

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1J, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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February 11, 2013

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1J, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON  
BLANCHARD EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER  
PORTLAND, OREGON

A Study Session of the Board of Education came to order at 6:00pm at the call of Co-Chair Greg Belisle in the Board Auditorium of the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon St, Portland, Oregon.

There were present:

Pam Knowles  
Ruth Adkins  
Bobbie Regan  
Trudy Sargent - *absent*  
Martin Gonzalez, Co-Chair  
Matt Morton -  
Greg Belisle, Co-Chair

Alexia Garcia, Student Representative

Staff

Carole Smith, Superintendent  
Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Senior Specialist

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the proposed Jefferson Enrollment Boundary recommendation: Stephanie Laning, Arjan Duyvestein, Eric Ridgway, Jason Holmberg, James Erickson, Sheila Carlton, Nate Young, Tierra Salmon, Terrence Moses, Shawntrelle Carson, Pamela Kislak, and Kristen Schweitzer

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the termination of the bus to Ockley Green: Joseph Justice and Shanda Justice,

Co-Chair Belisle thanked everyone who engaged in the Jefferson Enrollment Balancing process. He stated that no decision had been made by the Board. In regards to the letters that were sent to families regarding the Ockley Green bus, that was an entirely different process than the enrollment balancing.

**JEFFERSON ENROLLMENT BALANCING DISCUSSION**

Director Adkins stated that she would like to incorporate a middle school in the Jefferson Cluster as a potential outcome rather than a combined K-8 at Ockley Green.

Director Knowles commented that she would like to see Chief Joseph and Ockley Green be a merged campus without the intent to eventually close Chief Joseph. The neighborhood is growing; if the District put energy into marketing and increasing the capture rate, she believed both schools would overflow. We should keep both schools viable. There may be a time when a middle school is right in the Jefferson Cluster and we should investigate that. We need to review our transfer policy and enrollment boundaries, as well. Director Knowles admitted that she was in a quandary about Sabin and ACCESS at King. Both communities feel passionately about their schools and right now she needs more information on how that would unfold.

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Director Regan stated her mixed feelings on whether we should merge both campuses right away, and she does not like the idea of moving ACCESS to King as she did not believe it would allow both programs to grow. She would hold off a year on the decision and try to find a home for ACCESS that makes sense. Directors Adkins and Knowles concurred. Co-Chair Belisle reminded the Board that ACCESS was a program and did not need Board approval to move them to a different building.

Director Morton commented that the District should focus on maximizing program opportunity, and he did not think that eventually closing Chief Joseph was right for us.

Co-Chair Gonzalez commented that he has been pretty consistent in not favoring the closing of schools and has voted accordingly. The community continues to reiterate that the threat of closure does as much damage as a closure itself. The issues the kids brought up tonight were issues we have not dealt with, and that is the issue of race and class as a District. We need to strive to have TAG students in all schools instead of supporting an alternative program. He had expected the redrawing of boundary lines in this process, and he has been recommending that Vernon boundary lines be changed for years. The current Board owns the actions that were approved by previous Boards. Our actions have led to a disengagement of parents of color. He has heard the community say, "the Board has already made a decision so why should I go to a meeting?" If we form a task force, it has to be representative of the people in the community and people of color. He wants to see some real planning as to what the impact will be.

Student Representative Garcia stated that we should not close any schools in the Jefferson Cluster, and she considers the merge of Chief Joseph and Ockley Green as a closure. We should develop a long-term plan and fix the transfer policy.

Co-Chair Belisle mentioned that he understands the transfer policy contributes to this discussion, and he understands random boundaries contribute. He worries that we do not have confidence that we are fixing the issue. People do not want to lose their neighborhood school because they don't want to lose what they have there. If we think it's complex in the Jefferson cluster, expanding to district-wide will really be complex. He worries that we will embark on something that will give us no better solution.

Director Adkins commented that SACET has been working in depth on enrollment and transfer for a few years and we have not tapped into their expertise and the work they have put in. There are many perspectives; it involves race and class, but she thought it was appropriate to take a step back from any sweeping changes and have only limited change next year. Looking at enrollment and transfer district-wide is long overdue. We need to try to get it right this time. We need to put an equity lens on our work.

Superintendent Smith agreed that this was a complex issue. Boundaries and the transfer policy are not aligned with our equity policy. This is the right moment to say stop and do not do a radical change. Boundaries are a huge issue that may require working with the city. We will not do it cluster-by-cluster as we have in the past. Co-Chair Belisle stated that he would like to have the city involved. Director Morton added that we have been using an outdated tool in our decision-making. District policies are not in alignment with what we are trying to accomplish.

At 7:43pm, the Board took a five-minute break.

### **DISTRICT COUNCIL UNIONS CONTRACT AGREEMENT**

Sean Murray, Chief Human Resource Officer, reported that the 2013-2015 collective bargaining agreement with PPS and DCU was before the board for consideration. Brock Logan, Labor Relations Director, provided an overview of the agreement.

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## **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Sascha Perrins, Regional Administrator, reported that SB 290 will go into effect on July 1, 2013, and PPS will be in compliance with that law. The key compliance areas are: collaboration, required elements, and implementation. Mr. Perrins and Gwen Sullivan, President of the Portland Association of Teachers, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Lisa McCall and Kitty Hagler of Irvington provided an overview of the previous teacher evaluation which was lacking and very subjective. In using the new tool, it is very explicit and attributes of cultural competence are woven in the rubrics. The new evaluation is a much better tool.

Director Regan questioned, five years from now, if staff felt the evaluation tool will improve achievement. Mr. Perrins responded that the tool will depict what culturally competent instruction looks like. We will need to do some more work on hiring and Professional Development.

Lynne Shlom Ferguson, Sean Murray and Karl Logan reviewed PowerPoint slides with the Board.

Director Adkins stated that it was essential to have great leadership in every building and she was glad to see how we are improving. It feels we are getting much more strategic, but we were still not there.

Director Regan mentioned that the principal rubric does not mention the principal knowing each student by name and providing student leadership opportunities. For non-represented staff, it does not appear that there was any understanding that their work supports the work of schools and improving student achievement.

## **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

David Wynde, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the budget process and timeline.

Ben Keefer, Principal, and Sue Ann Higgins, Chief Academic Officer, explained the district staffing team and focus of subcommittees. The staffing team charge is: to advise the Superintendent; work through different models; help prioritize important aspects of programs and impact on programs; assist in the communication of context/background criteria; and make recommendations on school staffing issues.

Co-Chair Belisle asked the Board to pick six topics to look at this year. Director Knowles suggested full-day kindergarten and CTE partnerships. Director Adkins suggested curriculum, dual language immersion, online learning, and special education. Director Regan stated that she would like to know how staff would spend an additional 5% in their budget, and also hear more on high school staffing. Co-Chair Gonzalez suggested our investment in Professional Development and what it would look like if we invested differently. Director Morton stated that he was curious to know where we are now and what kind of outcome we have seen over the last year. Co-Chair Belisle stated that Board leadership would try to narrow down the topics and get back to staff.

## **ADJOURN**

Co-Chair Belisle adjourned the meeting at 9:43pm.

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Other Matters Requiring Board Action

The Superintendent RECOMMENDED adoption of the following item:

Numbers 4714

Director Gonzalez moved and Director Adkins seconded the motion to adopt the above numbered item. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously (vote: 6-yes, 0-no; with Director Sargent absent and Student Representative Garcia voting yes, unofficial).

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**RESOLUTION No. 4714**

2012-2014 Agreement between the District Council Unions and  
School District No. 1J, Multnomah County Oregon

**RESOLUTION**

The Co-Chairs of the Board of Education and the Chief Human Resources Officer are authorized and directed to execute the 2012-2014 Agreement between the District Council Unions, representing trade workers and laborers, and School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon on the terms presented to the Board and filed in the record of this meeting.

*S. Murray*