

Portland Public Schools TAG Advisory Council (TAGAC)

June 16, 2014 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attending Members: Terese Bushnell, Johanna Colgrove, Mark Feldman, D. Fleskes, Virginia La Forte, Brenda Ray Scott, Miriam Zellnik (QUORUM PRESENT)

Absent Members: Susan Lattimore, Callie Love, Mercedes Munoz, Diana Ortiz, Amy Rueda,

Attending Guests: Jane Chaddick

Attending PPS Staff: Kimberly Matier, Melissa Goff

I. Call to Order and Preliminaries

6:30

Minutes of May 27 meeting were approved by consent.

Tuesdays were generally agreed upon as still the best nights for meetings next year. Brenda asked whether it was possible to phone in to meetings. It probably depends on the room. (AR: Mark will check whether it is possible to phone into meetings.)

II. Old Business and Unfinished Action Items (AI)

It may not have been clear last month that the resolution included accepting the Recommendations in their entirety. There have also been several small changes made which were highlighted in the version passed out at this meeting. A motion to accept the distributed version was made and passed unanimously.

There was discussion on how to present this document. Mark plans to attach an introductory letter that will serve as the year end report. There was general consensus that Kimberly should also create an introductory letter responding to the Recommendations that would be attached as well when it was distributed.

III. Conversations with PPS

IV. Committee Sessions

Miriam discussed the Equity Committee handout and got input for them to consider. Issues discussed included a support system that would help make it more “socially acceptable” to be the first at school, say, among a group of friends, who would be TAG identified. It might address and “social deterrents” to requesting testing or being TAG identified.

Kimberly noted that she has found data suggesting that identification of white students in PPS is triple that of both national and Oregon norms. Even compared to other districts in the state, the rate is much too large. This would imply that rather than being biased against a racial subset of students, testing was favoring whites instead. Possible reasons could be that (1) testing was identifying an early “growth spurt” rather than true ability or intellect, or (2) there has been a scoring problem. The later could be related to limited term employees doing the scoring. This should be investigated also.

V. New Business

Mark indicated his intent to run again for Chair and so turned the meeting over to Johanna for elections. There were no other nominations and Mark was re-elected. No one accepted a nomination for Vice Chair and that position remains unfilled.

Kimberly announced that she will be leaving PPS. Melissa Goff discussed where the new TAG administrator might be, but both positions are new hires, so has not been decided yet.

VI. Questions and Comments from Guests

VII Adjourn

7:45