

**Portland Board of Education
BOE Regular Meeting
Portland High School
December 1, 2020**

The Portland Board of Education held a Regular Meeting in the Portland High School Studio Room on Tuesday, December 1, 2020. Board Members in attendance via ZOOM: Chair Sharon Peters, Meg Scata, Laurel Steinhauser, Tim Lavoy, Chris Darby, David Murphy, and Lauren Christensen. Also in attendance were Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Charles Britton, Director of Student Services, Dawn Davis, Assistant to the Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs, Stephanie Fragola, Administrators, Student Representative, Shawn Laverty, and members of the public.

Call to Order

Chairmen S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:01PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda moved by M. Scata. Seconded by T. Steinhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve consent agenda for Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes November 10, 2020, and the November 19, 2020 Special Meeting, moved by M. Scata, seconded by L. Christensen. The motion passed unanimously.

Audience of Citizens

No report

Student Representative's Report

S. Laverty mentioned the student auctions were held and the money being raised would aid in supporting class trips and the prom.

Communications and Updates

Communications

Dr. Britton informed the Board that the J.T v. de Blasio Class Action Lawsuit has been dismissed.

Dr. Britton shared a letter from Ms. Diane Stolting, intending to retire, as of the last day of the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, Mr. Alex Jensen sent a letter of intention to retire as of the last day of the 2020-2021 school year. Both teachers are from the middle school and Dr. Britton wishes them all the best.

Dr. Britton shared a letter to the Board from Ms. Nagy-Maruschock and Mr. Maruschock regarding their children and their request to have them opt out of the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) for this school year.

Dr. Britton informed the Board that our district was previously selected to administer the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) this spring, however, this has now been postponed.

Dr. Britton discussed the enrollment and has included it in the dropbox for the members of the Board to peruse.

Superintendent's Report

School Reopening Update

There is a Special Meeting scheduled for December 10, 2020 to discuss a school reopening plan based on the CSED and DPH findings. Lengthy discussion regarding the remote learning that was put in place as of November 30, 2020.

Business and Financial Affairs

Financial Report Update

Stephanie Fragola reported with an Authorized Spending Report stating the district imposed budget freeze is working. S. Fragola announced the district received additional funding from the Corona Relief Fund.

Director of Student Services Report

Dawn Davis gave an updated report on the numbers of students with IEP's, 504 plans and who are in referral. Mrs. Davis also reported on the students who are attending partially in-person, during the scheduled remote learning period, and how the Administrative team came up with their lists. She also discussed the hard work of the mental health team, the need for daycare, and all the work being done "behind the scenes."

New Business

FY 2020 4th Quarter Transfers

S. Fragola reported on the FY2020 4th Quarter Budget Transfers detailed in her hand-out. Discussion followed.

Motion to recommend to the Full Board, the FY2020 4th Quarter Budget Transfers as presented. Moved by T. Lavoy, seconded by M. Scata. The motion passed unanimously.

Google Doc Usage

Dr. Britton discussed the possible move from Dropbox to Google Docs for Board of Education files. Discussion followed.

Motion that Board of Education move from Dropbox to Google Docs. Moved by L. Steinhauser, seconded by C. Darby. Discussion about timing, necessary training, and security of documents followed.

Tim Lavoy offered the following amendment:

Motion to instruct the superintendent to explore and determine the feasibility of migrating from Dropbox to Google Docs for Board of Education documents and report back to the Board, seconded by M. Scata, the motion passed unanimously.

Task Force on Solidarity Liaison

Dr. Britton reported that First Selectwoman, Susan Bransfield, would like a BOE member to act as a liaison to relay information from the Task Force Liaison to the Portland Board of Education. T. Lavoy volunteered to act as BOE liaison.

Old Business

No report

Committee Reports

Curriculum- no report

Policy- M. Scata reported continued discussion on social media.

Personnel- S. Peters stated continued work with contracts and negotiations.

Buildings and Grounds- no report

Conservation and Renewable Task Force- no report.

Liaison- CREC – no report. Selectman- D. Murphy stated the outcome of the last meeting will be shared with the community.

Audience of Citizens

Diane Lopez of 22 Old Carriage Road, expressed her desire to see all kids back in school full time.

Board of Education Member Comments

M. Scata mentioned she "learned a bunch" at her newly appointed position with CABE.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by T. Lavoy at 8:39PM, seconded by M. Scata. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Bakos, Board Recording Clerk

Draft minutes until approved at the next Board of Education Regular Meeting