



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 6:32 pm at the call of Chair Amy Kohnstamm. Due to Covid-19 this meeting was held virtually. Under the provision of ORS 192.670, the audio for this meeting was streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ppscomms/live>

Attendance

Present: Chair Kohnstamm; Directors Bailey, Brim-Edwards, DePass, Lowery, Moore, Scott; Student Representative Latterell, Superintendent Guerrero, Interim General Council Liz Large

Absent: None

Student Comment

None

Public Comment

None

Summary of the COVID-19 Plans, Preparation and Response

Superintendent Guerrero provided a recap of what has happened since March 12, when the first closure was announced. He shared that there were five requirements of school districts from Governor Brown, which were to provide supplemental learning supports, meals, child care for first responders and mental health supports, as well as continue to pay all employees, and that Portland Public Schools is in compliance with each. On Tuesday, March 31, 2020 the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) sent expectations of implementation of distance learning and district leadership is working with the teachers union and teachers to figure out how to provide digital instruction.

District leadership shared operational work that is occurring around the district. Dan Jung shared that custodial staff has gone through all sites and cleaned all spaces, then put signs on the doors showing that they've been sanitized, adding that if the room is entered again, it is re-sanitized. Claire Hertz shared that since March 15th over 5,300 meals at 15 meal sites have been distributed to students, and a childcare site has been set up at Reike, in partnership with OHSU.

David Roy shared that the communications department is working to support other departments, and other districts in the area, trying to keep the community updated, using a number of channels to make sure they reach as many people as possible, including amplification on social media, daily communication, and providing translations and communications to other districts. He added that they have been engaging media to keep them informed, but also away from areas like meal distribution sites and the warehouse.

Don Wolff shared what the district is doing to distribute technology to students that do not have it. He shared that in first few days they collected just under 6000 devices at all high schools, and that 2890 have already been distributed. He added that there are still a lot of students who need devices that don't have one, and so are working to get one to them. There was discussion regarding how the district is connecting

with families to reach all of the students. Mr. Wolff shared how they are working to connect students who do not have Wi-Fi to service, including signing families up for Comcast Internet Essentials, requesting that people split their Wi-Fi and leave one open, if they have the ability to, and working with Cisco to set up wireless access spots.

Jonathan Garcia shared that the Engagement Team is focusing on three areas: working to address family insecurities (such as food and housing needs), working to enable distance learning, and trying to raise funds to cover the support. Corona Virus Relief Fund is set up and they've received about \$30,000 in donation. They have received support from community partners including from Lyft and Door Dash.

Distance Learning Update

Superintendent Guerrero shared that state guidelines were just received, but the district had already been working with principals and teachers to roll out Home-based Distance Learning (PPS-HD). Gregg Crueller shared that multiple department have been working very hard to get distance learning up and rolling, even though there is no blueprint for it. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) has given districts until April 13, 2020 to implement distance learning. He stated that virtual learning is not a replacement for a traditional classroom, but is meant to be a learning platform that can continue engage children, provide continuity, and keep learning communities connected. He noted that virtual learning includes whole wrap around services, which works to keep students connected to counselors and social workers.

Brenda Martinek, Chief of Student Support Services shared how they are connecting social emotional learning (SEL) to virtual learning. They are working with counselors to make sure that are connecting with students, that all the links for community support such as suicide support services online, and that there are counseling services providing a check-in at all meal sites with fliers with community resources in all of the supported languages. They are looking at how to provide services for students with special needs. There was a two day training for all staff that taught about SEL and have developed 20 minute lessons for weekly check-ins with students for teachers to access.

Shawn Bird, Chief of Schools, shared that they are working together to make sure principals and teachers understand their responsibilities, as well as working with the Portland Association of Teachers (PAT), to ensure students are getting what they need to graduate high school, and that they are waiting for clarification from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). He noted that quarter 3 grades will be extended into May so that students can improve their grades by completing assignments or demonstrating proficiency in other ways. He added that student's grades can only improve during this time and no student will receive a failing grade, instead they will receive an incomplete so they can work with teachers to improve their score to receive a passing grade. ODE guidelines state that schools must monitor progress, and so they are working on a way to monitor that does not negatively impact students who are unable to access instruction.

Dr. Valentino, Chief Academic Officer, shared that his team has been working to build infrastructure to allow for online teaching, which includes online capacity and devices for teachers. They are focusing on two programs, SeeSaw for early grades and Google Classroom for upper grades. He shared that teachers spent this week getting used to using the new programs and that next they will begin to add content, with the week of April 6th being an instructional week. He shared that they are working with PAT to make sure they are providing the necessary supports for teachers. He stated that they are providing content to teachers based on grade and subject to create consistency. Dr. Bird added that principals are meeting with teachers virtually to support them.

Dani Ledezma shared that district partners are working to continuing to think about students of color are disproportionately impacted, that community providers recently held a town hall and went over online resources and that larger organizations are shifting from group work to individual work.

Ms. Hertz provided an overview of the expected financial impact. She noted that there will potentially be federal and state relief, but it is unclear what they will look like, and that budget reductions are imminent. She added that full funding of the Student Investment Account (SIA) is very unlikely, that previously approved milestones in the budget calendar will be delayed, that the district has implemented a hiring freeze this year, and delayed sale of bonds because of market volatilities.

There was board discussion and questions of staff regarding the implementations that have been put in place. Gregg Cuellar shared that they have a rough blue print for what PPS-HD would look like if it needs to extend past April 23, 2020 and that they are working on finding a communication platform so that all teachers have a way to reach their students. Ms. Martinek stated that to support teacher and staff mental health they have shared a list of resources which is being sent out via email, on the website and will be on teacher guidelines, as well as the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) providing virtual counseling appointments. There was discussion regarding the Oregon Department of Education expectations that have already been set forth and whether the board should pushback.

There was discussion regarding differentiating for diverse learners. Superintendent Guerrero noted that differentiating lessons for students is challenging any day, and now with the change in the delivery model it's a big hill to climb, but they are working to try and meet all student's needs. Liz Large shared that they are trying to figure out to how to hold Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, and that they are having conversations with the Special Education community. Ms. Martinek shared that they are working to provide a list of responsibilities for teachers that shares how they can support students on IEPs, to maintain compliance with Free Appropriate Public Education FAPE.

Following Items were Approved by the Board

- None

Following Items were Not Approved by the Board

- None

Adjourn

Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.

The Next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled to be held April 07, 2020.

Submitted by:

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