

Portland Board of Education  
Special Meeting  
Board Retreat  
August 19, 2021  
Meeting was in- person and via ZOOM

Attending: In –person: Charles Britton, Eric Martin and Meg Scata

Attending via Zoom: Sharon Peters, Tim Lavoy\*, Lauren Christensen, Laurel Steinhauser \*and Dave Murphy\*

Presenters: Patrice Nelson, Kerri Lord

\*T. Lavoy left at 7:02pm, L. Steinhauser left at 6:45pm, D. Murphy joined at 6:35pm

C. Darby was absent

Call to order at 6:04 by S. Peters

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by L. Steinhauser, seconded by M. Scata, Passed unanimously

Eric Martin introduced our presenter from the Center for School Change. ( Patrice and Kerry)

The topic for Part 2 is *“Supporting our Community and Discussing Equity with Stakeholders”*.

The format promoted discussion and sharing of ideas. Defining equity and creating an equity lens is important to governance by the board including allocation of resources, policies, human resources, curriculum safety and wellbeing, and facilities management. This new approach, which can be met with resistance, needs to be backed up with data, first person input and careful evaluation. Sharing the new focus on equity with all stakeholders, preparing for difficult conversations with the understanding that this shift from tradition and culture of the schools, will take strategic planning, patience and time.

Eric Martin introduced the draft of the *Equity Statement* that crafted by the School Equity Task Force. There was discussion around the statements with sharing opinions, ideas and possible changes.

We were complimented on the way the discussion was conducted with respect to civil discourse. That was segue into the last part of the training with conversations about civility and the need to model that for our stakeholders: students, parents, teachers and member of our community. As educational leaders we can effect change when we are informed, respectful and not only seeing others but carefully listening to others.

Eric thanked the presenters for the Board training.

Motion made by M. Scata to adjourn, seconded by Sharon Peters Passed unanimously

Meeting ended at 6:39 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Scata Secretary of the Board