



**September 10, 2019 MEETING OVERVIEW**

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*The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the actions taken by the School Board and to provide a listing of the reports given. Anyone interested in viewing the full meeting, please visit the School Board website at <https://www.pps.net/domain/219>.*

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education came to order at 6:07 pm at the call of Chair Amy Kohnstamm in the Board Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon.

**Attendance**

Present: Chair Kohnstamm, Vice Chair Brim-Edwards, Directors Moore, DePass, Lowery, Scott, Bailey; Student Representative Latterell, Superintendent Guerrero, and Liz Large.  
Absent: None.

**Land Acknowledgment**

Jackson Wolfe and Aanii Tate of the Grant High School Native Student Union provided land acknowledgment upon which Native lands Grant High School stands.

**Principal and Student Introductions**

Principal Carol Campbell thanked everyone for their support and demonstrating that the student's education is valued.

**Student Comment**

Shirley Ornelas-Ruis: Student of Mt. Scott Learning Center. Took care of her siblings every day and the stress caused depression. She was not on track to graduate, but when she began at Mt. Scott she felt like she mattered, which it helped get on track. She began to get A's with the support of the staff. Graduated a year early with a four-year scholarship at Portland State in the nursing program. She is a first generation college student with a goal to attend OHSU.

Thomas Bodmer: Senior at Mt. Scott Learning Center. The difference between his previous school and Mt. Scott is staggering. He was struggling at home already, and came out as transgender. He had straight Fs at Franklin and pretty much gave up because no one at home was helping with the issues at home. Took it upon himself to look for a new school and ended up at Mt. Scott, where he felt seen and heard, and is passing for the first time. There is no way to express how important the small classes and difference in teaching and community were to him.

**Public Comment**

Iris Hodge: Mt Scott. Parent of a student at Mt. Scott who has ADHD and prior to attending Mt. Scott he struggled behaviorally. Her son was concerned, but for the first time ever he said he liked school and was voted student of the week which inspired him to finish strong. Made an appeal to the Superintendent for equity for arguably some of the highest need students sending a message that they are worth less and her son is not less. Asking what is the funding for, if not to support the students who need it most.

Genie Preisch: Class Sizes. Rose City Park parent. Read a petition from parents at Rose City Park. They currently have two classrooms with 34 & 35 students. PAT sets a threshold of 28 students for fourth grade. Sometimes students with small behaviors will get caught in a classroom with smaller

class sizes but do not get caught with so many students. Many Students with IEPs are not getting the attention they are need. Students with special needs are being negatively impacted with sensory overload. There is space at the school for another teacher, but they would be okay with a support teacher that helps in both rooms.

Mike Bauer: Classroom Temperatures. Staff are working in classrooms that are over 85 degree classrooms at Cleveland High School. School is over one hundred years old and the temperature varies a lot. Classrooms have inadequate heat and cooling systems. It's too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. It is a terrible work environment and the student have a hard time learning. Asking for immediate remedy as well as a long term plan.

Blanca Strode: Student Petition to Transfer. Fifth grade Spanish immersion teacher speaking on behalf of Martha McArthur and her daughter. Maestra McArthur has been a dedicated educator for over twenty-one years. Her daughter Katie has been excluded from attending Franklin High School, where her cohort from Spanish Immersion are headed. Maestra McArthur had extreme medical issues. She questioned why family who has been dedicated to PPS why is being excluded from continuing on with her cohort. She was told by her neighborhood school, that they wouldn't honor her credits from the immersion program she will be behind a year. Please allow her to have her children close to her.

Sarah Adams: Student Petition to Transfer. Parent of two children in Spanish Immersion and is speaking on the denial of Katie McArthur Jimenez into Franklin. She is not asking to come into the community with no ties, she is asking to stay within her cohort, with her friends, that she has been with for 9 years. The parents and students had to sign a commitment to stay in the immersion program and the contract should go both ways. In addition, from a retention aspect, her mother is a dedicated educator and broken promises will not encourage her to stay.

Linda Nezbeda: Discrimination in schools. She stated that her testimony is directed at the superintendent. She has attempted to reach out multiple times to discuss discrimination and has been denied. She is preparing to file a class action law suit against PPS. She is partnering with schools to get resources to them. It has been reported that people have been discouraged from meeting her. She believes that increased community involvement, partnership programs, and student and staff support can be the difference between graduation and dropout.

### **Superintendent's Report**

The superintendent report that it was a terrific start to the school year, which was made possible by teachers, administrators, bus drivers and all others who showed up to help make the first day the first day positive. The Grant High School grand reopening was successful. The ceremony included a number of student performances. A video was shown to recap the grand opening. He noted that Madison High School demolition is underway, the foundation has been poured at Kellogg Middle School and Lincoln High School work will be begin soon. He introduced the Student Success act and discussed what areas school districts are required to focus on, which aligns with many of the district's vision. He shared that the Senior leadership is meeting weekly to discuss what the plan will be a district level, which will include ways that community stakeholders can contribute. A School Success Act website will be active soon.

### **Legislative Update**

Courtney Westling summarized the legislative session from the 2019 session. House Bill 5016 increased per student funding by 9.7%; Measure 98, which invests in grades 8-12, will be fully funded started this year which took a little bit of funds from the Student Success Act (SSA) is going towards funding measure 98 this year and the Student Success Act. She reported that the Student Success Act is being funded by a new commercial activity tax on Oregon Businesses and only applies to business with more than \$1 million in Oregon sales. It is expected that schools will start to see money from the Student Success Act in the 2020-2021 school year. She shared the breakdown of where the money should be invested what types of things are suggested in the broad categories. Other significant legislation that passes were the ODE Budget, Employee Misconduct and Employee Reports, PERS changes, Suicide prevention bills, Holocaust Instruction, paid family medical leave, collective bargaining, Restoration of OEBC double coverage, and School Board and ESD Elections.

**First Reading of Board Policies**

- a. FIRST READING: Professional Conduct Between Adults and Students  
Board Policy X.XX.XXX-P
- b. FIRST READING: Healthy and Substance Free Learning Environments  
Board Policy X.XX.XXX-P

**Discussion of Board Self-Evaluation Template**

Chair Kohnstamm shared that the Board is working towards self-evaluation and getting better at being a board. A Board Self-Evaluation Template was introduced for consideration as a tool.

**Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Process**

The board would like to improve their system for evaluation of the Superintendent. Director Bailey will look into tools and best practices for evaluation and share them with the board. The Board Goals will be reflected in the evaluation of the superintendent. The Board plans to adopt their goals on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and would like to adopt the superintendent evaluation tools at the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Audit Committee Report**

Director Brim-Edwards gave a report of the Audit Committee, stating that Portland Public Schools is the fourth largest governmental entity in the state, and now with the addition of the hiring of a new auditor the audit capacity is close to being where it should be. PPS is the only district in the state with their own auditing function. Phase 1 of the audit plan is underway, starting with contracting component. The auditors will be presenting at the next board meeting.

**Action Items**

- Oregon School Board Association Nominee Vote
- Business Agenda  
Public Comment  
None

**The Board Approved the Following Items**

- Business Agenda
- Nomination of Rita Moore to the OSBA Legislative and Policy Committee

**Adjourn**

Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board will be held on September 23, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the BESC.