teacher, and 1 interventionist at Gildersleeve. Kindergarten and 1st grade are going from 6 sections to 5 sections. We will add a section to 2nd grade, and reduce a 3rd grade section. Dawn Davis explained paraprofessional

positions and how they are driven by PPT's. Student needs are constantly changing. Discussion on transportation for outplacement. Dawn explained we need to contract out for transportation due to lack of staffing inhouse to drive the bus. Discussion on impact of ELL reduction. Review of revenues and federal and state government revenues. 2024/2025 staffing by funding source reviewed. The final percentage increase after the five rounds of cuts is 4.85% for a total of \$24,689,712.00 requested.

6. Question and Answers – Dr. Charles D. Britton, Superintendent of Schools

M. Scata asked what items we can look at to help fund cuts. L. Steinhauser inquired about Special Education increase in cost, doubling in the next two years. Dawn explained it has increased every year, with transportation being a big driver of the budget. We are currently utilizing ride share vans. Dr. Britton will compile and share a google doc for the Board and public for any and all question asked by the Board.

7. Public Comments – none

8. Possible Action Item – Approve 2024-2025 Superintendent of Schools Proposed Budget
NO ACTION. The Board will reconvene on Thursday, 1/11/24.

9. Adjournment

M. Scata moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 pm, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

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