

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 4, 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 7:02 p.m.

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

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Eric Martin, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

Portland Youth Services Director: Jesse Revicki

Student Representative: Shawn Laverty and Leah Masal

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

T. Lavoy moved to approve the agenda for the January 4, 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. December 7, 2021 Regular Meeting
2. Donation: Grynn & Barrett Enterprises to Gildersleeve School, \$500

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

5. Audience of Citizens - none

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight – Portland Football Team

Ms. Lawson stated the Portland football team attained State Championship. The players are loyal teammates, dedicated and hardworking students. The co-op has fulfilled its vision of creating a successful team. Ms. Lawson shared the team's accomplishments and stats. Coach Bennett thanked all for their support. Team members: Jackson (Jack) Williams, Theodore (Teddy) Williams, Allen Cohen, Matteo Brousseau, Alexander Hair, Owen Brunk, Griffin Shafer, Connor Egan, Matthew Binezewski, Ashton Rambarose, Michael Rambarose, Jacob Twichell

7. Student Representative Report

S. Laverty shared that the high school hosted an 8th grade preview night. The National Honor Society held an induction for new members. L. Masal shared that the school participated in spirit week and held a door decoration competition last month.

8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Britton stated he received a letter of resignation from C. Moriarty at the high school and he wishes him well. At the last Board meeting during the Spotlight agenda item, Project Oceanology was discussed. The district will go forward with applying for the grant again. An outline of the project was distributed. The latest Covid percentage numbers update from Chatham Health is 67.8, which is much higher than the last update. The numbers in Portland are comparable to the overall state numbers. The Dept. of Public Health has updated the community on approaches to be taken –1) school nurses will no longer be contact tracing and 2) the period of isolation if a person is Covid positive or has come into contact with a positive case has been lowered from 10 days to 5 days. As part of the guidelines remote learning is still not an option unless for a Covid positive student who is quarantining, or synchronous access for students that are quarantining due to close contact. The quarantine room will still be available at school if a student is feeling symptomatic. The school nurses have a supply of tests kits to send home for students who are showing signs during the day. If for any reason staffing levels are too low to have school, then it will be treated as a snow day and made up at the end of the year. However, the district is doing everything they can to stay open. Currently there are 7 bus routes, with the hope to have 9 routes filled by the end of February. There have been 6 new bus driver candidates in the works who will be interviewed and fully vetted. Last Sunday there were 600 at home Covid test kits handed out to residents by the CERT team.

1. **Distribution of Superintendent's Proposed FY 2023 Budget** – Dr. Britton stated the budget is due to the town on 1/28/22. Budget books have been distributed. The first budget workshop will be 1/11/22 at 7pm. There will be a workshop on 1/13/22 if needed. Once the Board takes action on the budget and approves, it becomes the Board's budget.
2. **Portland Public Schools Enrollment Projected to 2031** – Dr. Britton stated enrollment has gone up by 9 new students. In Peter Prowdas' presentation the footnotes did not indicate Brainard Place. Dr. Britton has put a question out to him to see if he considered it. He has also asked if he can do a presentation to the Board. The presentation projects that enrollment could increase by 5%. S. Peters asked Dr. Britton to include the facilities committee and the BOS in the presentation.

B. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Report

1. Presentation of the Portland Public Schools District Equity Statement

Eric Martin, Kate Bohannon, Stephen Jewell and Charles Hershon presented the PPS Equity and Inclusion Coalition District Equity Statement. They shared information about the coalition, the what and why for an equity statement, the timeline of the coalition, the core beliefs and a draft of the statement. M. Scata recommended that the commitments be reworded to be stronger and that there be more definition around empower. E. Martin explained that the group didn't want to limit the commitments because of ever evolving knowledge and practices. L. Steinhauser expressed that the power behind the document comes from the administration team and she feels confident that the document will do what it needs to. Board members expressed thanks for all the hard work that went into the creation of the equity document.

L. Christensen moved to accept the equity statement as presented, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Portland Youth Services Advisory Board Liaison – Jesse Revicki stated he has been working on building a collaboration with the school to provide assistance when they may need it. He has contacted Wesleyan University to look into tutoring opportunities. He will also be re-implementing the Local Prevention Council and will set up a survey to garnish interest of risk behaviors and social emotional learning for students. There will be evening presentations set up for vaping and marijuana. To help him with these initiatives, he would like a Youth Board Liaison from the Board to help advocate and be involved in the planning.

S. Peters moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education that S. Benham be appointed to serve as Portland Youth Services Advisory Board Liaison, seconded by T Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Conservation and Renewable Task Force Discussion

Dr. Britton stated the Policy committee met and discussed the consideration for ending some committees and reassigning the duties to other committees. The recommendation from the policy committee was to wrap up the work of the Conservation and Renewable Task force.

T. Lavoy moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education that the Conservation and Renewable Task Force Ad Hoc Committee be disbanded and that any issues addressed by the Conservation and Renewable Task Force be considered by the Portland Board of Education Building and Grounds Subcommittee, seconded by M. Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

C. Leave of Absence Request

L. Steinhauser moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education that Jamie DeRose be granted a maternity leave of absence, seconded by S. Benham.

S. Peters moved to amend the motion to add March 17th through the end of the school year, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Recommendation to Hire Architectural Firm to Investigate Capital Improvement and Space Needs for Portland Schools

Dr. Britton stated the goal was to designate a 5-10 year modernization plan. The committee has been hard at work. The request was published and six firms responded. The subcommittee met and reviewed the firms and selected 4 firms to present to the facilities committee. Two firms moved forward and submitted request for proposals. The reasonable bid was from Friar Architecture. Dr. Britton vetted the firm and received glowing reviews. This will move forward to the Board of Selectmen once approved by the Board.

M. Scata moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to enter into contract with Friar Architecture for the purpose of designing a Portland Public Schools Modernization Master Plan, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

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

11. Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – L. Christensen – investigating how other districts utilize their committees.
- B. Policy – Dr. Britton – looked at bylaws and discussion on dissolving identified committees.
- C. Personnel - S. Peters – continue to work on contract negotiations. Items from last meeting will be covered in executive session.
- D. Buildings and Grounds – no report
- E. Conservation and Renewable Task Force – no report
- F. Liaison
 - 1. CREC – next meeting 1/17/22
 - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – presented certificate of congratulations to the football team. Made several appointments and re-appointments.
 - 3. Committee on Solidarity – next meeting 2/11/22
 - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – presented this evening
 - 5. School Facilities Study Committee – next meeting 1/10/22

12. Audience of Citizens - none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

- L. Steinhauer – attended National Honor Society induction and felt it was a very well organized and a lovely event. Commended the two social media coordinators for the PS Facebook page for engaging content.
- L. Christensen – congrats to the football team and thanked the school nurses and administrators.
- S. Benham – thanked the spotlight on the football team and thanked the equity team.
- D. Murphy – encouraged members to attend the next BOS meeting to show support for approving the architectural firm.

14. Executive Session – for the purpose of collective bargaining agreements

T. Lavoy moved to enter into executive session and invite Superintendent C Britton, seconded by M Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**Enter Executive Session: 8:48 p.m.
Exited Executive Session: 9:20 p.m.**

15. Executive Session Action

S. Peters asked for a motion to approve the Memorandums of Agreement and job description discussed during the Executive Session.

M Scata moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Portland Board of Education and the Portland Association of School Administrators (PASA) to reinstate the Vision Care Rider covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, seconded by T Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

M. Scata moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Portland Board of Education and the Portland Association of School Administrators (PASA) to reinstate retirement benefits covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, seconded by L. Christensen. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

M. Scata moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Portland Board of Education and CEA-Portland regarding payment for missed preparation periods covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

M. Scata moved to recommend to the Portland Board of Education to accept the Assistant Principal of Portland Secondary Schools job description, seconded by S. Benham. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

16. Adjournment

L. Christensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m., seconded by M. Scata. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk