



## MEETING OVERVIEW

---

*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 6:04 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; Directors Bailey, Brim-Edwards, DePass, Lowery, Moore, Scott; Superintendent Guadalupe Guerrero; Interim General Council Liz Large  
Absent: none

### Student Comment

None

### Public Comment

Allegra Heidelinde: Bridger Elementary. The third grade classes are two thirds language immersion, with only one neighborhood class. There are 32 students, 5 students with IEPs, and multiple whose primary language is not English. They are advocating for an EA to be added to their classroom. The enrollment balancing date is too late.

Jennifer Breedlove: Comment regarding Healthy Student Curriculum, had an opportunity to meet with Justice Block, Jeff Rhodes, and Multnomah County Sheriff Reese. During that meeting, they discussed mental health and substance abuse curricular being taught at a younger age. Also, in connection to Special Education, her son suffers with autism and it was a challenge to pick him up any time he struggled. More teachers are needed and teachers need more support.

Lara Hall: Member of Parents for Preparedness. Mostly pertains to earthquakes but also works on all emergencies and they look at ways PPS can improve safety in schools. Emailed a document that outlines simple ways that parents can play a roll. Little work will happen if people are uninformed. Would like to send communications regarding disaster go to all students. Have an emergency plan.

Holly Cook: Architect and parents at Sunnyside. Would like to send one paper flier to all families per year on emergency preparedness. They have created a flier that aligns with other organizations and worked to get it to all PPS students, but was not able to get it sent out. Then turned to email, which they also were not able to get it out to all families.

### Superintendent's Report

Franklin High School Special Education Teacher Mercedes Muñoz was named Teacher of the Year by the Oregon Department of Education. They held a surprise assembly at Franklin to recognize her. Ricky Almeida, was also recognized as Counselor of the Year by the Oregon School Counselor Association. Four Portland Public Schools' teachers won awards at the Oregon Art Education Association Awards: Addy Kessler, Lilly Windle, Nicole Penoncello, and Carolyn Hazel Drake. Two teachers were invited to fellowships with Unidos US. Many people are focusing on how to direct the Student Success Act. The most recent principal's leadership meeting primarily focused on principals identifying needs as well as talking about ways to talk to their teachers about it. There are community engagement opportunities upcoming and a survey that people can provide input if it's more convenient for them. They will be synthesizing the information from them all.

**Dyslexia Awareness Month – Resolution 5976**

Chair Kohnstamm shared that as part of ongoing efforts to support dyslexic students the district has hired a dyslexia coordinator, will be providing professional development to every first and second grade teacher as well as establishing a community advisory team.

**National Substance Abuse Awareness Month – Resolution 5977**

Brenda Martinek presented a summary of the continuum of care available to students with substance abuse problem, noting that resources are available on the student success health website, drug and alcohol counselors have been added in high schools, the district has partnered with Regence and Oregon Health Authority to provide teacher professional development, and has created student support groups and parent informational sessions.

**National Principal's Month – Resolution 5978**

Dr. Gregg Cueller introduced the resolution, sharing that it aims to recognize the essential role that principals play to provide optimal learning environments.

**Proclaiming October 2019 Disability Awareness Month – Resolution 5979**

The resolution was introduced by Noelle Sisk, Special Education Community Engagement Specialist. She shared about upcoming events, including a Spanish Language Individual Education Plan (IEP) training, Student Success Act engagement with the Special Education community, and a district wide Understanding the IEP Process session, aimed at education non-SPED parents.

**Authorizing the Amendment to the Bond Accountability Committee Charter – Resolution 5980**

Director Kohnstamm shared that the primary reason to amend the Bond Accountability Committee Charter is to give the committee the opportunity to vet future Bond planning. In addition to strengthening the bond planning work they also included language regarding committee membership, to hopefully increased racial diversity in the committee, increased the chair time to three years to allow for leadership development, and linked the Charter to the state code of ethics.

**Appointment of Community Budget Review Committee Members – Resolution 5981**

Cynthia Lee, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the candidates up for appointment to fill vacant positions on the committee. She additionally requested that a charter be created for the committee in the future. There was agreement that a charter would be useful, with Director Brim-Edwards noting that it would create necessary transparency.

**Adoption of Professional Conduct Between Adults and Students Policy 5.10.064-P – Resolution 5982**

Director Brim-Edwards summarized the new policy, which was a result of a recommendation in the Whitehurst report. She shared that the policy sets guidelines for interaction between adults and students, and that it comes from more than a year's worth of research and outreach with staff, students and the community. She noted that the policy does not just refer to staff, but to all adults that work in the schools including contractors and volunteers. She listed the overarching elements that are included in the policy, noting that the policy emphasizes that the relationships between students and staff are important; it requires annual training; it sets clear guidelines for appropriate conduct, for conduct outside of the school setting, and for conduct for interactions on email and social media; it discusses interpersonal interactions; and it includes travel or transportation guidelines, guidelines for physical and contact with students, a list of violations, information on misconduct reporting, and provisions regarding reporting misconduct and

retaliation. She noted that the board has a goal to make sure that the policy is funded and that it's being followed.

### **Adoption of Healthy, Substance Free Learning Environments Policy 4.30.023 – Resolution 5983**

Director Moore introduced the policy, noting that it is a substantial rewrite of the policy, which steps away from punitive policies and moves towards providing support and treatment for students to help them overcoming it.

### **Adopt Portland Public Schools Board Goals for 2019-2022 – Resolution 5984**

Dr. Russell Brown presented an overview of the board goals, noting that they focus not only on graduation, but also on growth, being ready for the world, developing themselves as people, and honoring multiple pathways. He noted that the high school readiness goal should be aligned to middle school redevelopment. Portland is ahead of a lot of other districts because of the amount of students are participating in advanced coursework, but would like to improve the number of students who are taking multiple courses, particularly students of color. Student Representative Latterell shared that the students at the first meeting of the District Leadership Council discussed the high school readiness goal, specifically the desire for Career and Technology Education (CTE) and International bachelorette courses (IB) to be standard and free in all high schools. Director Moore commented that the new goals were deliberately different from the kind of goals that were set in the past, to make them more actionable and to reflect growth.

### **Approve a Budget Development Calendar for 2020-2021 fiscal year – Resolution 5985**

Cynthia Lee, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the budget calendar, noting that it is aligned with the Portland Public Schools ReImagined, Student Success Act, and a Multi-Year Business Plan, and that it will allow the district to start budget planning.

### **Council of Urban Schools Conference**

Directors Scott and Moore, along with various district staff, went to Miami to tour schools to view the middle school pilot program and to attend the Council of Urban Schools conference. Director Scott share that the middle school pilot program changed all of their schools to block schedules, added art and music electives in all the schools, added advisory groups with decision making curriculum that is focused on in the advisory class. He noted that they are largely a school choice district, and they have one of the largest fleets of school buses in the country. Director Moore added that she was impressed with their focus on the socio-emotional needs of the students.

### **Audit Committee Report**

Director Brim-Edwards shared that the Audit Committee met for the first time on October 9, 2019. The meeting was mostly foundational. They discussed the audit committee charter, the internal auditor's goals, the need for a new risk assessment and a recommendation to add an Automated Clearing House (ACH) audit, and the Secretary of State (SOS) Division audit and the responses to date, as well as received an update from the internal auditors.

### **Public Comment on Action Items**

- Resolution 5976 to Designate October 2019 as Dyslexia Awareness Month  
Public Comment  
Mary Stockton: Facilitator of Dyslexia Parent Group. Thank you for the third year annual proclamation. There are still many students not leaving high school literate. Only 20 % of black students are at grade level. Two best practices for SPED courses in high school: SPED course descriptions included in all high school class guide. American Sign Language

offering in high school, which offers another language that aligns with Students with dyslexia's needs. All ASL classes are on wait lists. Requested action is to provide access to schools.

- Resolution 5979 to Proclaim October 2019 Disability Awareness Month  
Public Comment

Blanca Orozco: Her youngest son has a learning disability. Attends a school that is not his neighborhood school and he is the only Hispanic student in the school. She did not understand the IEP and assumed the school would do the best they could for her son. Her son began to be bullied. She reported it, but nothing was done. She felt helpless. After two years without positive Responses and she took him out of school. She was connected with a migrant's program where she has been taught some of the things she needs to know about IEPs. The system ignored her voice as a Hispanic parent. Something that helped her is to have access to organizations that help parents understand special education.

Alma Mora: She is a parent of five students and as a community leader, she has heard many stories of Hispanic parents within the SPED system. Mothers take students to self-contained classrooms on the first day and all of the communications are in English, and in the office when they ask for help they receive a "we only speak English". Hopes that upon hearing these stories that the board will take it to heart. She knows that the district is in the process of changing its practices. Suggests a Spanish speaking educator as a liaison. Recruitment of paras, EA's who are multilingual and culturally responsive. PD on equity and its intersection on race, language. PD for interpreters so they can better communicate the concepts used during IEP meetings. Invited the board to a dinner to meet at MESD to meet with their action group.

#### **The Following Items were Approved by the Board**

- Business Agenda: Resolutions 5968 through 5975
- Resolution 5976: Resolution to Designate October 2019 as Dyslexia Awareness Month
- Resolution 5977: Resolution to Recognize October as National Substance Abuse Awareness Month
- Resolution 5978: Resolution to Designate October 2019 as National Principals Month in Portland Public Schools
- Resolution 5979: Resolution to Proclaim October 2019 Disability Awareness Month
- Resolution 5980: Resolution Authorizing Amendment to the Bond Accountability Committee Charter
- Resolution 5981: Appointment of Community Budget Review Committee Members
- Resolution 5982: Adoption of Professional Conduct Between Adults and Students Policy 5.10.064-P
- Resolution 5983: Adoption of Healthy, Substance Free Learning Environments Policy 4.30.023-P
- Resolution 5984: Resolution to Adopt Portland Public Schools Board Goals for 2019-2022
- Resolution 5985: Resolution to Approve a Budget Development Calendar for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, aligned with the Portland Public Schools Reimagined, Student Success Act, and a Multi-Year Business Plan.

#### **The Following Items were not Approved by the Board**

None

#### **Adjourn**

Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled to be held on October 29, 2019.