

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Work Session of August 28, 2018**

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Work Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 10:31pm at the call of Chair Rita Moore in the Mazama Conference Room at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

There were present:

Board of Directors:

Rita Moore, Chair
Julie Esparza Brown, Vice-Chair - *absent*
Julia Brim-Edwards
Am Kohnstamm
Paul Anthony
Scott Bailey
Mike Rosen
Nick Paesler, Student Representative

Consultants:

Fiona Hovenden
Sonya Lopes

Staff:

Guadalupe Guerrero, Superintendent
Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent Business and Operations
Yvonne Curtis Deputy Superintendent, Instruction and School Communities
Luis Valentino, Chief Academic Officer
Stephanie Soden, Chief of Staff
Stephanie Cameron, Senior Director of Communications
Jonathan Garcia, Senior Director Strategic Partnerships
Camille Idedevbo, Corporate and Foundation Relations Associate.
Oscar Gilson, Area Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Liz Large, Interim General Counsel
Sharon Reese, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer
Kregg Cuellar, Chief of Schools
Joe LaFontaine, Area Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Rosanne Powell, Board Office Manager
Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk

VISIONING PROCESS

Ms. Hovenden reported that they have spoken to about 160 people including students, principals, teachers, and community members. From those interviews, the following challenges were noted:

- Concern about authentic community engagement
- Ambivalence about change
- The Shadow of History
- Looking beyond current struggles towards future expectations
- Shifting from a culture of autonomy to one of shared accountability
- Media and social media spotlight

In addition, the following enablers were noted:

- Willingness and optimism
- Resources
- Community support for public education
- Strong foundational equity platform

- New Board

The consultants recommended the following:

- Provide high level of transparency and host multiple opportunities
- Clear tracking
- Shift in the data culture: data use in the Vision Process
- Future expectations: seeing what's possible
- Autonomy and Individualism: building a shared vision
- Media and social media spotlight: owning the narrative

Ms. Hovenden stated that the Core Team had been established and was working on their charter. Director Brim-Edwards commented that to date, it seems as though the Board, as elected officials, were trailing in the process instead of being leaders in the process. Board members should be asked about the role they want to play. Ms. Hovenden indicated that weekly meetings had been scheduled with Chair Moore, who is a member of the Core Team. Director Brim-Edwards stated that she wants to see all documents and how the visioning process will be structured.

Ms. Hovenden suggested that the Guiding Coalition could have three Board Members on it, and Board members can be a part of the community sessions, but Board involvement was needed before that. There will be 70 members on the Guiding Coalition, and there will be an installation at the end for the larger public to provide feedback and reactions in terms of the Visioning materials. Director Brim-Edwards stated that it was a huge miss not to include the entire Board. It needs to be rethought in how you engage the Board. This is their major work this fall and all Board members should be involved in it. It will drive our budget, our policy decisions and how we do our work. You will want us to have ownership of it. Mr. Garcia mentioned that Director Bailey would inform his Board colleagues on a weekly basis on items that come out of the Core Team meetings. Director Brim-Edwards asked how the Board will be fully involved going forward as they haven't been to date. Director Rosen stated that he would prefer work sessions on the Visioning Process and that it should be a standing item on the Board Work Session agendas. Chair Moore commented that it was not the best use of Board's time to have updates on logistics. Director Brim-Edwards stated that it was inadequate that Board members just host a Town Hall in their zone; she wants more engagement, and she wants to hear what people in the community have to say. She felt the full Board should be on the Guiding Coalition, and she wants to see what the Guiding Coalition would look like as there was no description for it.

Ms. Lopes had posted a calendar on the wall that went from present day through March 2019. Director Bailey indicated that the calendar explains the Visioning Process. Director Brim-Edwards mentioned that the Core Team should share their agendas with the entire Board so if members have questions, they can contact someone on the Core Team. In a response to a question from Student Representative Paesler, Ms. Hovenden stated that a cohort of students could be on the Guiding Coalition. Director Bailey stated that he would send out the draft job description for the Guiding Coalition and will contact Board members directly for suggested participants.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Noreen Hough: Phase I of the Vision Process took place in June and July when parents weren't around, and principals, PTAs, and underserved groups were not contacted. The Core Team only includes people in the Central Office and does not include anyone who work with students on a daily basis. No one who specializes in Special Education was interviewed. Problems are not only in the past; the current Board and Superintendent have made decisions without enough notice to parents. Stakeholders were not engaged before decisions were made. She understands that the Consultants picked nine questions to be asked without public engagement. Communities want to work with you.

ADJOURN

Chair Moore adjourned the Work Session at 11:50pm.

Submitted by:

Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk
PPS Board of Education