

School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Work Session of November 27, 2018

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Work Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 8:30 pm at the call of Chair Rita Moore in the Board Auditorium 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
Mike Rosen
Julie Esparza Brown
Nick Paesler, Student Representative

Staff

Guadalupe Guerrero, Superintendent
Mary Kane, General Counsel
Stephanie Soden-Chief of Staff
Dr. Yvonne Curtis, Deputy Superintendent, Instruction and School Communities
Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Operations
Rosanne Powell-Senior Board Manager
Joe Suggs, Systems Planning and Performance Manager
Dan Jung, Senior Director, School Modernization
Jen Sohm, Program Senior Manager
Luis Valentino, Chief Academic Officer
Kregg Cuellar, Chief of Schools
Aurora Terry, Senior Director College and Career Readiness
Jeanne Yerkovich, Director College and Career Readiness

2018-19 School Climate Survey

Mr. Suggs provided a PowerPoint presentation, stating that PPS conducted staff, parent and student “climate” surveys in 2014-15 and 2016-17, and another climate survey will be performed this year. PPS will collaborate with Panorama Education to gather student and family feedback in order to give teachers and administrators actionable data points that will help them improve student experiences across the District. Students will answer questions about their experiences in their classrooms and schools; families will complete surveys about their perception of the school their child attends.

Benson / CTE / Alliance

Mr. Jung provided a PowerPoint presentation. Staff had presented the Board with three options for Benson: Option A – Comprehensive Focus Option and CTE; Option B – Hybrid Model; and, Option C – District Wide Hub. Staff was recommending the following: Option A – Comprehensive Focus Option high school with enhanced CTE programming; develop and add additional pathways aligned with emerging district CTE plan. Facility Design: campus facilities to support comprehensive high school programming with flexible/modular CTE suites to support a variety of pathways. Enrollment capacity, growth and projections: Maintain current enrollment at Benson during construction, 2021-2024; monitor overall student enrollment growth in PPS; annually review trends; sustain enrollment at other PPS high schools, and gradually grow enrollment at Benson. Multiple Pathways program placements: engage stakeholders (Alliance, DART, Reconnection Services, PISA) to discuss preferences and options – continued co-location and explore the potential of a dedicated custom-tailored campus, which may require a commitment of resources in future Bond campaign.

Director Brim-Edwards commented that the cost for Benson was up \$100 million since the last board approved Benson at \$201 million. Mr. Jung stated that staff will continue to perform value engineering throughout the project. We also will continue to use the methods we have used on the other high schools. Director Brim-Edwards asked that the Board receive the Bond Accountability Committee's view on the proposed budget at a future meeting. Director Brim-Edwards added that she would like to see options on how Alliance can remain at Benson during construction, as for a 3-year time period, it could push a lot of PPS students out. She was reluctant to add other programs at this time in the "Relocation of other alternative schools and programs, including ACCCESS and PISA" as stated in the draft resolution.

Director Kohnstamm questioned if staff felt comfortable moving ahead with the education specifications because they do not consider the other programs in the building currently. Ms. Hertz responded that that was the work staff would be doing between December and March. Director Bailey commented if we were going to move one or more programs out of Benson, that he hoped it would be to a nice permanent facility, not that we will just shove them somewhere.

Chair Moore asked if the current master plan accommodates Alliance. Ms. Hertz responded yes. Chair Moore questioned what we would do for the other programs which are currently housed at Benson. Ms. Cameron responded that the District would hold additional meetings for each program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Trypp Burnett: senior at Alliance at Benson, stated that in the current layout for Benson, Alliance is not showing the space it needs. During the entire remodel, Alliance students would be kicked out of Benson. There is a lot of talk about budget and space, but Alliance needs to stay at Benson as it is a very successful program.

Alex Peters: Alliance student, stated that regular high schools did not work for her. Alliance at Benson was there for her, and it was like that for a lot of other students, too. It is physically accessible and right off every MAX line. The current plan is to move Alliance while Benson is remodeled. Benson students won't, and can't be moved. The message it sends is that Alliance students are less important than the tools at Benson.

Alijah Sefchick: Benson senior, spoke on the water situation at Benson. Every time a student goes to refill their water bottle, distance plays a part in whether they do or not. There are 11 water fountains at Benson and two say they are working and lead free, but actually aren't functional. He asked the Board to please have all the water fountains fixed.

Andrew Ketah: Benson student, stated that at the beginning of the 2016 school year, water fountains were closed due to lead. Many water fountains have been removed while some were being fixed. The "E" wing does not have a functioning water fountain.

Adjourn

Chair Moore adjourned the Work Session at 10:29pm

Submitted by:

Caren Huson, Board Clerk
PPS Board of Education