



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 6:03 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:

Chair Kohnstamm; Directors Bailey, Brim-Edwards, DePass, Lowery, Moore, Scott; Superintendent Guerrero; Interim General Council Large

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent congratulated Franklin High School senior Aiden Palmer, who won his second consecutive boys cross country championship and Lincoln High School freshman Kate Peters who took the girl's title at the Portland Interscholastic League District Cross Country Championship. The event was a qualifier for the Classic State Meet, with the top three teams from the district competing. Franklin, Lincoln and Wilson boys and girls teams will compete Saturday November 9, 2019 at Lane Community College in Eugene. Superintendent Guerrero comment that the district is eagerly awaiting election results for the levy, which would continue to fund teaching positions, and reminded people that it's not too late to vote. There will be a work session following the regular meeting to review the findings from the student success act community engagement sessions. A concerted effort was made to meet with a variety of stakeholders, and he thanked everyone who participated. Superintendent Guerrero noted that there are many visual and performing arts events that take place every month in Portland Public Schools and information on those events can be found on PPSArts.com.

Student Representative's Report

Student Representative Latterell shared that she runs the District Student Council which includes student representatives from across the district, including alternative and charter schools. They have been doing a lot of work around the draft revised Search and Seizure Policy. A few student representatives attended the policy committee meeting to offer comment, and they will continue to get feedback from students across the district. Additionally, they will be continuing their School Resources Officer (SRO) conversation that was started last year with students from multiple comprehensive high schools across the district and outside the district.

Student Comment

None

Public Comment

Lita Martinez: Arleta. On Monday, Oct 28 a student ingested crack cocaine, brought by a student. Because of the reaction of the principal, over 50 Arleta parents have written emails to ask that the principal be put on leave. They were spurred by the incident, but were in addition to other administration concerns. They are concerned with poor communication, equity issues, and an overall breakdown of systems and protocol. After incident, neither poison control nor 911 were called. The school environment feels hostile and chaotic, and needs to be healed.

Melissa Dawson: Arleta. In addition to incident, she has had other experiences that is a cause concern. The administrator lied to her. There have been three room clears in her first grade class in three

weeks, and when she addressed it with administration, she was told that there was nothing that she could do.

Megan Goss: Parent at Arleta. Feels unheard. She heard it took an hour for admin to call the students' parents after the incident with the student who ingested the cocaine. The administrator has a connection to a white supremacist. Met with administrator regarding that connection, and she used gas lighting tactics. Would like to ask the superintendent about the racial equity plan.

Erika Wixon: Parent of two Arleta students. Speaking in response to a student ingesting crack cocaine given to them at school by another student. There is reason to believe that the administration handled the situation inappropriately; staff was told to not call poison control or emergency services. Earlier in the year, two student's lockers were searched due to a drug smell, and nothing was found, and she believes that the proper channels weren't followed. Highly concerned for student safety. Asks that the administrator be put on leave a full investigation.

Adam Robins: Roosevelt community member. In 2018, action was taken to add a 10,000 square foot STEM facility. Roosevelt, a historically underserved school, and the remodel was woefully inequitable in comparison to the other remodels. The district stated that they would fix the inequity, but is now not planning to use the additional space for STEM. The promise of a quality STEM plan will be shattered. Roosevelt only has one third of the STEM space as Franklin High School. The meeting this week is a gas lighting effort to take away promised space.

Donna Cohen: Roosevelt HS STEM Space. She was a technology teacher for eleven years. The meeting on Wednesday night should be focused where the community wants to see classes in Roosevelt other than the STEM program space. STEM is a good program that opens up pathways to many good careers. PPS talks about STEM and equity and she would like them to make good and keep the Roosevelt STEM Maker space as originally planned. She also noted that a good STEM program, with space also requires teachers and supplies. Will file a civil rights complaint if things are not fixed. Asks that PPS board recommit STEM space to the building. Even if the classroom space is taken from the STEM space, it will only fulfill only a portion of the classroom space needed.

Board Goal Measurements

The board and district leadership are working on creating progress measures that will be revisited regularly. They will look at what strategies that are being put in place and if they are making progress towards their goals.

Council of Great City Schools

Directors DePass, Brim-Edwards, Moore, and Kohnstamm, as well as Superintendent Guerrero shared their experiences at the 63rd annual Council of Great City Schools Annual Convention in Louisville, KY. The convention was attended by Directors DePass, Kohnstamm, and Moore as well as other district leadership. Two Portland Public Schools employees presented on the "This is Real Program", a recovery education and action for healthy living program, which was well attended.

Policy Committee

The agenda at the policy meeting earlier in the week was full, however much of the time was spent on the search and seizure policy, with input from students from the District Student Council. The policy is still in public comment period and is open to feedback that could shape the policy. The committee also discussed work that is to come on policy work relate to boundary redraws and enrollment balancing. The full board will take part in a work session around boundaries and enrollment balancing on November 18, 2019 with a national expert.

Audit Committee

It was noted that the board is not acting on any contracts that are under the threshold of \$150,000, but that in some cases there are contracts that are under \$150,000 that have multiple contracts to the same contractor that in total are over the threshold or that have matching donations that put the contract amount over the threshold. The audit committee will be looking at how those contracts could be disclosed to the board in the future.

Adjourn

Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm.

Submitted by:

Kara Bradshaw, Executive Assistant
PPS Board of Education