



OCTOBER 24, 2017 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 website listed below.

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education came to order at 6:13pm at the call of Chair Julia Brim-Edwards in the Board Auditorium of the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon.

Attendance

Present: Chair Brim-Edwards; Directors Anthony (*via phone*), Bailey, Esparza Brown, Kohnstamm, Moore, and Rosen; Student Representative Tran; Superintendent Guerrero; General Counsel Harris.

Recognition: Resource Conservation

Nancy Bond, PPS Resource Conservation Program Manager, was recognized for receiving the Intertwine Alliance's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Portland Community College Bond Renewal Statement of Support

Director Moore provided her Statement of Support for the PCC Bond Renewal.

Announcement

Chair Brim-Edwards provided an updated on the independent investigation into issue concerning former employee Mitch Whitehurst and asked anyone who had information to phone or email it in; the information may be provided anonymously.

Student and Public Comment

Aiden Boatner: 4th grader at ACCESS Academy, thanked the Board and Superintendent for learning about his school. The students there were all different, but similar. He asked the Board to keep ACCESS as part of their plan and to keep ACCESS students together and make it available for more kids.

Phoebe Perez: happy and excited to be at ACCESS as she learns so much there. She hopes other kids get the same experience and that they need a bigger building.

Layla Conley: 8th grader at ACCESS, has seen a huge transformation in herself since attending ACCESS. She asked that the Board please keep ACCESS students together and provide a home where they can learn.

Francisca Alvarez: a teacher of Dual Language Immersion in 2nd grade at Scott, stated that there were inequities that she and her students encounter on a daily basis. Literacy curriculum is provided to her in Spanish; but she has to translate math and writing lessons from English to Spanish. Where is the equity for her students, especially the ones who have been historically underserved. In addition to translating teaching materials, she translates during parent/teacher conferences and translates district documents.

Sarah Brown: art teacher at Ainsworth and Maplewood, shared the realities of her workload. She teaches 1,018 students a week and is also expected to know their IEPs, family information, etc. PPS needs to be a district that supports all learning styles. If one school were funded enough to hire her full

time, she could ensure that each student was finding success in learning. She asked the Board to please secure a contract with the Portland Association of Teachers that supports good teaching and learning.

Greg Burrill: school budgets have been cut in every biennium for the past 27 years. The 7th graders he is teaching this year are different from those in the past, and not in a good way. He is as discouraged as he has ever been. He asked the Superintendent to make the best decisions he can to provide the best resources to provide the best education kids can get.

Comments from Portland Association of Teachers (PAT)

Suzanne Cohen, PAT President, stated that the dysfunction in PPS has gone on long enough. The Board and Administrators need to start listening to the frontline educators as they are in the classroom every day; you need to trust their professional judgment and support them. You need to make sure they have the tools, training and time to teach their students. This was PAT's second year without a contract. There was an enormous disconnect between what the Board is told by administrators and what is actually happening that the teachers see in the classroom. Ms. Cohen asked the Board what they had learned about opening Ockley Green. It was clear that any new middle school needs a schedule that works for all students and staff, reasonable class sizes, the need to allocate planning time for the entire staff to build the systems to run a school smoothly, and you cannot keep adding "nice to haves" while you cut the "have to haves". We owe it to the Tubman and Roseway Heights communities to make sure the new middle schools succeed; however, you also owe that to the Ockley Green community. Their patience is as expired as their contract. The Board has the ability to solve the problems we face in the classrooms and to settle a contract.

Action Items

- Harriet Tubman and Roseway Heights Middle School Clusters

Public Comment:

Bryan Chu: who will Tubman really be opening up for? The school to prison pipeline no longer exists. It has been shapeshifted into the school and prison nexus where prisons and schools mirror each other, both hungry for black and brown bodies. We do not believe what you say because we see what you do and we see what you have done; we are disappointed, unimpressed, but not surprised. PPS reproduces a culture of apathy and indifference under the umbrella of "equity" that in reality facilitates state sanctioned violence against black and brown people.

Taisiya Smith: there are too many knots in the proposed middle school plan. Are you solving racial inequities or redrawing boundaries? If your goal is to open two new middle schools, congratulations, it's in your sights. Or, do you want to create an entire eastside plan? She would like to see middle schools and boundaries addressed in a comprehensive plan.

Tatiana Terdal: has two children with special needs at ACCESS. She asked the Board to delay the vote on boundaries until there is a location for ACCESS where they can stay whole. What happens with those kids who fall between the cracks? They found a home at ACCESS.

Reports

- Update on Draft Public Records Policy
- Council of the Great City Schools Fall Conference Report by Directors Kohnstamm and Esparza Brown
- Board's Policy and Governance Task Force Update from Chair Brim-Edwards

The Board Approved the Following Items

- Resolution 5528: Feeder Pattern and Attendance Area Changes for Harriet Tubman and Roseway Heights Middle Schools (Madison, Grant, and Grant/Jefferson Clusters)
- Resolution 5529: Authorization to Commission Legal Representation
- Business Agenda

Adjourn

Chair Brim-Edwards adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

In accordance with ORS 192.650, the District's official School Board meeting minutes are maintained via video recording, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8CC942A46270A16E>. The agenda and back-up materials for this meeting can be accessed at <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/board/7862.htm>. Please contact the School Board Office at 503-916-3741 for questions or help accessing information.