

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Retreat of November 5, 2018**

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Retreat of the Board of Directors came to order at 4:10pm at the call of Chair Rita Moore in Room GRW 108 in the Library at Concordia University, 2811 NE Holman Street, Portland, Oregon, 97211.

There were present:

Board of Directors:

Rita Moore, Chair
Julie Esparza Brown, Vice-Chair
Paul Anthony
Scott Bailey
Julia Brim-Edwards
Amy Kohnstamm
Mike Rosen
Nick Paesler, Student Rep

Staff:

Guadalupe Guerrero, Superintendent
Yvonne Curtis, Deputy Superintendent Instruction
Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent Business
Stephanie Soden, Chief of Staff
Rosanne Powell, Board Manager

Facilitator:

Dr. Lee Vargas

2018-19 PPS Board and Administration Shared Work Plan and Calendar

The Board began review of their 2018-19 Work Plan. Director Bailey stated that students develop at different paces and that developing a factory model was not student centered. Superintendent Guerrero commented that we should have overall outcome targets that are benchmark, and we should talk about our philosophies. We need to decide which high leverage actions we are ready to deploy and in which schools. Classroom teaching and experience are improving, and the evidence of progress needs to be determined. Director Brim-Edwards commented that it was not a factory model and that for too long, PPS has failed huge groups of kids. If a student was not meeting their learning targets, they just go on to the next grade anyway. We need to say that is no ok. There is no ownership for getting the kids to succeed. The system needs to adjust instead of just passing kids along. Student Representative Paesler stated that some benchmarks need to be revised or created.

Director Baily indicated that the Board needs an annual update on enrollment and where the hot spots are. Ms. Hertz responded that the report will be presented in January, and that this fall, PPS has lower enrollment than last year by 130 students.

Chair Moore stated that clarity was needed of what they mean by a goal, because at some point we need to emerge with actual goals for the year. The goals need to be realistic and doable. Our mission is to make sure kids read at grade level and that they all graduate, but we won't get there between now and June 30th. Ms. Hertz mentioned that the Board has a five-year plan, but you want goals for each year. Chair Moore commented that we need to manage expectations. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown indicated that an additional column should be added to the Work Plan which will contain the outcomes by June 30th.

Director Brim-Edwards commented that in regards to middle schools, the Board needs a timeline and milestones and be able to articulate to the community on how it will roll-out. We need to get some clarity of what we are going to do in the middle grades. In the meantime, maybe we place extra resources which might be a project for next year; we need to show everyone how we are going to get there.

Vice-Chair Esparza Brown stated that she was still stuck on the outcomes piece and the end in mind. Maybe we need bigger aspirational goals – where do we want to be in 3 years? Perhaps we need a bigger goal on school safety. Ms. Hertz responded that that would be out of order; we can't wait for a three year plan to be made. We need to do something now. Superintendent Guerrero added that we

should be held accountable to the work we have identified through the end of June 2019, and we need to be realistic in building the action for the next eight months.

Director Bailey asked if the ELL state compliance was on the Work Plan as PPS was identified as second from the bottom. There were certain targets that need to be met. If we're not compliant by the end of next year, it will be ugly. Director Bailey asked if the City of Portland would also be at the same meeting as PSU to talk about the City Plan. Ms. Hertz responded yes and added that staff will look at everything that goes into a boundary review. We want scenarios to present to the community in the fall. It will take multiple years to accomplish what we need to accomplish and we need an expert to come in and tell us the chunks of work to be done.

Director Brim-Edwards questioned how they were going to build and approve a strategic plan; how will we structure that. Superintendent Guerrero responded that a strategic plan should have clear strategies and defined actions, and that those are co-constructed by staff. We have to put our best thinking around a set of strategies. Director Brim-Edwards asked if a strategic planner would pull the steps together and will there be alignment with our goals and the right strategies and tactics that result in the outcomes. How will the process happen? Ms. Hertz responded that there will be a work session for staff to map the process out, and that we would bring in someone from Boston to help us. Staff would share more as they go forward. We will have a budget framework and then budget message, and then we go through the approved and adopted versions of the budget. Superintendent Guerrero added that the budget would spell out our tactics. He appreciates the goals and objectives, but the tactics and strategies may not coincide.

In terms of the Board's Work Plan, Superintendent Guerrero stated that we should think about more streamlining and outcomes, along with some back-mapping. Also, what are the non-negotiable areas.

Governance Role and Administration Role

Mr. Vargas provided a PowerPoint presentation and stated that everything should be led by Board policy. Director Brim-Edwards suggested reviewing the Board protocols that were determined last year and go from there. Director Kohnstamm added that the Board should formally adopt their protocols.

Director Bailey stated that we need to determine the Board Work Plan and asked if some of the work should be delegated to a Board Committee who brings back a recommendation. The Budget should be done as the Board as a whole. In addition, there may be some policies we would want to rewrite. We need to bookmark policies to make sure they are being followed. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown noted that there were still some basic board operations to discuss, such as communication. How does the Board as a whole get information that only one board member has requested? The Board should have information before anything is finalized by Board vote. The Board should not have something on their regular meeting agenda for a vote when it is the first time they have seen the information. Director Bailey asked for additional information on contracts in the Business Agenda. Chair Moore stated that the Board has a chance to have board training from the Council of the Great City Schools that would require 2-3 sessions. The Board indicated their interest. Director Bailey commented that he was interested in serving on the Legislative and Intergovernmental Committee.

Adjourn

Chair Moore adjourned the Retreat at 8:38pm.

Submitted by:

Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk
PPS Board of Education