

**Portland Board of Education Regular Meeting
Portland High School Library
February 6, 2018**

The Portland Board of Education held its Regular Meeting in the Portland High School Media Center on February 6, 2018. Board members in attendance were: Chair MaryAnne. Rode, Meg Scata, Tim Lavoy, Dave Murphy, Sharon Peters, and E. Peterson. Chris Darby arrived at 7:36 pm. Also in attendance were Superintendent of Schools Dr. Philip B. O'Reilly, Director of Curriculum Instruction, and Technology Dr. Charles Britton, Director of Student Services, Dawn Davis, and Board Student Representatives Mark Matera and Jacob Durkin. Board of Selectmen representative Jim Tripp was also in attendance.

Call to Order – M. Rode called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

M. Rode recommended to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by S. Peters, seconded by E. Peterson to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by T. Lavoy, seconded by E. Peterson to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2018 Regular Board Meeting. M. Rode noted that there was a spelling mistake in the minutes, O'Reilly was spelled incorrectly. The motion passed unanimously.

Audience of Citizens – None

Student Representative Reports

J. Durkin reported that with midterms over and the new semester beginning this week, students are getting used to their new schedules and adjusting to changes. He noted that the snow delay was not an issue during midterms. The musical *Hello Dolly* is on track and going well for the cast. Durkin reported that Boys' Basketball is doing well, and Girls' Basketball has a record of 8:9 with their victory this evening.

M. Matera reported on the status of the wrestling team and the indoor track Shoreline Conference, at which there was a good showing. States are this coming weekend for the track team. Matera mentioned the PIT Band's preparation for the *Hello Dolly* musical, and noted the Band/Chorus concert is coming up on February 15, 2018.

Correspondence - None

Communications and Updates

A. Superintendent's Report

1. The Building Maintenance Subcommittee will meet on February 15, 2018 at Gildersleeve at 8:30 pm.
2. Long Range Capital Improvement Commission will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 3:15 pm. Dr. O'Reilly would like to bring a draft of what he plans to present to the Commission before the meeting next Wednesday. M. Rode asked which board members can attend. E. Peterson and D. Murphy both replied that they can be present at the meeting.
3. The Next Generation Accountability Report is complete but has not yet been made a public document by the State Department of Education. Dr. O'Reilly asked if the Board would like a presentation of last year's results as a review. M. Rode agreed that a refresher would be worth our time. Dr. O'Reilly will bring last year's accountability report to the meeting.
4. Received word from the State of Connecticut regarding tentative proposals from the Governor. There are no significant differences or changes to the budget from what was used to determine our 0% budget.
5. Dr. O'Reilly met with four students from Vinal Technical High School. They took part in interviews for an apprenticeship with district electrician, Dave Steiner. This co-op allows for one or two electrical apprentices. All four candidates presented themselves with professionalism and fine interview skills. Dr. O'Reilly called the Vinal principal to express how impressed he was by these four young men. Carson Megos of Portland was selected for this two-year apprenticeship with Dave Steiner.

B. Dr. Charles Britton, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Report

1. Dr. Britton commended the tech team and Finance Director Tom Robinson for exceptional responsiveness to the water pipe burst in the High School data closet. The Electronic Recovery Services Team was on premises within five hours, and the tech team had everything fixed within one week as a result of their creative thinking and sense of urgency. Dr. O'Reilly asked if there has been discussion about modulating the alarm to avoid this happening again. Dr. Britton responded that they are purchasing and installing temperature sensors that will send text messages and email alerts.
2. The Seal of Biliteracy will be piloted this spring at the High School. The Seal of Biliteracy is endorsed by the Connecticut Board of Education. This is an oral language proficiency test which would give high-scoring students a seal of biliteracy on their transcripts and diploma. This seal would be beneficial to students as they complete college applications.
3. The APPLE Test, selected by the World Language Department, is being piloted with juniors this year on a volunteer basis. We will use their feedback to bring it forward as a policy proposal.
4. Math teachers have been travelling to other districts looking at Bridges (K-5) and Illustrative (6-8) math programs to replace the current McGraw Hill program. This is a 6-8th grade math program with the highest rating, and will

be brought to the Gildersleeve Committee for grant approval. Dr. Britton reported that he would like to have it in place for the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

5. Readers and Writers Workshops feedback is very positive. A solid foundation is being laid in K-4 and have moved to grade 5 this year. They are looking to move up to grade 6, and begin to pilot grades 7-8. K-8 Readers and Writers Workshop is a district goal. Dr. Britton said he will update the Board regularly.

C. Dawn Davis, Director of Student Services

1. Portland Public Schools Student Services Monthly Report reflects the number of special education students in district has not changed and 504 numbers have stayed the same. Outplacement is up by six students. These students have been outplaced due to discipline, school avoidance, and safety issues.
2. There are 23 ELL Learners in the district, some of which are displaced due to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Half of these students are in Valley View. These students are required to take the LAS Links assessment annually, which is now being administered online, which some have never done before. Testing ends in mid-March and results will come back from the state over the summer.
3. Portland Student Services Parent Advisory held a group meeting on January 23, 2018. Thirteen families were in attendance and displayed a great deal of energy and interest. The next meeting will be held at the end of February or in early March.
4. SRBI/Frontline Program is in the process of being implemented as a result of the Gildersleeve Grant.

New Business

- A. Donations - M. Scata motioned to accept both donations (Grynn & Barrett Enterprises to Portland Middle for \$1,043.20, and Aetna Foundation to Portland Public Schools for \$120.00). E. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Teacher Request for Research - Brianna Visone, 7-12 Math Interventionist for Portland Public Schools, presented a request to collect data for research. Dr. O'Reilly opened by voicing his endorsement, stating he is comfortable moving forward with this request. Ms. Visone introduced her proposal to conduct research on the Intervention Program at Portland High School. She stated that this will help the school in general, as well as her own dissertation. The proposal is an analysis of the Intervention Class, taking a deeper look into its success and effectiveness. M. Scata asked how many students would be involved. Ms. Visone answered that consent letters will be sent home to all 12-16 students in the Intervention Program, and she hoped to receive permission to include as many as possible from this small group. T. Lavoy moved to approve the request for research. The motion was seconded by M. Scata. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Out-of-State Field Trip – This trip to Six Flags New England, MA, for the Portland Middle School Band and Chorus includes a competition and time to enjoy the park. T. Lavoy motioned to approve the trip scheduled for June 1, 2018. M. Scata seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- D. 2017-2018 School Calendar Revision – Dr. O'Reilly voiced his concern that there have been five snow days and we are only halfway through the winter, resulting in the last day of school now being June 20, 2018. As the schedule stands, there are no Professional Development Days scheduled at the end of the school year, which the calendar is designed to include. Dr. O'Reilly does not want the school year to extend into the last week of June as this would affect Summer School. He suggested three options to help prevent this from happening:
1. We do not touch the calendar and leave it as-is.
 2. Declare February 19, 2018 and February 20, 2018 as Student Days (currently scheduled as President's Day and Professional Development Day)
 3. Declare March 9, 2018 as a Student Day
- Dr. O'Reilly recommended that we take 2/20 and 3/9 as regular school days, not 2/19 (President's Day), moving the last day of school up by two days to June 18, 2018, and adding these two Professional Development Days at the end of the school year. M. Rode commented that this is an appropriate response. M. Scata motioned to take 2/20 and 3/9 as regular school days, and S. Peters seconded the motion. C. Darby opposed, stating that Professional Development days at the end of the year are not a good idea. The Board took a vote. M. Rode, M. Scata, T. Lavoy, S. Peters and E. Peterson voted to pass, while C. Darby and D. Murphy voted in opposition. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

- A. Curriculum – meeting tomorrow.
- B. Policy – met tonight, next meeting on March 6, 2018. They are making progress.
- C. Personnel – will discuss in executive session.
- D. Liaisons
- a. CREC - last meeting cancelled, Legislative Breakfast on February 15, 2018, next meeting on February 21, 2018.
 - b. Selectmen – sidewalks on agenda tomorrow, Route 17 park is moving forward. Land acquisition at Riverfront still not finalized.

Audience of Citizens – None

Member Comments –

S. Peters asked when the Board of Selectman school visits will resume. Dr. O'Reilly replied that the schedule has not been set but is in progress.

Executive Session – S. Peters moved, T. Lavoy seconded to move into Executive Session at 7:51 pm, with Dr. O'Reilly as invited guest, for the purpose of collective bargaining and superintendent's mid-year review. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to return to Regular Session at 8:49 pm. Moved by M. Scata, seconded by E. Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Moved by M. Scata, seconded by E. Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Pizzo
Board Recording Clerk