



JULY 11, 2017 MEETING OVERVIEW

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 Chair Julia Brim-Edwards in the Board Auditorium of the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon.

Attendance

Present: Chair Brim-Edwards; Directors Anthony, Bailey, Esparza Brown, Moore, Kohnstamm, and Rosen; Interim Superintendent Yousef Awwad and General Council Jim Harris.

Recognition: Morrison Hand-and-Hand

Mark Van Hoomissen, Principal of the Portland DART School, thanked all who were involved with the Morrison Hand-and-Hand program and presented a plaque to Drew Henrie-McWilliams, Chief Executive Officer for Morrison Child and Family Services. Mr. Van Hoomissen stated that the Hand-and-Hand program closed on June 30, 2017.

Student Testimony

Maddisyn Bailey: asked the Board to not eliminate athletics at Benson High School; studies show that athletes have a higher GPA.

Public Comment

Jessica Thompson: stated that she was speaking to white school board members and white educators. The PPS Board is an overwhelmingly white board, yet 45% of PPS students are of color. PPS racism has impacted her son. The Board will be making big decisions on school boundaries which will impact our black and brown students.

Devarieous Sly Clay: asked the Board why they were entertaining the idea of removing athletics from Benson, why must Benson be treated like a step-child?
Sports keep kids out of trouble. Let Benson be competitive; every sport is viable if kids want to play.

Smyth Lai: asked that the Board please use D-BRAC's values when making decisions on the Madison Cluster. Please clarify who is in charge of the process and making the decisions. Do not under enroll Scott and do not open Rose City Park as a neighborhood school. Instead, redistribute students into existing schools and look at the high school feeder patterns.

Ginevra West-Foyle: concerned about what happens to teachers and principals when they do not have support from the top. The Scott Principal's resigning was a great loss for Scott and PPS. Other talented leaders will leave if you do not fix the barriers for administrators.

Rob Johns: as a member of the Benson Alumni Association, they just celebrated their 100-year centennial. He would like the Board Chair to sign a Statement of Intent for Benson and asked who was responsible for directing the Benson sports report? The District only seems to be concerned about competition which comes from one individual. Where is the money being spent and how are sports being evaluated? Mr. Johns also asked the Board to lift the enrollment cap at Benson.

Community Presentation: Tubman Open Enrollment

Tony Hopson stated that the community does not condone the violence and hatred which they read about and see, but they could no longer stand at the sidelines. What they see as the root causes of the current violence are lack of low income housing, no employment, and education. Children of color are dropping out and being suspended. Joe McFerrin II, President and CEO of POIC/Rosemary Anderson, commented that they are seeing increased violence every day. Ronnie Herndon provided a history of Tubman Middle School, stating that displaced children should have the right to return to Tubman, and they would like to hear the Board's proposals in the next couple of weeks. Jefferson High School should have been included in the 2017 bond; plans need to be developed now for Jefferson that speaks to equity and fairness. Mr. Hopson stated that they would like to have a Right to Return from PPS. Reverend Dr. Leroy Haynes, representing the Albina Ministerial Alliance, supports a Right to Return Policy to correct what has been done to the African American community. The last census indicated that 10,000 African Americans were forced out of Portland. Mike Alexander mentioned that there were models and strategies that focus on communities of color, and a discussion is needed by a community of conscience. Chair Brim-Edwards asked Vice-Chairs Esparza Brown and Moore to sit down with the speakers and begin a dialogue in terms of a policy.

Comments from the Portland Association of Teachers (PAT)

Suzanne Cohen, President of PAT, requested monthly meetings with Board Leadership and added that she was present to address leadership and stability at PPS. District Management is broken and that has been a long-term burden. The current Interim Superintendent has no classroom teaching experience. The District needs an education leader. How much stress can the system endure? Instability was a burden on teachers, yet they have been the constant and stability for students. PAT has offered to reset their relationship with the District. Yet, PPS management is pushing for a strike. Did the Board think the District could handle another crisis like that? The Board has the power to do something about it. The Board has the right to find out what is going on in bargaining and see if it is really what you want. Ms. Cohen asked for regular meetings with Board leadership and that the next Superintendent be an educational leader. The Board can stop a strike and stabilize the District.

Reports

- Legislative Committee Report
- Board Operations

Action Items:

- Second Reading: Real Estate Policy
Public Comment:
None

The Board Approved the Following Items

- Resolution 5492: Create a Real Estate Transaction Policy
- Resolution 5493: Authorizing the Sale of the Benson Construction Technology Program House on 130 NE Skidmore Street (formerly 4231 NE Mallory Avenue), Portland, OR
- Business Agenda

Adjourn

Chair Brim-Edwards adjourned the meeting at 7:47pm.

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.