

**Portland Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, May 21, 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

Members Absent: Angela Hammond

Administration Present: Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton, Kate Lawson PHS Principal

Student Representative: Liam Rowe

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**M. Scata moved to approve the agenda, seconded by S. Spear. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Approval of Consent Agenda**

A. Approval of May 7, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of May 14, 2024 Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, Joint Meeting Minutes

C. Approval of Caring for Classroom Teacher Donations to Gildersleeve \$590.00

D. Approval of Caring for Classroom Teacher Donations to Valley View \$211.93

**M. Scata moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED**

**5. Audience of Citizens - none**

**6. Portland Public Schools Spotlight**

A. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendent Recognition Award

1. Ava Maselek, Portland High School

2. Abigail Keaveny, Portland High School

Dr. Britton presented the CAPSS award to Ava and Abigail and read a bio on each of them.

B. PHS Promotional Video Capstone Project – Mr. Bernard and Mrs. Novak introduced Paige Fitzgibbons who presented her capstone project. Paige filmed and edited footage that highlights the many offerings at Portland High School.

Mrs. Novak stated that many students have worked hard on their projects. A showing of the capstone projects will be next Thursday.

## 7. Student Representative Report

Liam reported AP exams have completed, the music department performed last Thursday at the Yard Goats game, spring sports season winding down, the Shoreline track and field championship meet being hosted here, the golf team won the Shoreline championship, Mr. Santavanere was named the Shoreline golf teacher of the year. 2024 award ceremony will be held next Tuesday, Capstone night is next Thursday, and the Student Senate will be placing flags for Memorial Day.

## 8. Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Britton received resignations from social worker Kate Bohannon, and paraprofessionals Jada Gunas, Susan Herget, Morgan Tamaro, and Madelynn Fontaine. Thanked those who participated in committees for the director of pupil services search. Sara McGlaughlin was the chosen candidate. We will then fill the BCBA position. Dr. Britton gave an update of filling the Valley View principal vacancy for next year. The decision was to move current Gildersleeve principal Ryan Walstrom to Valley View and find a one year only candidate to fill the Gildersleeve vacancy. Internal candidates have expressed interest. Will interview internal candidates this Friday. Meg and Tim will join interview panel. Reviewed article on grant funding for HVAC system, highlighting the \$150 million available next year. Dr. Britton gave an update on the grant application for school facilities.

B. Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology – E. Martin submitted his report. Dr. Britton reviewed the teacher evaluation plan in his report. S. Spear reviewed what was discussed regarding the teacher evaluation plan at the personnel committee. Teacher and paraprofessional of the year voting underway.

## 9. New Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Subcommittee Assignments – Curriculum

L. Steinhauser stated there is a vacancy on the curriculum subcommittee due to Stacey's resignation. No Action.

B. Pre-K - 5 Education Specification Plan

Dr. Britton reviewed questions submitted by K. Nagy-Maruschock. The Ed Specification plan is drafted to come up with renderings to answer some questions such as is it doable, what might it look like, and how much would it cost. This would need to be approved to submit with the grant application, along with minutes of the meeting in which it was approved. Question on kitchen specs. M. Scata would prefer to stop using styrofoam containers at the elementary school.

**M. Scata moved to accept the Pre-K-5 Educational Specification plan as presented, seconded by D. Murphy. 4 in favor with 2 opposed by K. Nagy-Maruschock and T. Lavoy. MOTION CARRIES.**

C. New Teacher Evaluation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> read)

Covered in 8B. Will go to next meeting for 2<sup>nd</sup> read.

D. Superintendent of Schools Contract 2024-2027 (discussed under Executive Session)

E. Superintendent of Schools Evaluation (discussed under Executive Session)

F. Board of Education Self-Evaluation (discussed under Executive Session)

## 10. Old Business (Discussion/Possible Action)

A. Board of Education Policy (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

1. Policy 6146 – Graduation Requirements

Edited from the first read to incorporate the one-half credit in personal financial management and financial literacy, to be included with the STEM requirement under the second bullet under commencing with classes graduation in 2027.

**M. Scata moved to approve policy 6146 graduation requirements as presented, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **11. Committee Reports**

- A. Curriculum – L. Steinhauser – meeting held on 5/15/24 to discuss course proposal on forensics, review of summer curriculum writing, and creating annual time to report back to committee on district curriculum. Next meeting on 6/19/24.
- B. Policy – M. Scata – meeting held on 5/8/2. Next meeting on 6/12/24.
- C. Personnel – L. Steinhauser – meeting held on 5/13/24 to discuss educator growth and support plan. Selected dates for contract negotiations, starting with teachers and administrator’s contract.
- D. Buildings and Grounds – K. Nagy-Maruschock – no meeting scheduled.
- E. Liaison
  - 1. CREC – M. Scata – scholarship for students followed by lunch last week. Next meeting in June.
  - 2. Selectmen – D. Murphy – no report
  - 3. Youth Services Advisory Board – T. Lavoy – meeting held today. Working on 6/27 summer kickoff event. Fall festival road race coming up in Sept.
  - 4. Equity and Inclusion Coalition – S. Spear – next meeting 6/10/24.
  - 5. Land and Building Usage Committee – D. Murphy – meeting held on 5/20/24. Lexington developers presented, they did a tour of facilities and shared results from those tours. June 19<sup>th</sup> would like to have an update meeting.

#### **12. Audience of Citizens - none**

#### **13. Board of Education Member Comments**

- T. Lavoy – Congratulated the golf team on their championship. Stated he appreciates the work Dr. Britton conducted on the Ed Spec plan, but he doesn’t think that this is the path that we should take.
- D. Murphy – Agrees with letting the majority speak regarding school facilities. Stated that he enjoyed the capstone video.
- K. Nagy-Maruschock – Enjoyed the capstone video. Echoed Tim’s sentiments about the time and effort Dr. Britton and the committees devoted to the Ed Specs plan. She feels that it isn’t the best path for two school models.
- S. Spear – Congrats to Paige for her work on the capstone video and congrats to the CAPSS winners.
- M Scata – Congrats on Paige for her work on the capstone video and congrats to the CAPSS winners. CABE had LOB visit and went through 11 pages of laws.
- L. Steinhauser – Her perspective is that there is excitement from staff and the community about the potential this school facilities project has for families and the community. Grateful for the Board being able to have good, civil conversation around this. 5/28/24 at 6p PHS awards, 5/30/24 at 6p Capstone night, 6/1/24 and 6/2/24 is the 24 hour PHS track fundraiser, 6/13/24 at 6p is PHS graduation.

#### **14. Executive Session – for the purpose of Superintendent 2024-2027 Contract, Superintendent of Schools Evaluation, and Board of Education Self-Evaluation**

**M. Scata moved to go into Executive Session for discussion related to Superintendent 2024-2027 Contract, Superintendent of Schools Evaluation, and Board of Education Self-Evaluation, with the superintendent present, seconded by T. Lavoy. Unanimously**

**approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Entered Executive Session: 8:33 pm**

**Exited Executive Session: 9:04 pm**

**15. Executive Session Action**

No Action

**16. Adjournment**

**M. SCata moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm, seconded by T. Lavoy.**

**Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Clerk