



STUDY SESSION INFORMAL MINUTES

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the actions taken by the School Board and of discussions and reports given. Anyone interested in viewing the full meeting, please visit the School Board website at <https://www.pps.net/domain/219>.

A Study Session of the Board of Education came to order at 9:18 pm at the call of Board Chair Lowery. This meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19 and streamed live at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ppscomms/videos>

Attendance

Present: Board Chair Lowery; Directors Bailey, Brim-Edwards, DePass, Kohnstamm, Moore, Scott; Student Representative Shue; Superintendent Guerrero

Absent: None

Other Attendees

Dr. Shawn Bird – Chief of Schools
Kara Bradshaw – Executive Assistant, Board of Education
Shanice Clarke – Director of Community Engagement, Strategic Partnerships
Dr. Gregg Cuellar – Deputy Superintendent, Instruction & School Communities
Dr. Sarah Davis – Senior Director, STEAM Education
Jonathan Garcia – Chief Engagement Officer
Liz Large – Contracted General Counsel
Brenda Martinek – Chief of Student Support Services
Dr. Esther Omogbehin – Regional Superintendent
Rosanne Powell – Senior Manager, Board of Education
Terry Proctor – Manager, Multimedia Services
Sharon Reese – Chief Human Resources Officer
David Roy – Senior Director, Communications
Keeley Simpson – Regional Superintendent
Stephanie Soden-Back – Executive Chief of Staff
Dr. Luis Valentino – Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Jenny Withycombe – Program Administrator, Health & Physical Education PK-12
Don Wolff – Chief Technology Officer

Pre-meeting

The virtual meeting opened for attendees to arrive at 9:15 pm. No deliberation or decisions were made prior to the start of the meeting.

Agenda Topic

Time Started: 9:18 pm

Dr. Luis Valentino shared that the Health and Physical Education curriculum ties to work being done on the Suicide Prevention Policy. Dr. Sarah Davis introduced Dr. Jenny Withycombe. Dr. Davis noted that the PE Curriculum also ties to the graduate portrait. Jenny Withycombe shared that there has been a shift in focus from content-based to skills-based approaches. She added that since distance learning began, they have focused on socio-emotional learning specifically. She stated that the lesson they would be presenting is based on one data point in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) taken by high school students. She explained that they shared high school data and a seventh-grade lesson because a high school trend must be mitigated in middle school. She noted that the 2019 survey showed that up to 1/3 of

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students navigate depression and suicidal thoughts, a ratio which is higher for girls. She noted that LGBTQIA+ data was not collected but that it would begin to be collected in the next version of the survey. She provided an overview of what was meant by suicide prevention, noting that Portland Public Schools is doing most of the things on the CDC list. Dr. Withycombe presented the lesson and the board participated.

The board provided feedback on the lesson. There was discussion regarding Sexuality Education. It was noted that age-appropriate Sexuality Education is taught with one of the four physical education units in each grade level from Kindergarten through eight-grade. She noted that it is taught twice in high school. Director Scott asked how they find a balanced curriculum. Dr. Whithycome stated they take a four-prong approach, including state mandates, state standards, global best practices, and areas of focus for each school. She added that their goal is to provide students with a range of healthy behaviors and provide them with skills to help them be prepared to make tough decisions.

Adjourn

Chair Lowery adjourned the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Chair Lowery noted that there would be a Special Meeting held on January 5 and that the next Regular meeting will be held on January 12.

Submitted by:



Kara Bradshaw, Executive Assistant
PPS Board of Education