



August 27, 2019 MEETING OVERVIEW

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 6:06pm 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; Student Representative Latterell; Superintendent Guerrero
Absent: None

Student Comment

Ella Shriner, Katja Erringer, Elliot Nopp, Lana Perice: Student Climate Strike Coalition. Students presented their comments together as one. A letter was delivered to the Superintendent regarding the Student Climate Strike, September 20th. They are counting on Portland Public Schools to support them. Many students will want to join and would like the district to take action to support the students. They would like for all administrators to be aware of strike, for all schools to be given clear and consistent guidelines, to insure that students will not be penalized for striking, to insure that no penalties to athletics, for the district to provide lessons about climate change for use on the day of the strike, and to facilitate safe routes.

Public Comment

Barb Macon: Hiring and retaining teachers of color. Graduation rates have increased at Roosevelt and current principal has hired staff of color. Three suggestions: 1) Transparent system for hiring, 2) create check-ins with staff of color that are guided by staff of color to find out what they need, 3) track African born verses American born black students. She would like to engage colleagues with the things she's learned but there is no space for it.

Superintendent's Report

Central office staff will be out in the schools supporting on the first day of school. He will be visiting Grant, Jefferson, Scott and Rigler. The opening of the modernized Grant is a milestone in the modernization program. Madison High School students are now at Marshall so that they can work on the modernization of Madison and Lincoln High School modernization starts in a few months. Over 100 teachers new to the profession had a two-day new teacher training. Training was also held in Dyslexia, for the Portland Federation of School Professionals (PFSP) staff and more trainings are scheduled in the next two weeks. A number of new principals are starting this year, many hired from within, in addition to a handful of veteran administrators. He interviewed each principal in the final round of hiring himself. Project Community Care was a huge success and he thanked all of the volunteers who were there. A video was shown from Project Community Care day. He introduced Dr. Russel Brown, the new Chief of Systems Performance.

Presentation from PFSP President Belinda Reagan

She has been bargaining with the district for 12 years and would like to thank all of the people who were involved. Bargaining felt collaborative for the first time. She believes the reason for that is because they worked in house with people who care about the employees and the outcomes, without outside bargainers. The salary is always important, but the changes to the secondary language is what make employees happy and feel appreciated. Only three people voted not ratify the contract. Thanked all the board and all the people involved with bargaining and urges them to vote yes to ratify the contract.

Quarterly Update: Bond Accountability Committee

Kevin Spellman: Each bond project has met its timeline. The program came under budget, but was significantly more expensive than thought it would two years ago, would like a debrief on why, so that lessons can be learned for future projects. While all promises made to the tax payers were finished, it should be communicated that some aspects of the project were not completed. Madison has broken ground and has started off with a slight increase in budget, and would like to caution against starting that way. Waiting for study that would give some indication on what other districts are doing.

Dick Steinbrugge spoke on the responsibilities of the future Bond. He gave each board member a handout regarding Earthquake Resilience Performance Standards. The risk horizon and viewpoint should be higher on the new buildings because we are responsible for caring for them for up to 100 years, which means we should be thinking about exceeding code so that in a large earthquake, so that the buildings don't end up a complete loss after an earthquake. The suggestions on the handout can be done with minimal cost impact on new construction. Would like for the district to get outside consultants who can look to see how much the increase would cost for a variety of options and have it presented back to the board.

Quarterly Update: Office of School Modernization

Dan Jung gave a summary of the information that was presented to the Bond Accountability Committee. Approximately 24 school buildings / facilities were worked on this year. An outside source was hired to do a cost comparison of projects from other districts. It is challenging to compare and is taking longer than expected. He clarified that each of the last four new schools have at least one large area that is seismically supported up to a level 4. That level of support will continue going forward, and it will be looking into ways that it could be increased. Cost mitigation and cost contingency plans were discussed. Director Brim-Edwards asked for clarification regarding what changes will be made with or without the board approval. Dan Jung shared that when the team goes over budget they discuss what could be done to get back in budget. If the changes do not impact the design and master plan they proceed but if it is a reduction in scope or change in the master plan it is brought to the board. It was noted that the Franklin and Roosevelt Final Construction reports would be ready in a few weeks.

Discussion of Board Goals

Doctor Brown presented the newest draft of Board Goals, stating that the goals are very similar to what was discussed in the previous meeting. The previous data was removed because the 2018/19 data will be available soon. He discussed SMART Goals and how the different aspects of it are meant to fit together. He encouraged Board to think about growth and not just proficiency, which doesn't mean that we don't have a common expectation that is over and above what is expected to graduate. He offered a few options for measurement of goals. The board decided that they were close to deciding on goals, but that they would like another opportunity to discuss the goals before making a decision.

Discussion of Board Governance Structure

The committees on the table to continue forward with are: Audit Committee, Charter and Alternative Programs Committee, Bond Committee, and Policy and Governance Committee. Most meetings would like each committee to have a monthly cadence, with the Audit committee meeting quarterly and the charter committee would meet less, until renewals came around. The individual board members will meet with Chair Kohnstamm to figure out where the interests are in committees which will result in a complete list of committees and appointments to the committees to vote on.

Board Committee and Conference Reports

The Audit Committee put together a draft work plan, with discussion on the essential elements. There was discussion on hiring the new auditor. They referred the Audit Charter to the Board.

The Policy and Governance Committee has a few policies on the table. The Professional Conduct Policy is hopefully going to be in the final round of review by the committee. The Healthy and Substance Free Schools Policy will likely be referred to the board for the first reading at the next meeting and the committee will be looking at the Search and Seizure Policy for the first time.

Resolutions pulled from the Business Agenda for Discussion

- Resolution 5958: Director Brim-Edwards reviewed the changes that were made to the Audit Committee Charter since its original posting. The Board discussed those changes and questions they have. The resolution was withdrawn pending further discussion.
- Resolution 5956: A motion was made to amend the resolution, changing the word “supporting” in the second to last paragraph of the resolution to “support”.
- Resolution 5951: The INVO Healthcare Associates contract was added to the business agenda late. It was added late because the contract would provide services to students with Autism and autism like needs they should begin when school begins.

Action Items

- Portland Federation of School Professionals Contract Ratification
Public Comment
None
- Amalgamated Transit Union Contract Ratification
Public Comment
Jimmy Applehandz: Contract Ratification was a breath of fresh air. It was more collaborative, and while they didn't agree on everything, many good things came out of the contract. The health benefits for part time employees and accepting a three-year contract was really great. Appreciated the changing to gender neutral language. Speaks volumes that it only took two months, as opposed to 20 months like last time.
Beth Blumklotz: Appreciated the tuition reimbursement for professional development. School bus drivers feel forgotten about. Encourages the board to go for a ride along with a bus driver, just wait until October. Parents trust their children to them. They have more students than they've had in the past, which is a big deal for them. Appreciates better understand of what they do. Thank you for going back and forth with them.
- Business Agenda
Public Comment
None

August 27, 2019

The Board Approved the Following Items

- Resolution 5954: Resolution to authorize 2019-21 Agreement between Portland Federation of School Professionals and School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, OR
- Resolution 5955: Resolution to authorize 2019-21 Agreement between Amalgamated Transit Union and School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, OR
- Motion to Amend Resolution 5956
- Resolution 5956: Resolution Authorizing the Naming of the new Lincoln High School's Athletic Field, the Mike Walsh Field
- Business Agenda

Adjourn

Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the meeting at 10:25 pm.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm to be held at Grant High School.