



Portland Public Schools Board of Education

October 11, 2023 Policy Committee Meeting

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://youtu.be/-FK1nvTEgrI?si=ducWVSL7gO1zxMsz>

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*The Index to the Minutes is a document which details the actions taken by the full Board of Education at a meeting and which includes the Resolutions that were adopted.



MEETING OVERVIEW: POLICY COMMITTEE

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the reports to and actions taken by the Committee of the Board of Education. In accordance with ORS 192.650, the official Meeting Minutes are maintained via video recording and may be viewed at <https://youtu.be/-FK1nvTEqrl?si=ducWVSL7gO1zxMsz>

The meeting came to order at 4:35 pm at the call of Committee Chair Julia Brim-Edwards. This meeting was held at the Dr. Matthew Prophet Education Center (Prophet Center) 501 N Dixon St. Portland, OR 97227 and streamed live at: <https://www.youtube.com/@ppsboardofeducation/live>

Attendance

There were present:

Committee Members

Directors Julia Brim-Edwards (Committee Chair), Michelle DePass, and Eddie Wang

Staff and Other Attendees

Kara Bradshaw – Executive Assistant, Board of Education
Emily Courtnage – Director, Purchasing and Contracting
Mary Kane – Senior Legal Counsel
Liz Large – Contracted General Counsel
Rachel Lent – Paralegal
Dr. Esther Omogbehin – Regional Superintendent
Rosanne Powell – Senior Board Manager
Terry Proctor – Manager, Multimedia Services
Andrew Scott – Board Director

Agenda

<i>Time Started</i>	<i>Agenda Title</i>
4:35 pm	Introductions
4:38 pm	Policies in the Public Comment Period
4:51 pm	School Initiation and School Closure Policy 6.10.030-P
4:52 pm	Rescissions: Strategic Plan Policy 0.10.010-P
4:54 pm	Purchasing and Contracting Rules
5:28 pm	Religious Holidays x.xx.xxx-P
5:39 pm	Ethics Policy
5:46 pm	Equitable Private Funding of School Staff
5:56 pm	Public Comment
6:07 pm	Adjourn

Committee Referrals

The Committee referred the rescission of the following policies to the full Board for a First Reading:

- Strategic Plan Policy 0.10.010-P

Student and Public Comment

- *Katherine Hu Sasaki – Foundations*
- *Nazgul Chester – Class Size Policy*
- *Katherine Day – Foundations*
- *Ella Robinson Backer – Foundations*
- *Jason Stevens - Foundations*

Committee Discussions

Policies in the Public Comment Period

- 5.10.025-P Diversity in Employment (formerly Affirmative Action Policy)
- 2.20.010-P Naming School District Property
- 3.10.031-P Class Size Guidelines and School Staff Allocations

Staff: Dr. Esther Omogbehin

Director Brim-Edwards noted that Diversity in Employment Policy 5.10.025-P and Naming School District Property 2.20.010-P had a first reading at the 10/10/23 Regular Meeting. She shared that Class Size Guidelines and School Staff Allocations Policy 3.10.031-P has received a fair amount of public comment on the policy revisions and provided an overview of the referred revisions. There was a discussion regarding Dual Language Immersion (DLI) student services and staffing formulas, with a note that DLI programs have less flexibility to balance enrollment. Staff stated that further data on DLI programs would be shared with board members, and the policy would be considered again at a future Committee meeting.

School Initiation and School Closure Policy 6.10.030-P

Director Brim-Edwards noted that she is awaiting for suggested revisions to the School Initiation and School Closure Policy from another Board member and that the Policy will be brought back to a future meeting.

Policies for Rescission - Discussion and Potential Action Strategic Plan Policy 0.10.010-P

Director Brim-Edwards provided an overview of the history of the Strategic Plan Policy 0.10.010-P that is recommended for rescission. She noted that it is outdated, there is a current district-level Strategic Plan in place, and the Board has more recently adopted goals. The committee referred the rescission of the Strategic Plan Policy 0.10.010-P to the full board for consideration.

Purchasing and Contracting Rules

Staff: Emily Courtmage and Liz Large

Staff presented an overview of the proposed changes, emphasizing that certain rules are statutory, while others offer discretionary flexibility. The discussion covered various aspects, including adjusting board approval thresholds to align with the formal procurement process, removing strict caps on amendments to contracts, and delegating contracts funded externally to the superintendent. It was noted that any contract amendments meeting the board approval threshold would be brought to the Board whether it is an amendment or new policy. Special procurement rules were also addressed, incorporating language for medical services and allowing the procurement of copyright materials, including digital resources. Committee members were encouraged to direct additional questions to Director Brim-Edwards and Emily Courtmage by October 20, 2023, with the expectation that the rules will be presented at a future committee meeting for referral.

Religious Holidays x.xx.xxx-P

Staff: Liz Large and Mary Kane

The committee reviewed the initial draft of a Religious Holiday policy, with Director Brim-Edwards offering background on its development. She noted that a previous Policy Committee established a calendar indicating religious and cultural holidays to aid schools in scheduling around these dates, and this policy would serve as the next step. Staff informed the committee that the policy integrates current practices and feedback from previous meetings, drawing inspiration from similar policies in other organizations. Points discussed included finding a balance between respecting religious beliefs without showing favoritism, allowing for excused absences with optional makeup opportunities, and clarifying that scheduling grade-

level or school-wide events on noted dates should be avoided. Committee members should submit questions by October 20, 2023. The draft will be reviewed in a future policy meeting.

Ethics Policy

Staff: Liz Large and Mary Kane

Staff presented an overview of the draft policy, emphasizing its aim to balance ethical values and statutory language. The policy encompasses core ethical values, detailed definitions, and guidelines for gifts applicable to all employees. Additionally, it addresses conflicts of interest, gifts, and procedures for reporting concerns, and emphasizes non-retaliation rules for good faith reporting. The presentation concluded without further discussion, and committee members were encouraged to submit any questions by October 20, 2023.

Equitable Private Funding of School Staff

Director Brim-Edwards shared that the Board will receive a presentation on the Fund for PPS at an upcoming Board Study Session. Additionally, she noted that all schools received discretionary school-based funding as a pilot. There was a request for a report on how the discretionary funds were used. Any additional questions or data requests from Committee Members should submit questions by October 20, 2023.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Julia Brim-Edwards adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Submitted by:



Kara Bradshaw, Executive Assistant
PPS Board of Education