



DECEMBER 5, 2017 MEETING OVERVIEW

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the actions taken by the School Board and to provide a listing of the reports given. Anyone interested in viewing the full meeting, please visit the website listed below.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education came to order at 6:01pm at the call of Chair Julia Brim-Edwards in the Board Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon.

Attendance

Present: Chair Brim-Edwards; Vice-Chairs Esparza Brown and Moore; Directors Anthony, Bailey, Kohnstamm, and Rosen; Student Representative Tran; Superintendent Guerrero; Interim General Counsel Large.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Guerrero shared his plans for the Pioneer Program. The students will have all their supports guaranteed. His plan is to announce the facilities the students will attend in the next week, and he will also meet with the community and will have more details at that time. Superintendent Guerrero stated that he was committed to creating a Pioneer Advisory Board.

Student and Public Comment

Atticus Wy-song Crane: senior at Pioneer, stated his opposition to the recent decision to move the Pioneer students into different schools, adding that was a terrible mistake. Pioneer was a necessity for students and the program cannot be provided anywhere else. Middle schoolers need the program more than anyone, and the decision that was made seems discriminatory to someone with mental illness. The students have stability at Pioneer and he asked the Board to please correct the mistake immediately.

Chris Marquart: teacher at Pioneer, reported that on November 27th, the Superintendent said the Pioneer Program would be moved, dissolved, and replaced. That would be harmful to students for several reasons. Pioneer provides the necessary level of supports for the student population; staff act as a balm for the students, offering safety, reliability, consistency and respect. Their current building has spaces for de-escalation and access to confidential spaces. He requested a discussion with ACCESS, the Board, and the Superintendent in order to construct a model beneficial to their community.

Rebecca Dake: spoke to the proposed middle school program and asked how you address the lack of challenging academic rigor at middle schools when teachers face a range of students at different learning levels. How can those teachers address that? There is no TAG program in the middle schools. Her daughter's education has stagnated in middle school. She suggested the use of online resources, perhaps an independent study program using online lessons could be a possibility. The District has to do something different.

Patrick Stupfel: stated that he had attended the Pioneer Program in middle school, adding that PPS used him as a token student on many committees. But now the District wants to do away with the Pioneer Program and added that he will not let the District stomp on special education any longer.

Dan Havran: a therapy coach at Pioneer, stated that there were risk behaviors in the program and that they respond with a team approach. He was not in agreement with relocating the K-5 Pioneer students. The building they are in offer de-escalation areas and soft, non-slip linoleum floors which cannot be

duplicated in another building. He asked the Board to not waste money on another retrofit upgrade of a different site.

Gabrielle Mercedes-Bolivar: spoke to the collaborate efforts of key staff working to support the Ockley Green Middle School Community and specifically their students receiving special education services. Hers is a Jefferson Cluster family and after years of inequities, they are finally getting glimmers of hope. Middle schools are being restored, efforts to provide culturally responsive inclusive student practices are being pushed, and student success at Jefferson is to be celebrated.

Comments from Portland Federation of School Professionals (PFSP)

Belinda Reagan, President of PFSP, reported that she had met with Pioneer staff and was disheartened to hear their stories. She feels the students should remain together. What she heard from Pioneer staff was that they were made to feel second class, along with their students; ACCESS parents were louder and stronger and more heard than those from students who are coming from foster care or are homeless. There is a feeling in the Pioneer community that they should not be treated differently than ACCESS. If you divide up the Pioneer group, she did not think they would thrive. We need to honor the wonderful results coming out of Pioneer. Personally, she has felt unheard by PPS for many years. We have requested, year after year, of having Board members go out and sit with a principal, go out and stand in the shoes of the Pioneer community. Sit in the classrooms and see what happens in special education classrooms in a day.

Comments from the Portland Association of Teachers (PAT)

Suzanne Cohen, President of PAT, stated that she had visited with the Pioneer staff and heard their concerns and needs. When decisions get made behind closed doors, then those decisions are not going to be successful. The Board and Superintendent need to listen to the people who know best because they are at the school every day. Please talk directly with the educators. Safety needs are not being met within several schools, and no one is properly trained to do restraints in general education settings. When systems like that exist, why do you want to push more students into it? You never consult with those who know best. This flies in the face of teachers who have been negotiating for so long. Ms. Cohen provided the Superintendent with a box of postcards that had messages on them from teachers.

Action Items

- Level 3 Complaint Consideration
Public Comment:

Jill Castrina: spoke of the previous Lincoln/Wilson boundary change and that only 23 out of 300 students were affected in each grade, and the Board had been concerned that those students not be disenfranchised. Her daughter, Mia, could attend Lincoln tomorrow. The confusion is that there does not seem to be language about sports and extra-curricular activities in District policy. She feels sports should also have been grandfathered. Her daughter is caught in the gray area and is caught in the consequences. Staff understands their dilemma. OSAA just needs something in writing from PPS that states Mia's school would be Lincoln. There was no dance program at Wilson.

Mia Castrina: stated that she has been dancing since 7th grade. Her decided to attend St. Mary's instead of Lincoln was very difficult, as her friends are attending Lincoln. She had previously been told that she could participate on the Lincoln Dance T. She has known the Dance Team members since 7th grade, and dancing was the one sport she really enjoys and works hard for. She asked the Board to please allow her to continue dancing with her team members.

- Third Party Sales: waiver of Board Policy 3.30.020-P
Public Comment:
None

Reports

- Director Bailey provided a report on the Enrollment and Forecasting Committee
- Director Anthony provided a report on the Health and Welfare Trust

The Board Approved the Following Items

- Resolution 5545: Step 3 Complaint Consideration
- Resolution 5546 Authorizing Third Party Sales through February 1, 2018
- Business Agenda

Adjourn

Chair Brim-Edwards adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm.

In accordance with ORS 192.650, the District's official School Board meeting minutes are maintained via video recording, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8CC942A46270A16E>. The agenda and back-up materials for this meeting can be accessed at <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/board/7862.htm>. Please contact the School Board Office at 503-916-3741 for questions or help accessing information.