



JUNE 14, 2016 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 6:00pm at the call of Chair Tom Koehler in the Board Auditorium of the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon.

Attendance:

Present: Chair Koehler; Vice-Chair Kohnstamm; Directors Anthony, Buel, Esparza Brown, Knowles, and Rosen; Student Representative Davidson; Superintendent Smith

Presentation: Seal of Biliteracy

The Board recognized students who had earned the Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma – having demonstrated advanced levels of academic language proficiency in English and their partner language. Students Jacob Chen and Mireya De Lara-Vargas spoke on the importance of being bilingual.

Public Comment

Betsy Malolepsy: spoke on the disparities between the Rigler English only, single-section cohort and the 2-section Spanish Immersion Program. The third grade English-only rom suffered this past year. They suffered academically from being deprived of equal education hours due to behavior disruptions. The immersion classes had 14 or 15 students per class; English only had over 30. Fifth grade immersion teachers received new social studies curriculum; English-only did not. Fourth grade immersion received new Chromebooks; English-only did not. Co-located programs are a recipe for disaster in that they disproportionately harm the most vulnerable students.

Taylor Marrow: his daughter had an exceptional year at Madison, but he would like to see the Board make more bold steps. It was embarrassing that Portland was known for really good restaurants but horrible schools. The area east of 58th gets ignored. The Board needs to take steps to lead us and understand what a renovated school would mean to his community.

Comments from the Portland Association of Teachers

Representatives from four unions addressed the Board: Gwen Sullivan, President, Portland Association of Teachers; Belinda Reagan, President, Portland Federation of School Professionals; Tim Carman, Service Employees International Union (Custodial); James Dean, Service Employees International Union (Custodial); and, Pat Christensen, District Council of Unions (Plumbers and Steamfitters).

Ms. Sullivan stated that all were present due to frustration. They were all concerned about the lead and radon situations. There is a lack of faith in PPS management and every department at PPS is its own silo. With so many silos, leadership becomes difficult. There is a lack of accountability and it feels like it is designed that way on purpose. They asked Human Resources if all employees who felt they were exposed to lead could have their co-pay paid by the District. The response was only if they were staffed at Creston or Rose City Park. That was an obvious statement that the District cares only about covering itself legally and not really concerned about all employees.

Ms. Reagan commented that employees all over the District were afraid for their health. There needs to be consideration for all employees in this District. The Board needs to step forward and follow through with the obligation. Mr. Carman added that he was pretty sure the investigation will address the lack of funds to address maintenance issues; money has been taken from school maintenance and the Board needs to change that direction. Mr. Christensen stated that he is concerned that the District continues to be reactionary. We are in this position as a result of continued underfunding of the Maintenance Department. Boots on the ground gets the work done; we need to increase staffing levels of people who actually do the work, not add more managers. The District has 8.5 million square feet of facilities, yet only two painters on staff. All you've done is allow buildings to deteriorate. The cuts you have made in the past are affecting the classrooms today.

Superintendent Smith stated that staff will re-engage on the discussion around reimbursement for employee lead testing.

Reports

- Update on Water and Air Quality Actions

The Board approved the following items:

- Business Agenda

Adjourn

Chair Koehler adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.

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.