



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 Board Chair Kohnstamm

Attendance

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

Absent: None

Business Agenda

Director Brim-Edwards asked if a contract that was authorized in advance was then unable to reach an agreement would be brought back to the Board for further consideration. Dan Jung shared that it would be brought before the Board in that unlikely event.

The Board voted to approve the Business Agenda.

Student Comment

None

Public Comment

Anderson DeBoise – REAP at Beach Elementary School. REAP is a non-profit that began in 2001 and whose goal is to provide alternatives to suspension that is trauma-informed and has a restorative justice focus. The program supports school communities. Requested to renew the contract.
Lisa Hawkings - Partnership with REAP. REAP is beneficial to all students, the community and staff. It builds trust and collaboration with teachers and support staff. She would like for the REAP contract to be renewed as soon as possible.

Student Representative Report

Student Representative Latterell shared that she's been meeting with students virtually to help them transition to online learning. She noted that she doesn't have as many classes as a senior, but it still attending virtual class meetings. She took part in Postcards from the Pandemic on an OPB radio program.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Guerrero provided a brief report. He thanked frontline employees for serving the community in an impactful way and the board manager and TV services for the hard work to get the virtual meeting with audio and visual setup. He highlighted the guiding principles being used in the response work. He added that it is an economically advantageous time to sell Bonds from the Bond program. He noted that the Bond program is not just about new high schools, but also about security and maintenance all over the district.

District Response and Plans on Covid-19

Superintendent Guerrero shared an overview of the guidance received from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Governor Kate Brown. Dr. Gregg Cuellar, shared that they are focusing on providing wrap-around support for students and supporting seniors who are missing their culminating year of high school.

Joe LaFontaine provided an overview of the actions that staff at the high school level have been taking to support students, particularly seniors. He shared that PPS has higher graduation expectations than the state requirements and summarized the differences.

- Staff has been in contact with 94% of seniors and 92% of 9-11th graders.
- Second-semester credit will be awarded to seniors who had passing performance work as of March 19, and no work assigned after that date will go towards a grade.
- All students will receive a pass or an incomplete in place of a letter grade.
- 70% of students could graduate today, with another 1/3 of the remainder only half a credit away.
- The district is sending letters home to families so that families know where they are.
- Graduation plans are on the way and will be announced soon.

Shawn Bird shared that students in grades 9 through 11 would also receive a pass or incomplete, but that they will continue to receive prioritized standard instruction through the rest of the year, focusing on the essential skills that students need to move on to next year. He added that a plan will be developed for next year to meet students where they are.

Superintendent Guerrero shared that the Oregon State Board of Education convened on April 16, 2020 to establish temporary rules, specifically regarding Division 22 (Assurance of Compliance regulations). He added that superintendents were given a preview of the K-8 guidance, which included students not being penalized for work after distance learning began. The guidance has not been finalized but is expected soon.

Kregg Cuellar shared that the launch of PPS-HD is directly aligned with the four guiding principles set forth by the state. Dr. Luis Valentino shared that staff is working to figure out what is needed to move students forward academically and socio-emotionally. He noted that work is being done with the Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) to provide guidance to teachers regarding how to serve all students, including Special Education (SPED) students, English Language Learners (ELL), and all underserved students. He added that moving forward we could become a more digital district, and leverage what is being learned for the future.

Brenda Martinek shared that they started by talking to staff regarding their wellness. She noted that a mandatory training was provided for all administrators, plus eight optional sessions for staff who would like to learn more. She added that they've also created 20-minute lessons that are available for teachers to share with their students, as well as created a wellness resources webpage for staff.

Don Wolff shared that the district has shifted from an in-person model to all online, with a high need for central and easy-to-find and use. He shared that they have taken two existing resources, SeeSaw and Google Classroom, and created a teacher and student portal where they can find all of the tools, as well as added Remind, which is a tool for teachers to be able to text / call students without sharing their personal phone number. David Roy shared that they've been working to regularly and robustly communicate with families, including updates on ODE guidelines as they have come out and how-to guides. He added that there is a centralized resources webpage where families can go to find out about PPS HD (www.pps.net/HD), which has a Q&A document, as well as information regarding all the platforms. Mr. Roy shared that TV services are working with the ESL department to create videos in the Office of Teaching and Learning so that educational content can be added to YouTube and the cable channel.

The Board asked questions of district staff regarding the information presented.

Dani Ledezma shared that she is working with community partners to reach students who the district has had trouble reaching. Shawn Bird shared that they are able to track contact made with students, but that attendance is not being taken.

Claire Hertz provided an economic overview, noting that economists are expecting a budget shortfall.

- The state has suggested a hiring freeze through the school year.
- The financial forecasts are varied and it is unknown how things will look financial as the year(s) progress.
- The Student Success Act tax collection will continue for businesses that making enough money to meet the threshold.
- The CARES Act expects to receive 7 million in additional Title 1 funding but isn't expected to be restricted to the rules of Title 1 spending.
- The District and the State have reserve funds that could be used to subsidize the school budget.

April 21, 2020

- Extra expenditures include curriculum, cleaning supplies, and Chromebooks and hotspots for students.
- A proposed budget for next year will be brought to the Board in May, but because there is so much unknown it will likely need to be amended in August.

Ms. Hertz shared an overview of Operational updates, including new health and safety protocols for staff who are still going into the buildings.

- The Emergency operations center has been open daily including
- Covid safety plans are continuing to be created.
- The transportation department is updating transportation plans and routes.
- School Modernization work is continuing work though impacted.
- Nutrition services has served 200k+ schools at 13 sites and meals have been delivered directly to high-needs students. On Fridays, students receive food to take home with them for the weekend.

Brenda Martinek shared a summary of the social-emotional supports that are in place.

- Leadership is working with counselors to engage with students and to provide 504 guidance for distance learning.
- Mental health therapists are working in collaboration with social workers and counselors.
- They are in the final stages of a youth resource app that is easy to use and is updated with supports.
- It has been challenging to provide SPED services in a virtual environment, particularly for visually or auditorily impaired students. Case managers are working to determine whether Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) can be met virtually, and working in collaboration with families to build digital learning plans.
- All Speech Language Professionals (SLPs) are receiving training on providing services virtually.

There was discussion about summer programming and how it could continue. Dr. Valentino highlighted the supports in place for the Emergent Bilingual and Migrant Education Program and Indian Education Programs, which focus on connecting families with outside supplemental support.

Jonathan Garcia and Stephanie Soden provided an overview of tools and partnerships that have been put into place.

- A branded distance learning system has been put into place.
- Staff have partnered with businesses to help provide services to families.
- Over 110k has been donated for grocery gift cards and staff have received over 200 requests for support. They are working with school staff to identify families of need. To donate visit fundforpps.org.

Dani Ledezma shared that PPS contracts with several culturally specific organizations to provide student engagement, wrap-around services for academic and socio-emotional support, and leadership support. Staff is working to amend contracts to reflect the change in scope and define deliverables.

David Roy highlighted communication efforts, including deliveries of curriculum and translated supports, website updates, and video communications for students with IEPs.

Dr. Russell Brown spoke about what to expect from the future, noting that learning losses are anticipated and that younger students are anticipated to be the most affected.

Courtney Westling provided a legislative update, sharing that there is a lot of stuff happening federally and locally, and noting that she has been in touch with congressional staff to share our needs and let them know what we are doing.

Superintended Guerrero closed the presentation with a summary of the primary points.

The following items were approved by the Board:

- Business Agenda – Resolutions 6095 through 6100.

The following items were not approved by the Board:

- None

Adjourn

Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm.

The Next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled to be held May 05, 2020.

Submitted by:

Kara Bradshaw

Kara Bradshaw, Executive Assistant
PPS Board of Education