

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 8, 2023 @ 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, Tim Lavoy, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, Stacy Benham, Dave Murphy, Sarah Spear, Meg Scata

Members Absent: none

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Stephanie Fragola Assistant to the Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs

Student Representative: none

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 July 11, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

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

5. Audience of Citizens - none

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – Why Serve on Your Local Board of Education? – presented Video produced by CABE

7. Student Representative Report – none

8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Britton reported he received resignations from Special Education teachers A. Pietraroia, A. Raines, and B. Paskowitz. Also received resignation from J. Gassesse, French teacher. Candidates have been found for all positions for special education. Student enrollment does not justify full time staff for French. Still in planning process to fill the French position. Eric provided a summer update report on summer learning programs. Communications received from NEASC for accreditation process. The visit will take place in the fall of 2024. Materials distributed from CAPSS regarding ESC funding, new legislation bills, curriculum requirements, and kindergarten start age, which will start next year. New graduation requirements for incoming freshmen for financial literacy. New

reporting and professional development requirements, as well as training for Board of Education members. Governor also announced free breakfast for all students, new threshold limits for reduced and free lunch, and all others will be paid lunch. Board members expressed interest in serving more healthy breakfast and lunches. South Windsor visit will be Wed, Aug. 9th. 8/21/23 will host the Board retreat at the high school. The Board of Selectmen will discuss school facilities at their 8/16/23 meeting. L. Steinhauser mentioned that at the BOS meeting in July there was good discussion on working together and collaborating on what to do with school facilities. Discussion regarding refurbishing current buildings vs decommissioning buildings. On the BOE website there is currently Dr. Britton's presentation, along with a report.

- B. Assistant to Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs – S. Fragola – Authorized spending report submitted and reviewed. School districts have an advisory council that consists of students, staff, and parents where they talk about the school's menu. Stephanie will start implementing this council next year. Discussed IDEA grant utilization, Open Choice carried over \$5k, and ESSER amounts reviewed.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

- A. K. Bartiet, Paraprofessional, Leave of Absence Request – this is for student teaching leave.

M. Scata moved to approve K. Bartiet leave of absence request, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Old Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

- A. IT Department Technician Job Description
Positions have been posted as anticipated, pending Board approval on job descriptions.

T. Lavoy moved to approve the Technology Technician Level I job description, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

S. Spear moved to approve the Technology Technician Level II job description, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved, MOTION CARRIED.

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – L. Steinhauser – no report
- B. Policy – M. Scata – 8/23/23 next meeting. L. Steinhauser reviewed last meeting.
- C. Personnel – L. Steinhauser – no report
- D. Buildings and Grounds – M. Scata – 8/14/23 next meeting
- E. Liaison
 - 1. CREC – M. Scata – 8/18/23 next meeting. Having a school supply distribution on 8/16/23.
 - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – no report
 - 3. Committee on Solidarity – T. Lavoy – no report
 - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – T. Lavoy/S. Spear – no report

12. Audience of Citizens – none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

S. Spear – reflected on resignations from special education professionals. Feels it warrants an examination on how we can turn the tides on that. Dr. Britton stated that all of the special education teachers that had resigned received exit interviews. The individuals leaving have done so for one of three reasons; significantly more money, professional growth, and proximity to where they live. Across the Board in CT it has been difficult for special education in climate and culture in regards to caseloads, new CTSEDS system, and the mental health crisis.

Sara asked for benchmark data on caseloads, etc.

M. Scata – thanked Charles for his due diligence every day.

L Steinhauser – looking forward to the Board retreat on the 21st. Acknowledged excitement that teacher letters arrived yesterday.

14. Executive Session – none

15. Executive Session Action – none

16. Adjournment

M. Scata moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tricia Dean, Clerk