

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon  
Board Work Session of January 22, 2019**

**INFORMAL MINUTES**

A Work Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 7:07 pm at the call of Chair Rita Moore in the Board Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

There were present:

Board

Rita Moore, Chair

Paul Anthony

Scott Baily

Julia Brim-Edwards

Amy Kohnstamm

Mike Rosen

Julie Esparza Brown, Vice-Chair

Nick Paesler, Student Representative

Staff

Guadalupe Guerrero, Superintendent

**Student Comment**

Aaron Quiddaw: attended the TAG Program since kindergarten. He stated he was lucky to be going to Franklin High School which has a lot of electives. He's interested in math, but there are less than 10 students who can take a certain math class. Even when classes are available and there are students who want to take them, teachers, resources and time do not always exist. The TAG science curriculum was not good.

**Review of Talented and Gifted Plan**

Aurora Terry, Senior Director College and Career Readiness, and Linda Smith, TAG and IB Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Talented and Gifted (TAG) District Plan. TAG goals include: 1) TAG identification improvement; 2) Professional Development for staff; 3) curriculum development; 4) use formative assessments to inform; and, 5) create individual instructional plans .

Director Bailey asked staff if they feel they have the identification tools to serve the historically underserved students. Ms. Smith responded that barriers are an issue. Many families do not feel comfortable filling out the forms, which happens in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Director Anthony stated that we know from past experience that testing does not identify any historically underserved methods than those we have been using in the past. Having a parent component with that is not going to change anything. We need better tests. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown stated that even a non-verbal test means they can answer in a non-verbal manner. There are a lot of problems no matter what test we use. Ms. Smith mentioned that the District could use the CLED rating scale. Director Bailey asked if other Districts have figured out how to capture historically underserved students; there are no better tests than those we use and that is true across the country. We're stumped by the whole assessment piece. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown indicated that we need to prepare teachers to look outside the box. Director Bailey asked why we even offer an opt-out of TAG services to parents. Ms. Smith responded that it was state law.

Director Brim-Edwards questioned if the list of bullet points provided in the written report marry into the 5 goals that were presented. Ms. Smith responded yes. Director Brim-Edwards requested that the bullet points be broken out and listed under the appropriate goals; she would also like to see a scorecard.

Director Bailey asked, in regards to accountability and quality control around TAG facilitators and the individual plans, how do we know what is happening consistently across the District in quality of services. Does the Principal oversee the TAG facilitator at each school? Ms. Terry responded yes. It will be important to look at the roles and responsibilities of the facilitators. Ms. Smith added that staff will also have conversations about trainings for the facilitators.

Director Brim-Edwards questioned if the 2018 TAGAC report formed staff's plans. Ms. Terry responded yes; a lot of their suggestions were taken into account. Director Brim-Edwards asked how many students have TAG plans. Ms. Smith responded that four students had written plans this year. Director Anthony stated that the TAG science curriculum does not align with TAG students; it is not meeting their needs.

Chair Moore commented that it would be helpful, when giving this information, to clarify how the demographics break out with each sub-group across the District as a whole - the relative rate. Chair Moore asked why we were not tracking kids with 504 plans and only those who have IEPs. Ms. Smith responded that she did not have that information at this time.

Director Brim-Edwards stated that, at the end of this year, she would like to receive a snapshot of the ACCESS program and what problems were presented this year with the two sites, co-location at the schools, what worked and what didn't, and potentially what we need to do for next year to support the students. Director Bailey added that he would like a time when TAGAC can tell us how the lottery process went this year.

### **Middle School Update: Ockley Green, Tubman, Roseway Heights and Lent**

The principals from Ockley Green, Lent, Roseway Heights and Tubman provided PowerPoint presentations which listed their priorities and successes. Director Anthony stated that the students at Ockley were doing much better this year.

Director Bailey stated that he would like a future presentation on middle school bullying.

### **Business Agenda**

#### **Public Comment**

Lori Lyons-Lachman: parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Ockley Green, stated her thankfulness for middle schools, but stated her fear was that Ockley Green would be disbanded in three years. They need more District support. The school is used in the press as an example of failure, but Principal Howard and her staff are starting from scratch. For the first time the culture at Ockley is becoming student centered. Consistency is key and they have a long way to go.

Gabrielle Bolivar-Sargent: parent of a current Ockley green student, stated that Principal Howard was appreciated and she hopes she will stay 3-5 years. All grades are coming in below the national average, but we have, for the first time, open and transparent conversations.

**Adjourn**

Chair Moore adjourned the Work Session at 10:40pm.

Submitted by:

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Caren Huson, Board Clerk  
PPS Board of Education