

September 25, 2017

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

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Listening Session of the Board of Education came to order at 6:14pm at the call of Chair Julia Brim-Edwards in the Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon.

There were present:

Julia Brim-Edwards, Chair
Rita Moore, Vice-Chair
Mike Rosen
Scott Bailey

Staff

Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Senior Specialist

Absent:

Julie Esparza Brown
Amy Kohnstamm
Paul Anthony
Yousef Awwad, Interim Superintendent

LISTENING SESSION ON A PROPOSAL TO OPEN TWO NEW MIDDLE SCHOOLS AT HARRIET TUBMAN AND ROSEWAY HEIGHTS

The following individuals spoke in regards to **Kairos PDX Charter School**:

- Dani Ledezma, Kimberly Branam, Ginger Shaw, Angela Querfeld, Mark Holloway, Kara Bader, Eddie Szamborski, Lisa Moreira, Chris Guinn III, Margaret Hinshaw, Jesse Irvine Sramek, Molly Franks, Bill Beamer, Donna Maxey, Chelsea Bunch, Jane Ames, and Tyece Okamura asked the Board to allow Kairos PDX to remain at Humboldt.

The following individuals spoke in regards to **ACCESS Academy**:

- Student Leif Olsen: ACCESS needs a building that it can grow in.
- Martha Ruttle: ACCESS serves the entire school district and was currently co-located at Rose City Park. need a building that is centrally located and that they can grow in.
- Tricia Curl: please find a new home for ACCESS
- Heather Kent: ACCESS was not advocating to move to Humboldt; they are advocating for a building that meets their needs and growth potential.

The following individuals spoke in regards to **Tubman**:

- Brett Horner: if the proposal is not modified, kids will have to go three miles away and cross five busy streets. There are health issues with freeway proximity, such as Interstate 5 to Tubman. Would like assurances that Tubman will be a healthy school and would like to know how freeway expansions would be addressed.
- Bryan Steelman: excited about the reopening of Tubman as a middle school. Crossing busy streets is a weak argument for not opening Tubman.
- Angela Querfeld: supports the opening of Tubman.

The following individuals spoke in regards to **Martin Luther King Jr.:**

- SheiMeka Owens: need appropriate size schools and robust programming. Grandfathering cannot be allowed to create equitable programming in 2018-19.
- Megan Newell-Ching: how can we improve walkability to MLK Jr?
- Nick Mathern: children attend King. The middle school opportunity is not an equitable one and will not prepare students for high school. Asked the Board that, as they make their decision, to understand some schools will need additional resources to be on equal footing.

The following individual spoke in regards to **Roseway Heights:**

- Max Margolis: daughter attends Roseway Heights which could be a quality middle school. Being courageous means making a decision and sticking with it. Parents were present because there has been a lack of courage on the part of the District.

The following individuals spoke in regards to **Scott:**

- Eduardo Belavunzaram: the Scott community was fantastic. They chose Scott for the language immersion. We now have the opportunity to have equity at Scott. Told the Board to go ahead and do it.
- Paul Hoffman: advocating for Scott, but the proposal does not go far enough. Current students need and deserve two sections now. He asked how Rose City Park would fit into the goal of strengthening diversity.

The following individuals spoke in regards to **Vestal:**

- Sabrina Flamoe, principal at Vestal. Her main message was that the process the District uses relies on parents coming out at night to advocate for their kids. It sets communities against each other. Vestal is an amazing place, and a very diverse place, and she could not advocate enough for her middle school students.
- Galen Gamble: Vestal parents were signing a petition that will be passed on to the Board. Please keep Vestal's interests at heart.
- Roz Willoughby: if the boundaries are not changed, Vestal will be underserved. The diversity at Vestal is a gift and she would hate to lose that.

The following individuals spoke in general regarding the boundary proposals:

- Thomas Lannom: five weeks was not reasonable to make a decision of this size. No pre-school families received notice of the proposed plan. Why weren't they hearing a vision for all schools with a real equity lever? Parents are pitted against each other.
- Jen Morissey: the proposal does not reflect the core principles of policies and transparency. This is an urban planning issue. Why wasn't the Board using professionals to determine boundaries? The current proposal leaves so many communities unhappy. A data-driven approach was needed for the east side.
- Michelle Kunec-North: she has two future PPS students, yet she was not notified of the proposals and she could not find any information on the District website. It took her an hour to find the proposal on the web. Families were not hearing about the proposals.
- Heather Penny: a flyer on her door told her that her kids may move to a new school. The proposed plan needs more work. Need to involve parents of kids that are not immediately impacted.
- Jim Holstein: continuing the status quo would be detrimental; the conversion needs to be done next year.
- Andrew Bean: after the process is done, he still does not know if he will take his child to the school down the street or elsewhere. Vernon is skipped in this process. Rose City is full before it even opens. Grandfathering will be an issue on the east side. Asked the Board to take the time to revisit the draft and fix the errors. Open the two new middle schools; that gives you time to balance the feeder information.

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ADJOURN

Chair Brim-Edwards adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.