

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Work Session of October 30, 2018**

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Work Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 6:05 pm at the call of Chair Rita Moore in the Mazama Conference Room at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

There were present:

Board

Rita Moore-Chair
Paul Anthony
Scott Baily
Julie Brim-Edwards
Amy Kohnstamm
Mike Rosen
Julie Esparza Brown
Nick Paesler, Student Representative

Staff

Liz Large-Interim General Counsel
Stephanie Soden-Chief of Staff
Dr. Yvonne Curtis-Deputy Superintendent, Instruction and School Communities
Claire Hertz-Deputy Superintendent, Business and Operations
Guadalupe Guerrero-Superintendent
Rosanne Powell-Senior Board Manager
Sara King-Director, Planning and Asset Management
Harry Esteve- Director, Strategic Communications & Outreach
Dani Ledezma- Interim Special Advisor to the Superintendent on Equity
Jen Sohm, Program Senior Manager
Luis Valentino, Chief Academic Officer
Kregg Cuellar, Chief of Schools
Oscar Gilson, Area Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Aurora Terry, Senior Director College and Career Readiness
Jeanne Yerkovich, Director College and Career Readiness
Matt Van Hoomissen, Principal Special Programs
Lorna Fast Buffalo Horse, Alliance Principal

District CTE and Benson Programming Follow-Up

Ms. Terry provided a PowerPoint presentation. Chair Moore requested a copy of the February 2017 Education Options report. Ms. Terry responded that she would look for the report. Director Bailey requested data on graduation rates when a student starts as opposed to when they end their time at PPS. There is some flexibility through March 2019 in terms of exact programming options for Benson, but a decision needs to be made by December 11, 2018, on whether the desire is to stick with the current Master Plan for Benson, along with a decision on co-location.

Director Kohnstamm indicated that open conversations were needed about what programs will be included at Benson. Ms. Terry responded that Benson is in a central location and that was important for the multiple pathway programs. Chair Moore commented that some of the programs were small and could be located elsewhere and asked if there was a reason to keep them together or was it just a convenience because of space. Chair Moore questioned if there was a reason to keep the Alliance

program split between two buildings. Matt Eide from the Reconnection Center stated he has a team of case managers who work with 1,000 students each year, has a school social worker and data analyst located in a small office in Benson intentionally as it was centrally located. The Reconnection Center is co-located with Alliance at Benson and that was also intentional as they are able to blend their fte.

Chair Moore asked why there was Alliance at Benson and Alliance at Meek. Ms. Fast Buffalo Horse responded that they were different models. Students who are closer to graduation will go to Alliance at Benson which is an independent, self-directed model. Benson also has day and evening classes. Alliance at Meek uses CTE as an intervention to engage students, and offers social/emotional programming along with a core program. If both programs were to be in the same location, they would have to work on how they would serve the needs of the students. Ms. Fast Buffalo Horse noted that an analysis of combining both Alliance schools at Kenton had not been performed. Chair Moore stated that she always thought the split of Alliance was due to space. Ms. Fast Buffalo Horse responded that it was historical; some programs from Madison and Grant went into Alliance at Benson. Chair Moore commented that the programs evolved based upon where they were located and it's less a function of two different programs and models, and two different places. She was interested in hearing if you had a blank slate, what would Alliance look like. Ms. Fast Buffalo Horse responded that 400 students would be the max to provide small school supports. One site for up to 400 would be the ideal situation, as childcare, a gym, showers, offices and conference rooms would be needed. The idea was that a building would contain Alliance and the Reconnection Center, along with CTE.

Chair Moore questioned if there was any interaction with DART students and Benson students. Mr. Van Hoomissen responded not very often. A few may do some mainstreaming at Benson during the day, but basically it is run as its own school. Chair Moore asked if it was better for students to be co-located or have a separate site. Mr. VanHoomisien stated that a separate site would be preferred as students have huge anxieties and may only be in a classroom of 5 students with therapeutic treatments. If DART was co-located, it would be fine if they are co-located in the right way.

Director Brim-Edwards asked if two facilities could be built on the existing Benson site. Mr. Jung responded that the challenge was that it was not the plan now, so that would be a redirection and staff would have to plan for that.

Director Brim-Edwards mentioned that the District would be taking kids from their home high schools to go to Benson, yet it is spending money on all high schools. Director Anthony stated that by the year 2035 there would be no problem in filling all of our high schools. Director Kohnstamm reported that the high school redesign process determined how you obtained robust high schools with populations of at least 1500, and then increased to 1700. Mr. LaFountaine asked in regards to suite design for Benson, if it was feasible that one wing could be utilized by the multiple pathways and Alliance programs. Mr. Jung responded that there was some flexibility in the design. Director Bailey stated that designing programs around facilities was driving him crazy; that is not how we should operate. He would like to see a CTE plan before we build Benson, and he would like to see visionary, futuristic programs along with things the Board hasn't thought of. If we don't do that plan, we're going to pay later. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown indicated that that made sense as we want to plan for other programming and have the facilities built for that. Director Anthony added that where we put the programs is a real question which hasn't been looked at.

Chair Moore, speaking on the proposed hybrid model, asked if staff could come up with a ballpark sense of what the impact would be in terms of the size requirements.

Curtis Wilson, Benson Principal, stated that they have been making it work at Benson for the last six years. He keeps things student centered. Of all the high school principals, he's the only one that shares space with other programs. They make it happen. The programs should not be at Benson, but he is willing to figure things out. If Benson is comprehensive, they will make it work. If there are six other programs there, they will figure it out. It was up to the Board to guide staff. He knows what his staff

wants, but he also knows what the reality is. Once it is figured out, they will go from there. If you want a Benson Polytechnic, and locations are figured out for the other programs, Benson will be a great school.

Director Kohnstamm noted that when you look at the Board resolution from 2015, it does not preclude Alliance and multiple pathways being at Benson. Director Bailey stated that if we need CTE direction for Benson by March 2019, and we don't have a CTE plan, then we are letting facilities drive the decision.

Chair Moore indicated that she was curious about the hybrid option as that appeals to her and asked if the Board needed to make a decision on December 11th, do they have to decide on the option for Benson. Ms. Terry responded yes.

Director Brim-Edwards stated that she wants to see the enrollment planning data to date and what the trends have been and what the impact will be on the other schools as opposed to Benson in isolation. She would like to see projections. Superintendent Guerrero responded that staff will look at the metro projections. Director Kohnstamm commented that before any vote, the Board needs to go deeper in what Option C would look like as it would allow students from all different high schools to have a four year experience. Director Brim-Edwards mentioned that this has been the Board's first real discussion, but a lot of planning has already taken place based on historical conversations. She thought the Board would receive guidance on a plan before voting on a facility design. Chair Moore stated that she would like an analysis of the hybrid option, general idea, operations, and implications on the building plan. Director Anthony added that if you are going to have an analysis of all that, that you also need to look at quality. Benson has worked the best; those schools that haven't operated that way regret it. Director Brim-Edwards stated that she was also interested in the hybrid model, and also the specs for Alliance and multiple pathways. Director Bailey indicated that he would like to see the pros and cons for a district-wide hub.

Public Comment

Steve Buel stated that the Work Session had been a pretty poor show.

Adjourn

Chair Moore adjourned the Work Session at 8:49pm.

Submitted by:

Caren Huson, Board Clerk
PPS Board of Education