

May 1, 2018

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1J, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON
BLANCHARD EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
PORTLAND, OREGON

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Public Hearing of the Board of Education, sitting as the Budget Committee, came to order at 6:06pm at the call of Chair Julia Brim-Edwards, in the Board Auditorium at 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon.

There were present:

Julia Brim-Edwards, Chair
Rita Moore, Vice-Chair
Julie Esparza Brown, Vice-Chair
Paul Anthony
Mike Rosen
Scott Bailey
Amy Kohnstamm - *absent*
Moses Tran, Student Representative

Staff

Guadalupe Guerrero, Superintendent
Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk

Ryan Dutcher, Interim Budget Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed budget as of April 24, 2018.

Public Comment on Proposed 2018-19 Budget

Jennifer Samuels and Christy Scatarrella: advocated for the PPS K-3 Read Together initiative which makes a difference to 3rd grade reading outcomes. The Program supports PPS equity and racial goals. In 2016, the PPS Data and Evaluation team reported that gains were made by students who participated in the initiative. We are proposed to have cuts in 2018-19, so please reinstate the initiative this coming year.

Sarah Vanbuskirk: asked that PPS utilize communications more transparently as taxpayers are funding the bond under false information. Do not place ACCESS at daVinci. She asked why communities were not solicited for information. Last Friday, daVinci families received an e-mail from the Deputy Superintendent on co-housing ACCESS at daVinci. How can a school community be told instead of being involved?

Brian Conley: he has not seen an itemized budget, so he doesn't know how ACCESS is included in the budget. Bus routes will need to double if ACCESS is placed on two sites. You have only budgeted \$16.8 million for transportation. The District moves forward with plans, but the public does not see how it benefits ACCESS students.

Cody Weathers: ACCESS deserves a commitment in the 2018-19 budget. Champion ACVCESS and make it stronger.

Grace Groom: provided percentages of students historically underserved and in single strand classrooms. ACCESS needs a home. If it is going to be split, it will be more costly. It's irresponsible to put off boundary review any longer. Focus Option review was also needed.

Steve Buel: in the last few years, PPS has moved to stabilize their libraries. Where is the money for books and materials for the libraries? Is the new Superintendent now an anti-library person? 13 librarians have been cut to half-time. How much money is there for library books and materials?

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JaneAnne Peterson: 338 children of ACCESS do not have a home next year, and it appears that ACCESS will be split. How do we know those assurances aren't empty promises? Where is the cost of moving ACCESS to two sites? Where are the costs in the budget? Where is the budget for reuniting the program? The promise that any split is temporary is doomed. Why do you want to make the program more expensive?

Catherine Greenblatt: spoke on behalf of the daVinci Arts middle school. The proposal of co-locating ACCESS at daVinci had never been mentioned before the letter they received from Dr. Curtis last Friday. PPS could find a home for ACCESS if they chose.

Pat Christensen: current President of the DCU union workers that maintain PPS facilities, which have been underfunded for decades. We have turned into an emergency services department. We had commitment from the Board that additional maintenance staffing would take care of the renovated and new buildings, yet major cuts are proposed for the maintenance department. This is a total reversal of your commitment.

Jessica Colby: encouraged putting money toward data collection and Focus Option review. Vestal is losing kids; ACCESS needs a home.

Put money toward the soft neighborhood model as she does not see how it can put us in a worse position than now.

Raji Baskaran: Focus Option needs to be reviewed. ACCESS is a need and not a luxury; it is the only place her son has thrived.

Percy Marrow: student at Madison High School, stated that Madison received \$7 in donations last year, yet other high schools in wealthy neighborhoods get thousands. It does not seem equitable. As you look at the budget, there are students that don't have as much money as others.

Chair Brim-Edwards adjourned the public hearing at 7:09pm.