

RESOLUTION No. 6109

Resolution Approving 20% Furlough through July 2020 and Modifying 2019-20 School Calendar

RECITALS

- A. The COVID-19 global pandemic in 2020 has impacted nearly every part of Oregon's society and economy.
- B. The COVID-19 virus and the state's public-health response will have a significantly negative impact on the state economy. Public entities, including school districts, depend on state revenue derived from business and individual income taxes and other state taxes and revenue sources that will be dramatically reduced in the next fiscal year 2020-21 and likely beyond.
- C. As a result of the Oregon Governor's several executive orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Portland Public Schools closed all school buildings to in-person academic operations and has converted instruction to a distance-learning model.
- D. The 2019-20 PPS academic calendar allocated three additional school days--June 8, 9, and 10--for use for possible inclement weather make-up days.
- E. In accordance with the Governor's executive orders, any 2019-20 budget funds that can be preserved in the current fiscal year will increase an ending fund balance that can be used to offset some of the significant budget cuts that will be required in the 2020-21 fiscal year.
- F. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Congress has enacted the CARES Act, which provides for an additional \$600 per week for each week eligible employees receive full or partial unemployment compensation from the state. These federal dollars are designed to provide economic stimulus revenue into our community and local economy. CARES Act unemployment benefits offset the financial impact on individual employees due to loss of wages as a result of reduced work hours. The CARES Act unemployment benefit expires on July 31, 2020.
- G. Reducing the work week and PPS compensation by 20% (partial furlough) for PPS employees eligible for CARES Act unemployment compensation before July 31, 2020, may save the District the equivalent of over 100 school staff and other positions for the 2020-21 school year.

RESOLUTION

- 1. The Board thanks PPS families and employees for their hard and innovative work to serve students to the fullest extent possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board also thanks students for their perseverance, adaptability, and dedication while school has changed so dramatically.
- 2. In order to prudently manage district budgets and take all reasonable steps to preserve current year budget funds for use next year when budget funds will be significantly reduced, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to implement 20% furloughs through no later than July 31, 2020, for all CARES Act eligible employees as necessary to preserve budget funds for use in the next year. In doing so, the Superintendent should modify operations to maintain necessary school district functions, minimize financial impact on employees, and comply with the Governor's executive orders. The Superintendent is also hereby authorized to enter into memoranda of agreement with the District's labor partners to effectuate these furloughs under relevant collective bargaining agreements.
- 3. The Board also hereby modifies the 2019-20 school calendar to close on-line instruction and related supports on May 8, 15, 22, 29, and June 5.
- 4. The Board further modifies the 2019-20 school calendar to add back the instruction days set aside for inclement weather so that three additional days of instruction occur on June 8, 9, and 10.