



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1J, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON  
 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
 January 07, 2020

MEETING OVERVIEW

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*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 School Board website at <https://www.pps.net/domain/219>.*

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education came to order at 6:05 pm at the call of Chair Amy Kohnstamm in the Board Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon.

**Attendance**

Present: Chair Kohnstamm; Directors Bailey, Brim-Edwards, DePass, Lowery, Moore, and Scott; Superintendent Guerrero, Interim General Council Liz Large

Absent: Student Representative Latterell

**Recognitions**

Chair Kohnstamm and Directors Lowery, Brim-Edwards, and Scott shared their gratitude and remembrances for Commissioner Nick Fish.

The Franklin High School boys Soccer and boys Cross Country teams were recognized for winning state championships. Proclamations were read honoring the athletes, coaches and administration.

**Business Agenda.**

Director Brim-Edwards stated that Miller Nash, which is listed under the contracts resolution, are a legal service provider and asked if the district has diversified their legal service providers and whether it has led to the negotiation of better rates. General Council Liz Large replied that yes, there are variety of firms that have been contracted with and that it has allowed them to negotiate better rates, or hold rates.

**Student Comment**

None

**Public Comment**

Karen Zink: Chapman kindergarten overcrowding. Mother of kinder student at Chapman. Overcrowded and unsafe kindergarten classrooms. 27-28 students in each class. Not just size that is concern, 40% low income and 14% transient housing, who need more support. Children are witnessing hitting, kicking, and elopement. It is impossible for the experienced teachers to keep order. Volunteers stay all day because they do not feel it would be safe to leave. 2000 new housing units in the last year, with more opening, designed for low income families. What will you do? The school needs another kinder classroom and educational assistants, and there would still be 20 students in each class. We should be doing better for our children.

Brian Gerber: Benson Enrollment Cap. Parent of Benson student, DAG member and Benson Manufacturing & Engineering teacher. Needs to increase number of students coming in to the school from 300 to 365. Demand for CTE coursework is high. Will allow the school to be closer to target enrollment when the remodeled building opens and will allow programs to be brought back. There was a resolution increasing the freshman enrollment to 365, which never happened. It would be a waste of capacity to not increase prior to the opening of the new school.

Mark Jackson: Academics of Students of color and Community Partnerships. Here to send a message about community and community voice. Director of REAP providing services at Beach Elementary School. The community is committed to helping students. Resources taken away from community programs. Asking the board to reevaluate funding community partners to help provide opportunities to have mentors of color.

Renee Anderson: REAP. The program was at Boise-Elliot, and was taken away, and is now at Beach. The program gives the students mentors and gives them the opportunity to see people who look like them at school. Research shows that community based programs make a difference. There is not enough money to add paras, and community organizations could help support. Students who are unprepared in middle school will go into high school unprepared. The student success act monies are to be used for students of color, special education students, and homeless students. They are the students who are suffering now.

Michael Grice: Long time educator, has been teaching since 1969. Thanked Portland public schools for supporting Martin Luther King Jr. initiative. Works on solution side of things. Read a quote. Many schools face the challenge to know what to do. Identify qualities in successful teachers. Was cross country runner, and acknowledged the Franklin cross country students.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Hopes that everyone had a restful break. Initiatives have been rolled out and work is being done on more. There is work being done on an investment account plan for the Student Success Act funds, a balanced budget recommendation, a master dyslexia plan, climate justice work, and middle school redesign, including looking at course work and arts programs. Work progresses at Lincoln and Madison High School, as well as ramping up maintenance work in schools across the district. Acknowledged Commissioner Nick Fish.

### **2020-23 Agreement Between District Council of Unions (DCU) and School District No. 1J, Multnomah County – Resolution 6026**

Carol Hawkins shared that a market study was done prior to bargaining which helped to align the district contract with the market, and hopes that the adjustments that were made will increase the ability to recruit and retain employees. Pat Christensen, union negotiator, shared that the process was collaborative. Introduced Jennifer Bazner, Vice President of the DCU council.

### **Appeal to the Board No. 2020-01 – Resolution 6023**

The board directors discussed the district's response to the complaint and the plan that was put into place. Dr. Valentino shared that they have been and will continue to rolling out the Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC). It was also noted that the area senior director is spending at least one day a week in the school. Director Kohnstamm requested an update to the board and communication with the family on the progress being made.

### **Appeal to the Board No. 2020-02 – Resolution 6024**

The board directors discussed possible options to enforce leash laws at schools with the limited capacity. It was decided that a call could be made to the city to see if there is any way to partner with them for enforcement options.

### **Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair – Resolutions 6025 & 6028**

Director Kohnstamm was nominated as board chair and Director Moore was nominated as Vice-Chair.

## **Resolution to Develop a General Obligation Bond Proposal – Resolution 6027**

Director Scott shared that the School Improvement Bond Committee had been looking at the option of moving forward with a new bond in 2020, and that it is the recommendation of the Committee that they approve the resolution to develop a bond proposal. Director Brim-Edwards stated that the intention is to move forward without increasing the bond rate, and also share there have been external audits on the previous bonds and audits on cost estimation practices and that the district is in the process of implementing recommendations made. Director Moore stated that it would be important to be transparent about the process. She also noted that the board would be looking for balance between a plan to rebuild schools while also leaving room for projects that come up.

## **Division 22 Report to the Community**

Deputy superintendent Gregg Cueller presented the report, sharing that the district has made improvements from the last report. There are four categories that the district is still out of compliance on, which are Instructional Materials, Library Programs, Talented and Gifted (TAG), and Dyslexia Services. There has been a lot of dyslexia professional development and he is confident that the district will be in compliance next year. There is librarian professional development taking place, to improve instruction in timing and sequence. The district is also looking to increase library and library assistant Full Time Employment (FTE), and to add Overdrive for digital and audio titles to increase library collections. There is continued work on developing the Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC) and making a decision on curriculum adoption.

## **Board Work Plan**

Chair Kohnstamm introduced the board work plan, noting that creating the list of work to be done is step one, and the next step is creating a timeline for the work to be done. There was discussion regarding items that could be added to the plan, and how the document could be revised to reflect measurement of progress. It was noted by Director Scott that the document should have a draft on it, as the document was meant to be a starting point for discussion. Director Bailey will lead future work on the plan.

## **School Improvement Bond Committee Report**

Director Scott share that the committee discussed the referral of the committee to move forward with the bond proposal, as well as received an updated on the school modernization projects.

## **Public Comment on Action Items**

- Resolution to uphold the superintendent's decision on complaint No. 2020-02  
Public Comment  
Nimah Crews: Introduced his children, sharing that they are the recipients of the lack quality instruction.  
Karanja Crews: She is the president of 4<sup>th</sup> grade, her goal is to be president of her class in each grade, get straight A's and go to college to become a lawyer. She sometimes has the same learning targets week after week. She gets M and Es but did not pass the state reading test, with only two students in her class passing the state test.  
Aaron Crews: 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Boise-Elliott. Asked what the expectation of kids learning? Can we have more and better learning? Why do schools that serve black students not have as much funding as other schools?
- Resolution to Develop a General Obligation Bond Proposal  
Public Comment  
Steve Buel: It is important to update schools for student's health, but there is a problem in the disparity of cost estimation and actual cost. Where did the disparity come from? An audit of bond spending needs to occur, which was not part of the bond audit that took place.

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

- Business Agenda: Resolutions 6018 through 6022
- Resolution 6023: Resolution to Uphold the Superintendent's Decision on a Step 3 Appeal – Complaint No. 2020-01
- Resolution 6024: Resolution to Uphold the Superintendent's Decision on a Step 3 Appeal – Complaint No. 2020-02
- Resolution 6025: Election of Board Chairperson
- Resolution 6026: 2020-23 Agreement between District Council of Unions and School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
- Resolution 6027: Resolution to Develop a General Obligation Bond Proposal
- Resolution 6028: Election of Board Vice Chairperson

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

None

**Adjourn**

Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the meeting at 9:59 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is schedule for January 21, 2020.

Submitted by:



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Kara Bradshaw  
Executive Assistant