

School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Work Session of September 26, 2017

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Work Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 5:22pm at the call of Chair Julia Brim-Edwards, Board Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

There were present:

Jim Harris, General Counsel

Chair Brim-Edwards stated that there was not a lot of visibility by Board Members on the Board Office Budget and there was a significant change last year in which the budget was reduced by \$100,000. Ryan Dutcher, Financial Consultant, commented that over 40 emails had been exchanged with the previous Board regarding their budget. Chair Brim-Edwards requested that monthly Board Budget Reports be provided to Board Members. Chair Brim-Edwards asked for a sense from the Board on how they want to distribute or allocate their discretionary budget. She recommended that they first pay for those positions who travel as a representative of the Board, and that \$40,000 should be added to the Board Budget for additional travel expenses. In addition, we will need to prioritize those positions that travel on behalf of the District, but not a specific amount per person. Chair Brim-Edwards also suggested that Board Members should be allowed to take one national trip, attend one state conference, and attend two OSBA events a year. Director Moore suggested that all travel be authorized at a Government Rate. Director Bailey asked that a future discussion occur on Professional Development needs for Board Members. Chair Brim-Edwards asked Director Bailey to draft language on potential Board Professional Development.

Legal Budget

Chair Brim-Edwards reported that last year, there was about \$2.1 million in Legal Office expenditures and asked how the District could have a \$4 million budget for one law firm. Jim Harris, General Counsel, responded that the \$4 million would be for two years. Chair Brim-Edwards questioned why the District would approve a two-year vs. one-year contract. Mr. Harris responded that most legal expenditures were related to litigation in the Human Resources Department. The District currently has 30 Tort Claim notices, of which 11 were Human Resources, and those will be the most expensive issues. A two-year contract was proposed with Miller Nash as some cases take two years to resolve. Chair Brim-Edwards stated that she would like to know if we have the right financial mix for legal, e.g, in-house vs. outside legal counsel, and that the discussion should occur at the next Finance, Audit and Operations Committee. Ms. Brim-Edwards mentioned that Board Members did not have a lot of satisfaction in the responses they were given from Miller Nash on a host of cases.

ADJOURN

Chair Brim-Edwards adjourned the meeting at 5:59pm.

Submitted by:

Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk
PPS Board of Education