

Portland Board of Education

BOE Regular Meeting

Buck Forman Room

October 19, 2021

The Portland Board of Education held a Regular Meeting in the Buck Forman Room at 265 Main Street, 2nd Floor, on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Board members in attendance: Chairwoman S. Peters, M. Scata, L. Steinhauser, L. Christensen, D. Murphy, T. Lavoy, and C. Darby. Also in attendance were Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Charles Britton, Eric Martin, Stephanie Fragola, student representatives Shawn Laverty and Leah Masal, and members of the public.

Call to Order

S. Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for the October 19, 2021 Board meeting as presented.

Moved by T. Lavoy, seconded by L. Steinhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the consent agenda: October 5, 2021 Board of Education Meeting minutes, and the donation from Stop and Shop A+ Rewards to Valley View School in the amount of \$2,607.44. Moved by M. Scata, seconded by L. Christensen. Discussion followed on the October 5, 2021 Board of Education minutes. Mr. Lavoy agreed to have the recorded October 5, 2021 meeting reviewed under Board of Education Member comments. M. Scata moved to amend the motion.

Motion: To amend the October 5, 2021 minutes to reflect the actual words spoken by Mr. Lavoy under Board Member Comments.

Moved by M. Scata, seconded by L. Christensen. The motion passed unanimously

Audience of Citizens

No report.

Portland Public Schools Spotlight

Physical Development and Health at Valley View School

C. Serra, Physical Education teacher at Valley View, and J. Bruenn, Valley View Principal, presented on the wellness and physical development of students within Valley View as well as district-wide. J. Bruenn shared her gratitude for the Gildersleeve Grant that enabled the new playground to be built. C. Serra shared details about the physical education in the district and hopes that we continue to see the vertical growth and alignment between physical education programs.

Student Representative Report

The senior trip went well, and the fall sports teams are successful this year. Portland is becoming a strong competitor in the shoreline, which is exciting.

The junior class took the PSAT last Thursday, and freshman will be taking the PSAT on October 26th. Juniors/Seniors have started virtual college tours in the library.

Many students have taken the opportunity to use their FLEX periods to study in the library or use it as a break in their day to choose an activity that is fun for them.

Communications and Updates

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Britton shared that Portland Public Schools is hosting a professional development day on November 2nd in regards to school security and safety, with the introduction of Navigate360. The professional development day will focus on COVID-related security measures as well as our new safety program to ensure that we are up to date with best practices in student safety. This new program will give everyone in the district the power to report threats in real time. Portland also is rolling out "see something, say something" training for students and families which aligns with the Sandy Hook anonymous reporting system.

Dr. Britton also discussed that Portland Public Schools received a reimbursement for \$169,480 from the FCC in their Emergency Connectivity Fund. Dr. Britton shared that he sees that reimbursement going towards updating the track at the high school. He reported he will come forward with a plan after he discusses with the town.

Director of Student Services Report

D. Davis shared that student services' numbers are stable with no major changes. Student services are down to 8 outplaced students, and 45 ELL students in the district. She shared that our ELL students are split by 1 ELL teacher that works part time. There was discussion about our ELL teacher and how that is a big caseload for full time, and D. Davis shared that they will look into making the position larger or adding another teacher as the year goes on.

The IEP Quality Training series is starting after January so that our Special Education teachers can be comfortable with the new IEP form and system through the state. The platform will be released and working within Portland in July but there is a lot of front-end work that needs to be done.

New Business

Leave of Absence Request

Dr. Britton received a leave of absence request from C. Mazzei, a teacher at Portland Middle School.

Motion: To approve the leave of absence request for C. Mazzei.

Moved by M. Scata, seconded by T. Lavoy. The motion passed unanimously.

Enrollment Study

One enrollment study has been completed. Dr. Britton wants to get another enrollment study done specific to Portland's data and community. Dr. Britton proposes that Peter Prowda do another enrollment study for \$2,300 specific to Portland, and wants to get as many studies done as possible.

Motion: To approve the contract signing of Peter Prowda to perform an enrollment projection study for Portland Public Schools.

Moved by M. Scata, seconded by L. Christensen. The motion passed unanimously.

RFP/RFQ for Architectural Services

Dr. Britton shared that the State advised that we do not need an OPM for architectural services, but we need an architectural firm to guide us in the right direction. Dr. Britton proposes to put out an RFP for an architecture firm instead of an operations project manager. There was discussion about how to spend the \$200,000 for the architecture firm and make sure that we do not waste our funds.

Motion: To rescind the original RFP for an operations project manager and put out an RFP for an architecture firm instead.

Moved by T. Lavoy, seconded by M. Scata. The motion passed unanimously.

Bus Driver Longevity

Discussed in executive session.

Ratification of CEA-Portland/Board of Education Bargaining Unit Agreement 2022-2025

Discussed in executive session.

Ratification of Portland Association of School Administrators/Board of Education Bargaining Unit Agreement 2022-2025

Discussed in executive session.

Old Business

No report.

Committee Reports

Curriculum

No report.

Policy

No report.

Personnel

Discussed in executive session.

Buildings and Grounds

No report.

Conservation and Renewable Task Force

No report.

CREC Liaison

Meeting is on October 20, 2021.

Selectmen Liaison

No report.

Task Force on Solidarity Liaison

Meeting on October 12th, 2021. They discussed the upcoming events over the next 3 months including Pride events, a scavenger hunt, and a youth forum and cultural relations survey. They are going to create a subcommittee to discuss their previous survey.

Equity and Inclusion Coalition Liaison

The draft equity statement was discussed and piloted some focus group work. The members of the coalition will be meeting with members of the community by November 8th to discuss the draft equity statement and gather feedback on it.

School Facilities Study Committee

No report.

Audience of Citizens

No report.

BOE Comments

L. Steinhauser discussed mask wearing and student behavior on buses. She shared that parents are concerned about the driver being able to monitor mask usage and behaviors on a bus that is so packed full.

L. Christensen shared the same concern about buses and mask usage as well as too many students on a bus.

C. Darby shared his gratitude to Portland community members for electing him twice to serve Portland Public Schools and sitting on the Board for 8 years.

T. Lavoy acknowledged Dr. Britton and the administration team for the work that they do running the district.

D. Murphy shared that he is happy to see Dr. Britton being enthusiastic about the facilities committee.

M. Scata shared that she is also concerned about the bus situation in Portland.

S. Peters shared that the delegate's assembly is on November 11th, 2021.

Motion: To move into executive session at 8:12 pm for purpose of contract negotiations with an extended invitation to Dr. Britton and S. Fragola.

Moved by L. Steinhauser, seconded by T. Lavoy. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed

Motion to return to Regular session

Moved by L. Steinhauser, seconded by M. Scata. The motion passed unanimously.

S. Peters asked for a motion to approve the contracts discussed.

Motion to the full board to approve the agreement between the Portland School District and the CEA-Portland covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

Moved by L. Christensen, seconded by D. Murphy. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to the full board to approve the Agreement between the Portland Board of Education and the Portland Association of School Administrators covering the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

Moved by S. Peters, seconded by C. Darby, Passed unanimously

There will be Special Meeting with an executive session to discuss the Transportation Contract. Meeting will be held on October 26 at 5:30pm.

Motion to adjourn the Regular meeting

Moved by L. Christensen, seconded by T. Lavoy. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 9:39 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Elliot McBride, Board Recording Clerk

Draft minutes until approved at the next Board of Education Regular Meeting.