



**CHARTER SCHOOLS AND ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING
INFORMAL MINUTES**

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the discussions and actions taken by the committee and reports given. The full video recording can be found on YouTube @ <https://youtu.be/-NdIKULunnY?si=sfWTr5aHJbU2cynz>

A Meeting of the Board of Education's Charter Schools and Alternative Programs Committee came to order at 3:05 pm at the call of the Committee Chair Kohnstamm. This meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19 and streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ppscmms/videos>

There were present:

Committee Members

Directors Bailey, Director DePass, Director Kohnstamm (Committee Chair) and Student Representative Shue

Staff and Other Attendees

Kara Bradshaw – Executive Assistant, Board of Education
Rosanne Powell – Senior Board Manager
Claire Hertz – Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations
Beth Hutchens – Opal School
Jani Iverson – Opal School
Jenny Braden – Administrative Assistant
Jill Domine – Arthur Academy
MaryGage Davis – Opal School
Stephani Walker – Executive Director, Arthur Academies
Tara Miller – Portland Arthur Academy
Tara O'Neil – Director, Charter Schools
Tara Papandrew – Opal School

Pre-meeting

The virtual meeting opened for attendees to arrive at 2:46pm. No deliberation or decisions were made prior to the start of the meeting.

Introduction

Director Kohnstamm provided an overview of the requirements for public charter school renewals.

Portland Arthur Academy (PAA)

Time Started: 3:07 pm

School Presentation:

Executive Director of Arthur Academies, Stephani Walker, provided an overview of Portland Arthur Academy. Tara Miller presented information regarding Portland Arthur Academy including their extracurricular activities, student of the quarter, academic successes, and testing. Jill Domine shared a financial overview, noting that the school is financially stable. Stephanie Walker shared some of the school's challenges, including not having a gym or playground, teacher retention, insufficient FTE, and high cost of PERS. She provided a summary of Comprehensive Distance Learning implementation, adding that the teachers teach all day.

Board Director Questions:

- How has the school addressed racial inequities and the most recent racial uprising?
 - Ms. Walker shared that they used tools provided by PPS and age-appropriate focused lessons.
- What actions are being taken to hire more teachers of color?
 - The hiring pool is limited because they cannot provide competitive packages.
- What does sufficient FTE look like?
 - They would provide more leveled focus groups.

Testimony In Support:

- Ashley Wenrick: Second year at Portland Arthur Academy. Impressed with school and feels like they are part of a family.
- Andrea Guillet: They are happy with the school. Her students are excited to be part of the community.
- Solomon Teke: Second year at the school. Teachers are wonderful and flexible and help the students when they need it.

Testimony In Opposition:

- None

Opal Academy

Time Started: 3:38 pm

School Presentation:

Beth Hutchins provided an overview Opal School, noting that they were the first public charter and have had 200 students graduate. A video was shown that highlights the Opal School philosophy of Playful Inquiry. Beth Hutchins introduced staff who joined them on the call.

Questions:

- None

Testimony in Support:

Video recordings with testimony in support were shown from Erin Moulton, Xavier Pierce, Angela Bargas, and Alija and Zilika Gardner.

- Kat Langman – Mother of Opal School 4th grader. Her student has gained confidence, and learned to solve problems independently. Supports and challenges students where they are. Child has blossomed academically and personally. He feels connected to the school community.
- Bathshua Mendoza- Parent of a second grader at Opal. At Opal academics and character are valued. The school needs better funding. She is pleased with Opal and the results they've seen with their son.

Testimony In Opposition:

- None

Director Kohnstamm invited each of the schools to look at the draft real estate policy and provide feedback. There was discussion regarding diversifying students and staff.

The committee referred the renewals will be brought to the full board for consideration on March 09.

Adjourned

Committee Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the meeting at 4:22 pm.

Submitted by:



Kara Bradshaw, Executive Assistant
PPS Board of Education