

**Portland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 @ 7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Laurel Steinhauser, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

BOE Members Present: Laurel Steinhauser, Meg Scata, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, Dave Murphy, Tim Lavoy, Sarah Spear, Angela Hammond

Members Absent: none

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Stephanie Fragola Assistant to the Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs, Dawn Davis Director of Student Services, Kate Lawson PHS Principal, Chuck Hershon PMS Principal

Student Representative: Caitlin Walsh and Liam Rowe

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

M. Scata moved to approve the agenda, seconded by A. Hammond. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of April 2, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of April 23, 2024 Board of Education Special Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of April 23, 2024 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes
- D. Approval of Caring for Classroom Teacher Donations to Valley View \$211.93
- E. Approval of Caring for Classroom Teacher Donations to Gildersleeve \$277.35

M. Scata moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by K. Nagy-Maruschock. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED

4. Audience of Citizens

Mike Pelton, 124 Isinglass Hill Road – notified and invited Board members on the Run-A-Thon on June 1st and 2nd to raise money for the track team.

6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight

- A. Portland High School CABE Leadership Award Recipients – Dr. Britton presented the CABE Leadership award to Annabelle Maruschock and Morganne Pineda
- B. Portland Middle School CABE Leadership Award Recipients – Dr. Britton presented the CABE Leadership award to Fiona Graham and Erika Tine
- C. PHS Writing Center, Kate Lawson – Mrs. Lawson introduced Ms. Smith, Ms. Fogle, and Annabelle Maruschock who presented a slideshow on the writing center. This program has

been in place for two years and is a highly successful course offering.

A. Hammond asked if the center is a club, and are the papers assigned to club members. Ms. Lawson explained that it's a course. The tutors are taking the course on how to improve their own writing skills, as well as tutoring others.

7. Student Representative Report

Liam reported the band and chorus went to Florida. Upon return they performed at the annual Extravaganza. Student senate has adopted the school constitution. It outlines updated guidelines in place for elections. Teacher appreciation week currently underway.

Caitlin reported the National Honor Society hosted the 7th grade event where students toured the high school and learned about clubs and athletics. Mr. Bernard was the recipient of the yearbook advisor of the year award. On 4/6 ap testing commenced. The junior class is working on their capstone projects. They will present them on 5/30.

8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Britton submitted the enrollment report. Gildersleeve grants were approved by the Gildersleeve Trust. Grants include AI, Fifer assessment, MS studio, and Track. Results of audit submitted. No deficiencies were noted. Valley View Principal Jessica Bruenn has submitted her resignation. Meeting with the personnel committee to review replacement of VV principal for the next school year. Teacher appreciation is this week, nurses' appreciation day is Wednesday. Joint BOE/BOS meeting held last week to update on school facilities. Follow up meeting is next Tuesday, May 14th. Three community forums were held to discuss school facilities. Dr. Britton gave a brief update on the school facilities progress. He read a snippet of the letter from Lou Pear, the chairman of the school study facility committee. Cost estimates from FRIAR submitted, as well as the most up to date Ed Specs plan. Dr. Britton reviewed the timeline for the school facilities plan.

L. Steinhauser asked Board members to forward Dr. Britton questions ahead of the joint meeting next week. T. Lavoy spoke to the importance of discussing what will happen to the other schools during this process. D. Murphy talked about the opportunity to repurpose the other buildings. Discussion amongst members on process.

Moved New Business item 9.B up on the agenda, then resume remaining items.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

B. Last Day of School Request from Student Senate

Student Senate members Nico Olivia, Owen McGinley, Nathan Green, Michael Rambarose, and Emelia Eckert presented a slideshow to ask the Board to move the last day of school from 6/17 to 6/14, with 6/17 being a professional development day.

Board asked questions on which grade levels would be impacted, how would equity among staff be addressed, and how would busses run. Ms. Lawson addressed these questions. This proposal would only be for the secondary schools.

L. Steinhauser expressed her appreciation to the student senate for presenting their case. Discussion on the Board and Dr. Britton on possible results subject to this decision.

Discussion on agreement to proceed or not with request.

6 opposed with 1 in favor by M. Scata

NO CONSENSUS

Resume remaining items.

8. Communication and Updates

B. Assistant to the Superintendent for Business and Financial Affairs – Stephanie Fragola

Report submitted. Reviewed the 3rd quarter report. S. Fragola answered questions from the Board regarding line-item clarifications.

C. Director of Student Services – Dawn Davis
Report submitted and reviewed.

9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Board of Education Policy (1st reading)

1. Policy 6146 – Graduation Requirements

Ms. Lawson reviewed the process to get to the final draft. She presented a slideshow of the proposed changes. Personal finance is now required per legislation for class 2027 and beyond. World language can drop from 2-year to 1-year per current state mandate for class 2025 and beyond. Capstone can now be an elective for class of 2026 and beyond. Editing the section for nine credits, to include .05 personal finance.

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

11. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum – L. Steinhauser – 4/17/24 meeting was cancelled. Next meeting 5/15/24.

B. Policy – M. Scata – next meeting on 5/8/24.

C. Personnel – L. Steinhauser – meeting held on 4/5/24. Discussed contract 1-year extensions. Next meeting 5/13/24.

D. Buildings and Grounds – K. Nagy-Maruschock – no meeting scheduled.

E. Liaison

1. CREC – M. Scata – 5/15/24 annual meeting

2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – joint meeting took place on 4/23/24 to get an update on the school facility plan

3. Youth Services Advisory Board – T. Lavoy – next meeting 5/21/24

4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – S. Spear – next meeting 6/10/24. Newsletter sent out today by Eric Martin.

5. Land and Building Usage Committee – D. Murphy – next meeting 5/20/24.

12. Audience of Citizens - none

13. Board of Education Member Comments

K. Nagy-Maruschock – happy teacher appreciation

S. Spear - happy teacher appreciation

A. Hammond – happy teacher appreciation

D. Murphy – happy teacher appreciation

T. Lavoy – happy teacher and nurse's appreciation.

M Scata – happy teacher and nurse's appreciation. Legislative update from CABA on 5/15/24

L. Steinhauser – happy teacher appreciation. PTO's put in a tremendous amount effort to appreciate teachers as well. Commended the middle school student's personal interest projects and how phenomenal they all were. Budget vote on 5/13/24.

14. Executive Session – none

15. Executive Session Action - none

16. Adjournment

M. Scata moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tricia Dean
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk