

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 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, Meg Scata, Lauren Christensen, Laurel Steinhauser, Tim Lavoy, Stacey Benham, and Dave Murphy

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Dawn Davis, Director of Student Services, and Chuck Hershon, Principal Middle School

Student Representative: Shawn Laverty, Leah Masal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

T. Lavoy moved to approve the agenda for the February 1, 2022 Board meeting as presented, seconded by M. Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes.

1. January 18, 2022 Special Meeting, Board Retreat

L. Christensen moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by L. Steinhauser. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

5. Audience of Citizens -none

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – Bridges Program at Portland Middle School

Mr. Hershon and middle school students Madeline Davis and Kai Vardon presented the Bridges Program. The program has 20-25 students per session. They reviewed what they learn and discussed their goals for Bridges in the future. Mr. Hershon stated the program aligns with the established Equity Committee and allows all students the ability to learn and have a voice in our community. The Board expressed thanks for a great program and asked questions about the program specifics and future plans going into high school.

7. Student Representative Report – S. Laverty reported they have wrapped up mid-terms. L. Masal reported the high school and middle school had their winter concert which was also livestreamed.

8. Communications and Updates

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Britton received a retirement letter for Linda Steiner. He also received a resignation letter for paraprofessional Brian Warner. He wished them both well.

Jan 1st enrollment report submitted. There will be a presentation to the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen and Facilities committee on 2/15/22 at 7pm for enrollment by P. Prowda. Chatham Health District Covid-19 report reviewed. On the good side of the curve currently. Mask requirement and employee vaccinations are governed as a function of executive authority. Two Board policies were approved back in 2020 and 2021 for both masking and vaccinations. The executive order expires 2/15/2022 and it is currently unclear as to whether the order will be extended. The district will be watching closely as to what we are expected to do as a course of law, as well as any guidance by DPH. Dr. Britton will follow up with the Board as necessary. Received an additional amount for the connectivity 2 grant funds of \$82,813 to be used towards hardware and technology. The previous presented budget had a 9.9% placeholder for Health Insurance. The actual number has been determined to be 5% which will drop the 3.05% overall budget increase. Still crunching the numbers and will adjust the budget around March to reflect the real numbers.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology – Student Assessment

E. Martin, via video presentation, gave an overview on student assessments in Portland Public Schools. Highlights included; standardized considerations, current district standardized assessments, AIMS web plus platform, smarter balanced assessments, next generation science assessments, PSAT and SAT, and advanced placement exams. Board questions were answered by Dr. Britton.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Leave of Absence Request

L. Christensen moved to approve the leave of absence for Lynda Best, seconded by M. Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Portland Federation of Paraprofessionals AFT Memorandum of Agreement (Discussed in Executive Session)

10. Old Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Policies – 2nd reading

1. P4212.42 Personnel – Non-Certified Drug Testing for School Bus Drivers
L. Steinhauser moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
2. P6172.4 Instruction – Parent and Family Engagement Policy for Title 1 Schools
T. Lavoy moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
3. P4118.232 Personnel – Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco Drug Fee Workplace
L. Steinhauser moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by D. Murphy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
4. P5131.6 Students – Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substance)
M. Scata moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by L. Steinhauser. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
5. P6148 – FAFSA Completion Program
M. Scata moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
6. P4118.11 – Personnel Non-Discrimination
T. Lavoy moved to accept the policy as presented, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

- B. 2021-2022 Board of Education Goals Mid-Year Review** (Discussed in Executive Session)
- C. Superintendent of Schools Mid-Year Review** (Discussed in Executive Session)

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – L. Christensen –continue to work on revamping purpose
- B. Policy – M. Scata – next meeting 2/16/22
- C. Personnel – S. Peters – continue to negotiate contracts
- D. Buildings and Grounds – no meeting to date
- E. Conservation and Renewable Task Force –no report
- F. Liaison
 - 1. CREC – M. Scata – next meeting 2/16/22
 - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – long range capital meeting was in January
 - 3. Committee on Solidarity – T. Lavoy – next meeting 2/8/22
 - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition –next meeting 2/10/22
 - 5. School Facilities Study Committee – M. Scata –meeting with Peter Prowda 2/15/22 at 7pm
 - 6. Youth Services Advisory Board – met on 1/25/22. Will be hosting a community talk on restorative practices on 2/16/22 at 6pm. Rebranding the Juvenile Review Board to Restorative Justice Team. In process of putting together a meeting schedule.

12. Audience of Citizens - none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

- L. Christensen states she would still like a presentation on drugs and alcohol and vaping.
- S. Benham appreciative of Eric Martin’s presentation.
- M. Scata stated the Legislative Breakfast for Region 8 is 2/3/22 and she can send the link for the zoom. Spoke on CUBE legislation activity and attended the webinar for the art of communication.
- L. Steinhauser also attended the webinar and spoke on ideas she would like to implement, including a public BOE forum.

14. Executive Session – for the purpose of Bargaining Unit Negotiations, Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Mid-Year Reviews

M. Scata moved to enter into executive session and invite Superintendent C. Britton and Director of Student Services D. Davis, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.
Enter Executive Session: 8:07 p.m.

L. Christensen moved to return to Regular Session at 8:27 p.m., seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

15. Executive Session Action

L. Steinhauser moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Portland Board of Education and the Portland Federation of Paraprofessionals, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

16. Adjournment

T. Lavoy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m., seconded by M. Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.