

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Work Session of February 19, 2019**

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Work Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 6:12pm 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 and Public Comment

Trypp Burnett: student Alliance at Benson, stated that they need to be part of Benson. The Alliance programs help students graduate and be successful. Alliance facilities are lackluster with mostly high wall cubicles. Alliance needs property funding along with better facilities. Alliance is a very successful program, and it saddens him that Alliance students were not included in the Benson plan in the first place.

Qiwen He: PISA student from China, stated that this was her first year in PISA. PISA has a lot of students from different high schools and is a big family; everyone learns English together. PISA is close to the MAX line and the location is good, but they would like to have a bigger classroom and they want to participate in all activities. With effort they can go to a college they have always wanted to go to. PISA gives them a motivation for learning.

Alfredo Garcia: PISA student from Guatemala, commented that PISA is for new students that come to the USA to learn English. They provide support and help. Students speak intellectually with the teachers, and they would like PISA to stay at Benson. They would also like to add PE, art classes, etc.

Kiana Malsaul: a member of the Teen Parent program, thanked the District for the program and learning. Her baby is 3 months old and her childcare is sponsored by Teen Parent. She appreciates the program.

Luke Hotchkiss: Benson teacher of construction and an alumni of Benson, stated his concern about the long-term future of the Multiple Pathways to Graduation programs at Benson. He thought having their own building made a lot of sense.

Multiple Pathways to Graduation (MPG) Location Analysis

Yvonne Curtis, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction and School Communities, Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations, Dan Jung, Chief Operating Officer, and Jen Sohn, Senior Project Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Staff was recommending Scenario 4B for the Benson Campus:

- a. Co-locate Portland International Scholars (PISA), Pioneer High School, Portland Evening and Portland Summer Scholars and Portland Virtual Scholars within the Benson Polytechnic High School campus.
- b. Build a dedicated building on Benson campus property for MPG programs: Alliance High School at Benson, Reconnection Center and Services, and DART/Clinton School, to be funded through a future Bond proposal.
- c. All students and programs will be relocated during the construction phases of the project. Final temporary housing plans and schedules will be completed after detailed review of temporary location options with each program by the full design team (including the general contractor).
- d. This temporary housing plan includes: Benson Polytechnic High School, including Pioneer High School programs, at the Marshall Campus; MPG programs (with the exception of Portland Evening and Portland Summer Schools) at Kenton School; and Portland Evening and Portland Summer Scholars and PISA at Grant High School for the duration of the Benson Polytechnic High School modernization construction.

The proposal increases CTE pathways; honors current Benson High School students participation in the DAG; allows for separate school space for Benson High School students; and, support for English language learners and special education students.

Director Brim-Edwards asked if any space would be taken away from Benson. Mr. Jung responded no. Director Bailey questioned if Alliance students would be able to use Benson CTE space. Korinna Wolfe, Director of Multiple Pathways, responded that it was too early to determine. Director Kohnstamm asked if the 1700 enrollment for Benson includes the MPG students. Ms. Curtis responded that Benson will be built for 1700 students, and the extra building built for 200 students; it will be a 1900 student campus.

Chair Moore questioned if the two Alliance programs should merge into one. Ms. Wolfe explained that Alliance at Meek program is for younger students that is focused on emotional/mental learning and CTE. Alliance at Benson meets the needs of older students closer to graduation and has flexibility for working students. Superintendent Guerrero stated that we would have to continue developing scenarios and it would add more to the cost. WE don't know if it would even be reasonable. Director Kohnstamm commented that staff should do due diligence on the co-location option. Mr. Jung stated that he would prefer staying on the path right now, with the understanding that staff will look at combining both Alliance programs and come back with that information.

Quarterly Bond Accountability Committee (BAC) Report

Committee Member Tom Peterson provided the report. Mr. Peterson reported that the budget situation for the 2017 Bond program remains dire. The challenge is to maintain fiscal discipline. The Lincoln team has engaged in a couple of important strategies that have borne some fruit.. Faced with a significant deficit during the Design Development phase of the Lincoln project, OSM engaged a professional value engineering firm to lead a 5-day workshop with the team. This exercise succeeded in identifying numerous design/construction alternatives with the potential to save up to \$29.5 million, bringing the project back to budget, without affecting program. This experience has resulted in OSM committing to the same exercise on Benson in the near future.

Quarterly Bond Report

Staff provided a PowerPoint presentation which included information program cost summaries, a water quality proposal for a low-lead drinking water station pilot study, and the latest design for Lincoln High School.

Process/Sequence for Timeline on Enrollment and Program Balancing

The firm of Flo Analytics provided a PowerPoint presentation, stating that the objectives include: maintain healthy and stable enrollment at neighborhood schools; accommodate enrollment growth projections; serve needs of a diverse student body (race/ethnicity, language, income, gender, and special education); and, reduce disparities in educational outcomes. The Guiding Values include: equity in process and outcomes; access opportunities for every student; and, facilities match enrollment and program needs. A timeline of the project was provided, and Board and community engagement would be offered.

Director Kohnstamm stated that it did not make sense for us to postpone focus option schools evaluation until year two; it need to happen in Year 1. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown concurred that focus option schools should be reviewed in the first year of the project.

Chair Moore commented that enrollment and program balancing was an emotion item for many Board members who have been involved for years on the topic. Director Brim-Edwards mentioned that any plan that does not move all of our students back into a middle school configuration will miss the mark; that needs to be prioritized as a district-wide priority. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown stated that we also need to look at DLI and single strands and figure out how to prioritize everything. Chair Moore questioned if Flo Analytics would have a grand vision at the end of Year 1 of what we are going to end up with and where we are headed. Flo Analytics responded that they have to understand the entire system and learn of the strengths and weaknesses; they will have ideas of things that could be adjusted elsewhere. Director Bailey commented that the District set out to do this ten years ago and only had success with the first two schools. Our constituents want us to look at the entire District.

Adjourn

Chair Moore adjourned the Work Session at 10:11pm.

Submitted by:

Caren Huson, Board Clerk
PPS Board of Education