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*Leading the Way to Great Public Schools for Every Maine Student*

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**Portland Educators Endorse Nick Mavodones for Mayor of Portland.**

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Members of the Portland Education Association (PEA) were on-hand today at Deering High School to announce endorsements for the November elections. The Portland Education Association is comprised of educators in the Portland schools and represents over 800 employees in Maine's largest school district.

"We regularly endorse candidates for school board and even city council," said PEA President Kathleen Casasa, "but with the addition of an elected mayor here in Portland, we thought it was important for our members to meet with the candidates for this office, listen to them, and to share our vision for public schools in Portland."

Educators from around the district participated in the screening interviews and endorsement process. All candidates were given an opportunity to appear before a panel of educators and to answer questions covering a range of topics.

After a thorough process, members strongly endorsed Nick Mavodones for Mayor as their #1 choice. Members were impressed by his knowledge of Portland's school system as well as his commitment to protecting, preserving and improving public education in the City.

"Members of the PEA feel Nick is a 'friend of education' and certainly someone who has tremendous experience in city government," Casasa said. "But above and beyond, PEA members felt Nick Mavodones shared our commitment of providing a quality education to

every child in Portland. We are confident he will be a great mayor and a strong advocate for public education in Portland.”

“As a former school board member and a longtime supporter of education whose three kids who went to Portland’s public schools, the endorsement of Portland educators means a great deal to me,” Mayor Nick Mavodones said. “Our teachers and educators do a great job educating our kids. We have to continue to support them by making education funding a priority, renovating and rebuilding out of date schools and investing in early childhood education.”

The PEA also endorsed Mike Brennan (2<sup>nd</sup> choice), Markos Miller (3<sup>rd</sup> choice) and Ethan Strimling (4<sup>th</sup> choice).

“Our members were very impressed with Brennan, Miller and Strimling,” Casasa continued. “We are pleased to recommend each of them to our members as strong candidates in this race. Each has a solid understanding of our schools and is committed to public education.”

The Portland Education Association also endorsed candidates for city council and school board. Below are the recommendations of the PEA for those positions:

School Board, At Large: Elizabeth Holton

School Board, District 4: Justin Costa (uncontested)

School Board, District 5: Marine Morrione (uncontested)

City Council, District 4: No Recommendation

City Council District 5: John Coyne (uncontested)

“Now comes the hard part,” said Casasa. “We will be communicating with our hundreds of members in Portland and sharing with them information about our endorsed candidates. And we will be encouraging members, retired educators, friends and neighbors to support the recommended candidates of the PEA. These are difficult times for public schools. Now more than ever we need to elect leaders that will stand up for public education and the students we serve.”