

**Portland Public School District 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board of Education Study Session**

**June 16, 2014
Informal Minutes**

The study session of the Board of Education came to order at 6:00pm at the call of Co-Chair Pam Knowles in the Board Auditorium of the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon St, Portland, Oregon.

There were present:

Pam Knowles, Co-Chair
Ruth Adkins
Bobbie Regan
Tom Koehler
Steve Buel
Matt Morton
Greg Belisle, Co-Chair

Andrew Davidson, Student Representative

Staff

Carole Smith, Superintendent
Caren Huson Quiniones, Board Clerk

BOARD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The Board honored Tan Dai, graduate of Madison High School, for winning the Board Scholarship Award. Mr. Dai plans to attend PSU and will major in Education. :

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Burrill stated that he was not accusing the Board as being racists; however, either we all are or none of us are. Mr. Burrill asked the Board to remember forgiveness.

Maureen Kenny stated that her son would not be attending Ockley Green next year as he has experienced physical bullying and received homophobic comments. .

Shanda Justice commented that her autistic child was attending the same school as their older brother, Ockley Green, but now she has heard that they have to be separated and attend different schools where race does matter. Her child has to find another school again due to lack of bus service. A transfer policy will change the community that they have built.

Jessica Thompson, PTA President of Chief Joe/Ockley Green, told her story about institutional racism. She lives in the St. John neighborhood and her child needs to ride the bus. She had been informed the previous week that PPS would no longer provide buses to Ockley Green. She asked the Board to review that decision through the equity lens.

UPDATE: JEFFERSON ENROLLMENT BALANCING

Antonio Lopez, Regional Administrator for the Jefferson and Franklin Clusters, stated that the Board packet provides related policies and next steps for enrollment balancing in the Jefferson Cluster. Richard Gilliam, Outreach Coordinator for the Jefferson Cluster, works with all cluster schools in the marketing and promotion of their schools as neighborhood schools and has been a conduit to parents.

Evelyn Flowers, Vice Principal at Boise Eliot, presented a video on their STEAM program, adding that the program has had a positive change in student attitudes. Director Buel questioned if the Common Core has detracted from their program. Ms. Flowers responded that the state standard have helped guide them in narrowing down what they will do; everything is integrated.

Erin Berg, Principal of King School, reported that she has experienced enthusiasm and support from teachers and parents. Mr. Berg spoke about the programs that are offered at King, e.g, Mandarin Immersion, IB Program, and art. Director Buel asked what Ms. Berg has done to subtract from the teachers workload. Ms. Berg responded that she supports her teachers and has used Instructional Specialist time to alleviate some of the workload for teachers. Director Regan questioned where the District was at with students continuing on with IB in high schools. Superintendent Smith responded that one high school is looking into it, and Lincoln and Cleveland are already IB high schools.

Director Regan asked what the mix of students was in the Mandarin class. Ms. Berg responded that there were a low number of native Mandarin speakers (5) between the two grades and that they were actively recruiting Mandarin speaking families to their program.

Molly Chun, Principal of Chief Joe/Ockley Green, reported that Kristen Moon, Instructional Specialist, will head up the STEAM work at Ockley Green. Ms. Chun stated that the past year had been a challenge as they tried to replicate the Boise Eliot/Humboldt merger. There were different demographics and needs/wants between Chief Joe and Ockley Green, and they have been working on communications and building a community. They have established a Positive Behavior system and strategies and interventions, and they have a very robust enrichment program. Director Regan asked if the new Ombudsmen would be able to help parents with bullying. Superintendent Smith responded yes.

PRESENTATION: LOCAL REFERRAL OPTION

Jon Isaacs, Chief of Communications and Public Affairs, stated that staff was asking the Board to refer the local option to the voters in the fall of 2014.

David Williams, Director of Government Relations, provided a report on HB 2632 which spoke to local option levies and urban renewal districts. Portland voters had approved a local option levy for PPS of which \$7.5 million is currently being diverted to urban renewal districts. By taking the local option levy to the voters in fall 2014, and approved, it would mean that all funds will go directly to the District and PDC would receive less money.

Mr. Isaacs stated that the Board packet contained a draft ballot title and summary statement, and had been approved by legal counsel. The ballot title and summary had been written collaboratively with District's Citizens Budget Review Committee.

Director Regan questioned if the current levy would remain in place if the ballot measure fails in the fall. Mr. Isaacs responded yes.

Co-Chair Knowles stated that she was concerned about actually putting a number to the teaching positions in the ballot language. She would hate to be in the position of having to place 40

teaching positions in case we do not receive the extra amount of money that we think. Director Regan suggested making the number 600+ teaching positions, similar to the original levy.

PRESENTATION: ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL SCHEMATIC DESIGN

Jim Owens, Executive Director of School Modernization, introduced the topic and provided a PowerPoint presentation and video. The schematic design process received intense community engagement.

Director Buel requested a comparison of the teen parent square footage between Franklin and Roosevelt high schools.

Director Regan commented that the design was beautiful, but CTE teachers had been missing from the CTE discussions at the Design Advisory Group meetings.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Amanda Whalen, Senior Policy Advisor, reported that a draft of the Correction Action Plan had already been submitted to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), and that the final version will be presented at a future Board meeting for the Board's approval. Last year, our high school courses did not meet the 130 course hour requirement. Staff has submitted a revised schedule to ODE where high school course are all over 130 hours. In addition, the District's complaint policy was out of compliance. The District has hired an Ombudsman to assist families and schools, and the revised Complaint Policy would be before the Board in July. Jon Isaacs added that the District received input on the Complaint Policy from the Coalition of Communities of Color and Our Portland Our Schools.

ADJOURN

Co-Chair Knowles adjourned the meeting at 9:28pm.

Submitted by:

Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk