



## MEETING OVERVIEW

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*The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the reports to and actions taken by the School Board. In accordance with ORS 192.650, the District's official School Board Meeting Minutes are maintained via video recording and may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8CC942A46270A16E>*

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education came to order at 5:09 pm at the call of Board Chair Kohnstamm. This meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19 and streamed live at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ppskomms/videos>

### **Attendance**

Present: Chair Kohnstamm; Directors Bailey, Brim-Edwards, DePass, Lowery, Moore, Scott;  
Absent: Student Representative Latterell

#### Staff and Other Attendees:

Shawn Bird – Chief of Schools  
Kara Bradshaw – Executive Assistant, Board of Education  
Dr. Gregg Cuellar – Deputy Superintendent, Instruction & School Communities  
Guadalupe Guerrero – Superintendent  
Ben Keefer – Vernon principal  
Karl Logan – Area Senior Director  
Barb Macon – Complainant  
Efrema Macon – Complainant  
Rosanne Powell – Senior Board Manager  
David Roy – Interim Senior Director, Communications  
Keeley Simpson – Regional Superintendent  
Stephanie Soden-Back - Chief of Staff  
John Stellwagon – Legal Counsel

### **Pre-meeting**

The virtual meeting opened for attendees to arrive at 4:45pm. No deliberation or decisions were made prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Formal Complaint 2020-03**

Ms. Barbara Macon provided comment regarding the family's complaint, including percentage of black student success, lack of support of black affinity group, and exclusion by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

There was discussion regarding communication platforms available to the school for communicating with families.

Ms. Macon was asked what the district could do to be more responsive. Ms Macon stated that it would feel responsive when student scores jump up, when students of all races are proportionally participating in things that can benefit them, when accusations of retaliation are responded to, when there is actual changes.

There was discussion regarding the autonomy of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and what control the district has over independent groups. It was noted that a letter was sent to the PTA asking them to change the name of the Facebook page to be clear that the PTA is not affiliated with Portland Public Schools.

There was discussion regarding the original investigation and response. There was discussion regarding school-based activities and District oversight of non-PPS programming, noting that they are not devoid of district input and oversight, and that the programs are primarily student and interest driven.

Chair Kohnstamm asked Ms. Macon if she wanted to go into executive session to discuss specific aspects of Principal Keefer's performance. Ms. Macon declined. Chair Kohnstamm also asked the board if they would like to address principal Keefer's performance in an executive session, to which there was request to move into executive session.

There was discussion regarding the bucket drumming program, and equitable programming across the school community including ways to increase participation.

Director DePass requested an amendment of the resolution to include the following language:

The Board also acknowledges that the district in its February 21, 2020 letter to the Macons apologized to them for a chant that occurred during a school assembly. "While it was not planned, supported, or encouraged by Vernon staff, school and district leaders are responsible for the activities that occur in our buildings and school sites and for ensuring that inappropriate incidences are not repeated". As district leaders, the buck must stop with us. While an apology may not make you whole, we want you to know we are deeply sorry. We apologize for this disrespectful action and will learn from our missteps. The district acknowledges the racial disproportionality in the makeup of students participating in various school and SUN programs, and will work with the Vernon community to assure that all students have access to programs that enrich their learning.

Director Brim-Edwards requested information regarding accountability for the recommendations made in the complaint process. There was discussion regarding the complaint process and follow-up accountability. Chair Kohnstamm thanked Ms. Macon for her time, and that she hopes that the recommendations made address the concerns that she addressed and that the board will be following up.

#### **Following Items were Approved by the Board**

- Amendment to Resolution 6030 to include the following language:  
The Board also acknowledges that the district in its February 21, 2020 letter to the Macons apologized to them for a chant that occurred during a school assembly. "While it was not planned, supported, or encouraged by Vernon staff, school and district leaders are responsible for the activities that occur in our buildings and school sites and for ensuring that inappropriate incidences are not repeated". As district leaders, the buck must stop with us. While an apology may not make you whole, we want you to know we are deeply sorry. We apologize for this disrespectful action and will learn from our missteps. The district acknowledges the racial disproportionality in the makeup of students participating in various school and SUN programs, and will work with the Vernon community to assure that all students have access to programs that enrich their learning.
- Resolution 6030: Resolution to Uphold the Superintendent's Decision on a Step 3 Appeal – Complaint No. 2020-03, as amended.

#### **Following Items were Not Approved by the Board**

- None

#### **Adjourn**

Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Submitted by:



Kara Bradshaw, Executive Assistant  
PPS Board of Education