

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 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 Stephanie Fragola, Assistant to Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs

Student Representative: Shawn Laverty, Leah Masal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

L. Steinhauser moved to approve the agenda for the March 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. February 1, 2022 Regular Meeting
2. February 15, 2022 Special Meeting
3. February 22, 2022 Special Meeting

B. Donation: Shutterfly to Brownstone Intermediate School, \$763.29

C. Out-of-State Field Trips:

1. Portland Middle School to Six Flags, MA. June 3, 2022
2. Portland High School to ICDC in Atlanta, GA. April 22-April 27, 2022

L. Christensen

~~S. Benham~~ corrected 2/22/22 minutes, #2-strike L. Steinhauser replace with L. Christensen and #3.a-strike L. Steinhauser and replace with L. Christensen.

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

5. Audience of Citizens - none

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – CAFE Student Leadership Awards

Dr. Britton reviewed the qualifications needed to attain this award. Awards were presented to Victoria Bailey and Lily Larson.

7. Student Representative Report

S. Laverty stated tomorrow is senior capstone night. Optional mask wearing was well received by the student body. L. Masal informed the Board of the upcoming Little Mermaid production 3/18/22 and 3/19/22. High school winter track ending. Wrestling team going to championships.

8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Britton informed the Board of Carl Johnson, Director of Building & Grounds, retirement on 7/8/22. Resignation of Hope Larson received. Darcy and Philip Parmelee correspondence received. March enrollment report submitted. Mask optional being well received. COVID numbers are decreasing significantly, 10 cases per 100,000. L. Steinhauser asked for any contact tracing procedure update. Dr. Britton explained it is more of an awareness and identify approach, then utilizing tools available. Discussed the eastern European situation. Dr. Britton has identified and curated some resources. He will share the resources with parents. Head Start program has temporarily suspended operations as of 2/11/22. This was due to staffing issues. Plans to reopen on 3/7/22. Congratulated the Technical Honor Society Inductees. Attended the new remote learning webinar. New standards are out, there will still not be remote snow days. As of 3/1/22 there is proposed legislation to pay for HVAC improvements for school buildings. He will let the Board know if this pans out.

B. Business and Financial Updates – S. Fragola submitted and reviewed the 2/28/22 authorized spending report. Still on target with projections, although some shifting possible. No freezes as of now. Still on track to conduct transfers at the end of fiscal year.

C. Director of Student Services Report – D. Davis gave recap of special education numbers. Many referrals over the last couple weeks, partly due to previously not over identifying students due to COVID. Met with nurses and had a great conversation, the atmosphere in the office is exciting with more positivity due to less COVID restrictions. Mental health concerns continue to grow among students. Pre-vocational work discussed, the program starts as early as elementary level. Special Education Data System reviewed.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action) - none

10. Old Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Portland Board of Education FY 2023 Budget Modifications

Dr. Britton stated in the approved proposed budget there was a placeholder for insurance with a 9.9% price increase. Since that time the actual number received is 5%. Since the adoption of the budget, additional expenses have been realized that we should be prepared to absorb. Costs and rationale for the items were discussed for; technology supplies, fuel increase, pension fund, and certified staff increases. Also have opened up conversations on a journalism class to start up a student newspaper and literary writing center. The curriculum committee will discuss at their next meeting. This was a previous initiative planned before COVID. Accommodating for these costs would bring the budget to \$22,792,900 (2.75% increase). Discussion on the thought process for adding funds to the gasoline line.

L. Steinhauser moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education that the 2022-23 Portland Board of Education Budget be amended to a total \$22,792,909.00 request, reflecting a 2.75% increase over the 2021-22 adopted budget, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – L. Christensen –S. Peters – meeting later this month.
- B. Policy – M. Scata – meeting in a couple weeks to discuss four policies
- C. Personnel – S. Peters – moving along with contract negotiations.
- D. Buildings and Grounds – M. Scata – will schedule a meeting due to recent retirement.
- E. Liaison
 - 1. CREC – M. Scata –Friday there is a hearing for funding increase. CREC extended the mask requirement to the end of March.
 - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – recycling plant closing, which reflects a cost increase. Agreement with Middletown extended for another five years. Easter egg hunt on 4/9/22.
 - 3. Committee on Solidarity – T. Lavoy – next meeting 3/8/22. Survey closed tonight. Solidarity month starts 6/15/22. *L. Christensen*
 - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition --~~S. Benham~~ – next meeting on 3/10/22
 - 5. School Facilities Study Committee – M. Scata – meeting on 3/14/22.
 - 6. Youth Services Advisory Board – S. Benham – next meeting 3/22/22. Community talk on restorative practices took place on 2/16/22.

12. Audience of Citizens - none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

S. Peters reminded the Board of the upcoming BOS workshop on 3/22/22. On 3/15/22 the BOE meeting will be in the media center at the high school, then will adjourn to the auditorium for the Public meeting of the budget.

M. Scata shared on 3/4/22 there will be an Education Committee Public Hearing at the state capital with 16 bills being considered. Encouraged all to listen and give testimony if they would like. Mental Health in schools discussed.

L. Steinhauser spoke about the restorative practice workshop. Expressed interest in obtaining more information on how this works in our district. Consensus on Board being interested in hearing more information.

Dr. Britton informed the Board that Little Mermaid tickets are on sale and sales are going quick.

14. Executive Session - none

15. Executive Session Action - none

16. Adjournment

M. Scata moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m., seconded by L. Christensen. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk