

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2022 @ 7:00 pm**

Note: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, attendees participated via in person and Zoom

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Sharon Peters, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

BOE Members Present: Sharon Peters, Laurel Steinhauser, Lauren Christensen, Tim Lavoy, Meg Scata, and Dave Murphy, Stacey Benham via zoom

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Stephanie Fragola, Assistant to Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs, and Eric Martin Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology via zoom; and Chuck Hershon Principal Middle School and Dylan Bernard

Student Representative: not present

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

T. Lavoy moved to approve the agenda for the May 3, 2022 Board meeting as presented, seconded by L. Steinhauser. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes.

1. April 5, 2022 Regular Meeting

T. Lavoy corrected #11.4 strike S. Benham and replace with L. Christensen

L. Steinhauser corrected 8.c. second to last sentence, strike R. Walstrom and replace with Chuck Hershon. Also corrected 8.d.third to last sentence, strike birth to three and replace with Pre-K.

L. Steinhauser moved to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by D. Murphy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

5. Audience of Citizens - none

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – Portland Middle School CAFE Leadership Award Recipients – Chuck Hershon read bios for both Ali Carter and Jayden Dorsey and presented the CAFE Student Leadership awards.

7. Student Representative Report – A submitted report was read on behalf of the student representatives in their absence. The High School music department had a successful spring break trip. Partnered with CCSU for Go Baby Go. Teacher appreciation week observed. AP Exams started.

8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Britton reported that there will be a special Town Meeting on 5/4/22 to allocate the funding for the connectivity grant. We will apply for the third round of the connectivity grant. Two maternity leaves and three resignations submitted. Teacher appreciation week happenings going on all week. Friday is nurses' appreciation day. COVID numbers are increasing statewide, and there has been an increase in our school cases. Will watch numbers closely and keep parents informed. Flu cases are appearing as well. Budget Referendum is 5/9/22. Will communicate reminders on email and social media. Enrollment numbers submitted. Congratulations to Derek Tewksbury and Jack Turecek who were honored for the CAA 2022 Student Awards. Three leadership positions to fill;

Director of Building and Grounds, would like to fill by 7/1/22. M. Scata, D. Murphy, and L. Christensen will represent the BOE on the hiring committee.

Assistant Principal, T. Lavoy will join the interview committee, S. Benham will join the performance task committee.

Brownstone Principal, Dr. Britton discussed thoughts and process behind hiring for this position. Will look at internal candidates for the possibility of Acting Principal. L. Steinhauser and S. Peters will join for hiring.

M. Scata informed that there will be a marathon interview session on 5/12 for the Director of Building & Grounds position.

B. Business and Financial Affairs

1. Spending Report – S. Fragola reviewed the spending report for financials through 4/30/22. Has not done journal entries for grant funds yet. S. Fragola answered board questions for more details on certain line items to include extra-curricular salaries, dental, and equipment repair.

2. 4th Quarter Transfers – S. Fragola reviewed transfer items and answered board questions on details. S. Fragola made note that we would not be in the position we are in without the transportation credit.

M. Scata moved to recommend to the full Board the transfer of up to but no more than \$100,000 to the Board of Education Maintenance Fund account (Fund 11) from available Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Board of Education Appropriations, seconded by L. Christensen. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

L. Steinhauser moved to recommend to the full Board the transfer of up to but no more than \$35,000 to the School Lunch Fund (Fund 5) from designated Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Board of Education Appropriations, seconded by D. Murphy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

C. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology – Drone Flight Regulations

E Martin reported the spring assessment season at the high school has been completed. SAT's conducted with slight decline in scores, which is consistent across the state. Reviewed upcoming assessments and testing in all schools. Professional development held on April 20th to map out the 9-week plan. Continue to work on Atlas features. There will be another Professional development in May. Reviewed the new courses in the high school. Reviewed Connectivity Grant 1 and 2, and then outlined plans to apply for the Connectivity Grant 3. Stated goal of using the 3rd grant is to have 1 on 1 devices for Pre-k and Kindergarten. M. Scata inquired as to knowledge on the state released remote learning plan as well as

legislature on allowing all student to be able to take AP classes. E. Martin explained the state platform for remote learning, as well as the states no barriers plan for students taking advanced courses. Summer curriculum planning is under way. SBDI grant has been received. Youth Services has returned \$5k of the grant funding to the schools. L. Steinhauser inquired about the 1 on 1 device plan.

E Martin and D. Bernard presented the Drone Flights at Portland High School and FAA Requirements & PPS Policy. Objectives reviewed, outline of embedding the drone into curriculum, new FAA requirements and guidelines reviewed. Current PPS Policy 3523.11 change request outlined. M. Scata asked that the revised policy be sent to Dr. Britton who will then send to the policy committee. E. Martin thanked all the teachers and nurses for their hard work. Sent best wishes to Alison Hine in her new position.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

- A. Ratification of 2022-2025 MEUI Nurses Bargaining Unit Contract (*Discussed in Executive Session*)
- B. 2021-2022 4th Quarter Transfers – previously voted in the agenda

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

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – L. Christensen -next meeting they want to develop a standardized way to develop curriculum and textbooks
- B. Policy – M. Scata – meet next week.
- C. Personnel – L. Steinhauser – wrapping up negotiations with paraprofessionals.
- D. Buildings and Grounds – M. Scata – 5/2/22 was a walk-through of the track with bidders. C Johnson gave an overview of needed things for his position for the next person.
- E. Liaison
 - 1. CREC – M. Scata – no report
 - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – RFP for track went out. Riverfront access committee being formed. Working with Tilcon on right of way.
 - 3. Committee on Solidarity – L. Steinhauser – organizing a disability panel for 6/8 at 7pm in the Library for children and parents of children with disabilities. 6/25/22 Pride event, 6/18/22 Juneteenth event.
 - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition –L. Christensen – first in person meeting. Next meeting 5/12/22. Discussed case study using equity lens.
 - 5. School Facilities Study Committee – M. Scata – met last week. Moving forward to refine Options. End of June to present recommendations to BOS.
 - 6. Youth Services Advisory Board – S. Benham – next meeting 5/24/22. Working on efforts for mental health and drug prevention. Board game day going well at the middle school. M. Scata reported that they are starting a hikers group. Two programs being presented by Courage to Speak Out Foundation. 5/18/22 will be a vaping program.

12. Audience of Citizens - none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

- M. Scata reported she attended the National School Board Association convention. CABE is establishing liaisons with BOE to increase awareness. Legislative ends 5/4/22.

T. Lavoy thanked teachers in honor of teacher's appreciation week. Made note that standards for remote learning released by the state in February states 'may' not 'shall' in the language.

L. Christensen thanked all the teachers and nurses. She respectfully asked that E. Martin shorten his presentations.

L. Steinhauser gave tremendous gratitude to teachers and nurses.

S. Peters echoed the same sentiments as L. Steinhauser

14. Executive Session - For the Purpose of Collective Bargaining

**L. Steinhauser moved to enter into executive session and invite Superintendent Charles Britton, seconded by T. Lavoy.
Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

Entered Executive Session: 8:44 p.m.

**M. Scata moved to return to Regular Session at 8:49pm, seconded by T. Lavoy.
Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

15. Executive Session Action

M. Scata moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Portland Board of Education and the Municipal Employees Union Independent, Local 506, SEIU Nurses Bargaining Unit for the period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

16. Adjournment

**L. Steinhauser moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m., seconded by M. Scata.
Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk