



**JANUARY 29, 2019, MEETING OVERVIEW**

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*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 6:04pm at the call of Board Vice-Chair Julie Esparza Brown in the Board Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon.

**Attendance**

Present: Vice-Chair Esparza Brown; Directors Bailey, Brim-Edwards, Kohnstamm, and Rosen; Chair Moore and Director Anthony via phone. Student Representative Paesler; Superintendent Guerrero; Interim General Counsel Large.

**Student Comment**

Mika Schow: believes that School Resource Officers (SROs) should remain in PPS schools for the safety of the students. The rising school shootings have spread fear in PPS schools and SROs in the school will make us feel much safer. She also hopes officers can control the drug use in the schools. Having a relationship between SROs and schools is important.

Parker Myrus: he believed that every student should have quality in concentrating and studying, adding that it causes back pain. In a survey at his school, 51% of students said it was painful to sit in their chairs for a certain length of time. He requested a grant to order 36 school chairs which have been proven to be the best for lumbar support. The chairs have been implemented at Franklin High School and are a favorite among students. The chairs are a budget friendly choice and are durable.

**General Public Comment**

Beth Cavanaugh: Flo Analytics work with the future Boundary review should include an analysis of co-located programs and areas of historically underserved students. It needs to be completed in a transparent manner. Parents continue to see the inequities in co-located schools.

Nate Query: asked that the Board keeps its promise to King school and empower them to survive. Racial inequities at Beach overlap with King. The impact on single strands are documented. There is glaring segregation at Beach. It was infuriating that the inequities linger year after year. The District is not adhering to its own equity policy.

Mark Jackson: Director of REAP, stated that they have served the most vulnerable students at PPS for 14 years. REAP leadership has never changed, nor their missions, nor their commitment to serve students. Several months ago, district leaders labeled him as hostile. Consequently, REAPs contract was canceled. Students lost services. The contract was canceled because someone at PPS had the power. Had it not been for Dani Yazdemi, the Superintendent, and the Board, he would not have the optimism he has today of continuing REAPs services to the District.

Kalie Self: Fundraising Manager at REAP, feels they were diminished and undervalued by the District. The District had requested that their work be halted on three different occasions. PPS needs a contract negotiation process that does not delay programming for those students with the most need. There is a need for a clear and transparent process.

## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Guerrero reported on the following: Measure 98 and the funding it provides; conversations with our stakeholders; visiting programs and seeing students in action; visioning process; Classified Connections gathering; Success Schools Survey; *I Have a Dream* event; and, Principal Curtis Wilson received a lifetime achievement award for his service to students.

## Action Items

- Second Reading: Student Representative Policy  
Public Comment:  
None.
- Exemption from Competitive Bidding and Authorization for Use of a Request for Proposals Alternative Contracting Method for the Secure Schools Project  
Public Comment  
None.
- Resolution to Suspend Approval of an IGA between the City of Portland, through the Portland Police Bureau, and Portland Public Schools  
Public Comment:  
Faisal Osman, Madison High School, stated that he was a member of the Multnomah Youth Commission. It was hard for students to attend the meeting due to the time the item was scheduled. The goal is to keep RJA alive, but their Restorative Justice Coordinate was removed from the school. The money for an SRO could be applied to students for emotional support. Why should PPS fund SROs? Many students face trauma around SROs.  
Jamari Signor, Jefferson High School spoke of his experiences as a student. SROs were not performing any duties in high schools. He has not seen them be a resource for students. If PPS is going to give SROs money, then they need to do a job.  
Ben Snead, Grant High School, thought it was a good idea to have SROs in the schools for student protection. They need to have a trustworthy relationship with students and they need to make sure every interaction is positive. If implemented correctly, SROs reduce crime. If they are not involved in disciplinary actions, they can be successful. Mr. Snead discouraged the idea of suspending the resolution.  
Leo Baudhuim, Franklin High School, stated there was a lack of transparency around the initial vote. It was disturbing that Board members were misled when told the agreement had to be voted on by the end of December 2018. Only 4 of the 9 high schools had student participation. The District failed to take marginalized voices into account. The IGA should not be enacted. A student engagement session should be scheduled at each of the high schools at a time when students can attend.  
Nora Burkhartsmeier and Lily Rayor, Cleveland High School, thanked Brim-Edwards for inviting them, adding there was no greater communication to all students regarding the resolution. More time was needed to explore the duties of an SRO. SROs should be educators and role models first. SROs never introduce themselves to students and their power can be misused for disciplinary purposes.  
Breely Buttitta-Acquino, Roosevelt High School, asked if SROs were really the best way the District can spend money. Roosevelt only has four counselors and more mental and emotional support was needed. How are SROs different than cops? There are more similarities than differences. SROs pose a threat in the school. How are putting guns in schools making students feel safe when the SRO can draw their gun at any time. If an SRO can't stop a shooter, why even have them?  
Camilla Arze: Madison teacher, stated was a lack of genuine attempts for student input. SROs do not make students feel more safe and secure. Visit the schools and genuinely listen to the students.

## **Reports to the Board**

- Student Project on Energy Efficiency
- Overview: High School Graduation Rates
- First Reading: Policy Rescissions
- Update: Visioning Process
- Update: Whitehurst Implementation Plan
- Update: Financial Report

## **The Board Approved the Following Items:**

- Resolution 5799: Amendment of Board of Education Policy 1.20.010-P and Student Representative Duties Policy 1.20.012-P
- Resolution 5800: Rescission of Board Policies
- Resolution 5801: Secure Schools Project: Request for Proposals Alternative Contracting Method
- Resolution 5802: Approval of Head Start Policy Council Recommendation
- Resolution 5803: Approving Revised Budget Calendar for 2019-20
- Resolution 5806: Proclamation and Recognition of February as Black History Month
- Resolution 5807: Suspend Approval of an IGA between Portland Police Bureau and PPS
- Business Agenda

## **Adjourn**

Vice-Chair Esparza Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:23pm.

*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.*