



# Portland Public Schools Board of Education

## October 31, 2020 – Board Retreat

In accordance with ORS 192.650, the District’s official School Board Meeting Minutes are maintained via video recording and may be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/Uh4JJsERTfE>

Document Type	Page Number
Meeting Overview .....	02



**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1J, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**Board of Education**

**October 31, 2020**

**BOARD RETREAT MEETING OVERVIEW**

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*The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the reports to and actions taken by the School Board. In accordance with ORS 192.650, the District's official School Board Meeting Minutes are maintained via video recording and may be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Uh4JJsERTfE>*

A Retreat of the Board of Education came to order at 9:04 am at the call of Committee Chair Lowery. This meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19 and streamed live at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ppscomms/videos>

**Attendance**

Present: Chair Lowery; Directors Bailey, Brim-Edwards, DePass, Kohnstamm, Moore, Scott

**Pre-meeting**

The virtual meeting opened for attendees to arrive at 8:50 am. No deliberation or decisions were made prior to the start of the meeting.

**Introduction**

Time Started: 9:04

The board shared their favorite thing about fall.

**Guardrails Around Board Goals**

Time Started: 9:18 pm

Director Moore provided the Council of Great City of Schools (CGCS) definition of guardrails. The Board looked at a list of examples of guardrails from CGCS. There was discussion regarding how their guardrails should be framed and the type of language to use. It was decided that the guardrails should be stated in neutral language. Chair Lowery requested that each Director look at the example guardrails and come up with 4 guardrails to be shared at the January board retreat.

**Meeting Norms**

The board answered questions on a jam board in relation to the analysis of the time spent in the board meetings. The board discussed the responses to the analysis of the time and what items they would like to focus on going forward. There was a request to not hold executive sessions after board meetings. There was interest in making the meetings more student focused and moving the committee reports to earlier in the meeting,

The board answered questions regarding meeting materials on a jamboard, including questions regarding work style and acceptable expectations. Twenty minutes was allotted for Directors to answer questions and take breaks. Director Lowery read the responses and the board then discussed them.

The Board answered questions regarding the consent agenda on the Jamboard, including what types of items should be on the consent agenda, and discussed their responses. There was discussion regarding how to get questions answered about a consent agenda item, and when and how to share the information

learned. There was conversation regarding politically sensitive items , including what is meant by that, and who decides what is a political topic.

### **Communication Norms (still needs review)**

Chair Lowery introduced the topic and Board Directors answers questions around communication on the JamBoard. Chair Lowery read each of the responses. The board discussed the responses. There was discussion regarding public comment and how and if to respond. A work group was set up to explore options and bring back to the next retreat.

Board Directors answered questions on the Jamboard regarding communicating with staff. Chair lowery read the responses and summarized them, including formalized information sharing and recognizing staff time.

### **BREAK 12:23 -12:39 pm**

The board was notified that there was a problem with the streaming of the meeting and took a break until it was resolved.

### **Future Self-evaluations**

The Board discussed whether to continue using the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) Board self-evaluation tool. It was agreed that the board would continue to use the tool. There was Board discussion regarding how frequently the they should talk about their self-evaluation. It was agreed that the Board should discuss their evaluation at two of the quarterly retreats.

### **Board Leadership**

Director DePass asked the board to consider for future discussion what board leadership looks like and how to make it more equitable and accessible to future board members. Director Kohnstamm added that she would like for the Board to consider how they can work to recruit more diverse board members.

Chair Lowery stated that the Board would discuss leadership at a future board meeting and that the Intergovernmental Committee should begin the work to look at board member recruitment.

### **Adjourn**

Chair Lowery adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Submitted by:



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PPS Board of Education