

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Work Session of November 6, 2018**

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Work Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 6:01pm 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

Rita Moore-Chair
Paul Anthony
Scott Baily
Julie Brim-Edwards
Amy Kohnstamm - *absent*
Mike Rosen
Julie Esparza Brown
Nick Paesler, Student Representative

Staff

Liz Large-Interim General Counsel
Stephanie Soden-Chief of Staff
Dr. Yvonne Curtis-Deputy Superintendent, Instruction and School Communities
Guadalupe Guerrero-Superintendent
Rosanne Powell-Senior Board Manager
Sara King-Director, Planning and Asset Management
Harry Esteve- Director, Strategic Communications & Outreach
Dani Ledezma- Interim Special Advisor to the Superintendent on Equity
Jen Sohm, Program Senior Manager
Luis Valentino, Chief Academic Officer
Kregg Cuellar, Chief of Schools
Oscar Gilson, Area Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Aurora Terry, Senior Director College and Career Readiness
Joe LaFontaine, Area Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Dr. John Burnham, Temporary Senior Director of Health and Safety
Judy Brennan, Director of Enrollment and Transfer
Paul Cathcart, Senior Manager Construction and Maintenance
Jonathan Garcia, Senior Director Strategic Partnerships
Brenda Martinek, Chief of Student Support Services
Dan Jung, Senior Director School Modernization

Westside Boundary Correction

Ms. Brennan provided the background for the boundary correction. Director Bailey asked if Board policy dictates outreach to the public for a proposed boundary change. Ms. Brennan responded yes, adding that each household received a letter explaining the change as this was just a correction. Principals also received the letter. Director Bailey stated that the Enrollment and Forecasting Committee had recommended approval and that this item go before the entire Board.

Visioning Update

The Board discussed the design and tasks required of the Guiding Coalition I, which will be made up of a diverse number of stakeholders from the community. The Board participated in an exercise to answer the question, "what we need to know about your constituents". Director Bailey commented that he thought the Guiding Coalition would be a diverse group racially, but not by income, and he was not sure if they will be diverse regionally throughout the City.

Short Term Health and Safety Plan

Dr. Burnham reviewed the Short Term Health and Safety Plans. Director Bailey suggested that the next improvement bond include funding for ADA. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown questioned how the process could be fast-tracked in order to make some decisions. Director Bailey commented that a work session was needed on the type of things that hinder a child's education, and then prioritize from there. Determine the large impacts; then we have a framework when we receive the assessment. We will give guidance on the most important pieces to go first. Director Rosen stated that it was all subjective and that the Board would be informed by the communities impacted. He would like to have a conversation during the bond advisory meetings. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown indicated that she would like to know the short-term needs for our current students. Director Brim-Edwards stated that staff should be proactive and bring plans to the Board in a timely manner.

Benson Technical Education Specifications and Master Plan

Dr. Curtis reported that at the last Board Work Session, the Board had six questions that staff responded to via email to the Board. The Board will probably want to schedule an additional Work Session to put the two components together for Benson: facilities and programs.

Ms. Sohm provided background information on the Benson project and provided a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Sohm spoke of the challenges of the building. The Benson architecture class participated in the design of the master plan. Students were most excited about actually having input and having it come true. Director Bailey requested a copy of the student input written summary. The co-chairs of the Design Advisory Group shared the evolution of planning at Benson and the layout of classrooms. CTE was somewhat separated from other program areas. Students really like the proposed social courtyard, but it would be nice if it was a covered area. A cost model was used for the budget; higher end costs for structure, plumbing and mechanical. A Teen Parent Center and Clothing Closet was currently included in the proposed plan. Superintendent Guerrero noted that he did not see visual/performance art classes in the plan. It Benson is going to be a comprehensive high school, he did not want the arts to be an afterthought.

Director Brim-Edwards commented that for the other high schools, we have said there were base standards and asked what they could look at for cost savings. Mr. Jung responded that there were options of additional square footage for CTE space; designing for flexibility has cost associated with it. Spaces are unique to Benson, like the balcony to the auditorium. We could move new construction into an existing footprint, but would need a little more time to vet. Director Anthony stated that Benson had to make compromises on fte and the trade-offs between art programming and CTE programming because it was so limited in size. When Benson had 1700 students, it had one of the most robust art programs in the city.

Director Bailey mentioned that it was hard for him to say go ahead with the master plan as we don't have an enrollment plan for Benson, and we also don't know the CTE programs that will be placed in Benson. Director Anthony commented that the District views students and teachers as widgets where we just put them in places. It seems to him that we always give the leftovers to the multiple pathways students, and we need a more thoughtful solution for them.

Chair Moore stated that she doesn't see how multiple pathways fits in at all. Superintendent Guerrero mentioned that they have been stakeholders in the process. Chair Moore agreed, but it was late in the game. She echoes Director Bailey's concerns; pre-work has not been done. She was interested in exploring the hybrid model and questioned if there would be design implications that need to be considered. Vice-Chair Esparza Brown asked how we can displace some of our most vulnerable students. Director Anthony stated that we need to open up CTE during the summer at Benson, and we need to reassess how we do summer school district-wide.

Director Bailey stated that he would like to see the student academics difference in student preparation of different CTE programs for a comprehensive model vs. a hybrid for a non-comprehensive. What are the skills and abilities that come out of Benson vs. a CTE pathway at a neighborhood high school? Chair Moore indicated that if Board members had additional questions they want to have answered for the next work session, to send them to Dr. Curtis and "cc" everybody.

Director Brim-Edwards mentioned that the Board has a draft resolution before them and that everyone should review it, and depending on the answers the Board receives, create a resolution they want to approve. A staff recommendation was not reflected in the draft resolution. She would like to add language around the enrollment discussion. Chair Moore commented that in the next work session, the Board needs to make some decisions on the model, what we will be doing with multiple pathways and enrollment. Superintendent Guerrero mentioned that we need to be realistic with enrollment; there are plenty of opportunities for adjustments, but we need to frame that out. Regarding the model, we need to resolve it and decide what we are doing.

Public Comment

Dave Kita: please honor the PPS info sheet from February 2017 that was proposed to the voters and allocated 25% of the bond to Benson. Currently, less than 10% of that bond is left. Benson is the flagship CTE high school in the state. Grade rates continue to approve as they approach 90%. As chair of the master planning committee, it was shared with the community that it would be the Benson of the past.

Luke Hotchkiss: graduated from Benson and teaches construction at Benson. They will do what the Board wants, but they could be left limited. At the hybrid model, moving the needle from 8th grade to 10th grade, would make no big difference. High school students should decide on their high school in April. Build the Benson you were just presented with.

Cameron Ingram: construction student at Benson, stated that students feel like scavengers fighting for scraps in what was supposed to be allocated for Benson in the remodeling if alternative programs remain at Benson.

Abigail Brown: senior at Benson, stated she was afraid of how the learning will work, how the CTE will work, and that they will not have enough time to do what they do. In the construction program they work on a house and they could be restricted in what could be taught in that window of time.

Adjourn

Chair Moore adjourned the Work Session at 9:39pm.

Submitted by:

Caren Huson, Board Clerk
PPS Board of Education