

Portland Public Schools  
**Enrollment and Program Balancing**  
**Phase 2 Southeast Guiding Coalition**  
February 17, 2022  
Meeting Minutes, Virtual

**Southeast Guiding Coalition Members in Attendance:** OAmor, Beth Brett, Michelle Harada, Andrea Emerson, Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Marisa Bryman, Tonya Arnold, Julia Brim-Edwards, Katrina Edwards, Josh Cody, Micah Chu, Sheilagh Diez, Regina Sun, Eddie Wang, Kayla Wood, Maya Mori, Carmen Flores, Michael Rowell, Óscar Campos, Chris Gustafson, Sarah Kincaid, Jeandre Carbone, Dee Reddy, Adriel Person, Cathy Murray, Andy Jacob, Richard Smith, Ellie Russell, Michelle DePass, Beth Cavanaugh, Joseph Mitacek, Kristy Mize, Deanne Froehlich, Lisa Wheeler, Sam Wilcox, Michele Stahlecker, Alissa McMaken Roberts, Sondra Blair, Philip Rafferty, Seth Johnson, Leah Dickey, Angelica Cruz, Harmony Quiroz

**Central Office PPS Staff in Attendance:** Dani Ledezma, Judy Brennan, Karl Logan, HassanDornayi, Shanice Clarke, Claire Hertz, Kristyn Westphal, Megan Salvador, Gail Warren, Nathan Swoverland, Kathleen Bailey, Noelle Sisk, Terry Proctor, Esther Omogbehin, Margaret Calvert, Judy Brennan,

**Building Relationships & Inspiring Communities (BRIC) Architecture in Attendance:** Elisa Warner, Karina Ruiz, Marne Maykowskyj

**FLO Analytics Staff in Attendance:** Jed Roberts, Ethan Poole, Jenny Axelrod

**The Meeting was called to order at:** 6:03 pm

**Welcome:** *Led by Dr. Esther Omogbehin, Regional Superintendent*  
*Dr. Omogbehin welcomed everyone and thanked the Southeast Guiding Coalition for its participation in attendance on this long journey.*  
*She thanked the Board Members for equally participating and the commitment shown.*  
*Omogbehin also thanked our Partners for the support that's been received.*

**Meeting Agenda:**

- Board Work Session Feedback
- Engagement Update
- Proposal review/Vote
- Implementation/Conditions for Success
- Guidance for the writing team on the final recommendation
- Next Steps

**Land Acknowledgement and Anti-Oppression Statement:** *Led by Dr. Omogbehin, Regional Superintendent*

**Group Agreements:** *Led by Karina Ruiz, BRIC Architecture*

Ruiz takes the group through the Group Agreements.

1. Stay Engaged
2. Speak your truth responsibly
3. Listen to understand, to believe
4. Be willing to do things differently and experience discomfort
5. Expect and Accept non-closure
6. Take space & Make Space
7. Ensure each person in the room has a chance to speak
8. Respectful of each other's voices and views

**Framing the Recommendation:** *Led by Karina Ruiz, BRIC*

Board Charge: Recommend a plan to address

We are being asked primarily about the attendance area for a special program assignment for Harrison Park Middle School.

**Additional objectives**

Ruiz went through the Middle School enrollments of about 500, and similar across the region. She talked about the elementary school enrollments above 270 and Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs in co-located settings.

**Constraints**

The further constraints limited change to a small range of schools and did not close a campus and keep Creative Science a K-8.

**Community Engagement Reports:** *Led by Shanice Clarke, Director of Community Engagement*

Clarke spoke about being able to hear from a number of families.

In addition, the support and partnership. Community Engagement really had an opportunity to look at the first setup themes. She stated that Engagement wanted to go back and recognize the pandemic impact. How to reach families where they are. Phone banking and texting worked well.

**Community Engagement:** *Clarke*

**Takeaways**

The middle school consolidation is welcomed, but limits access to programs due to location. Clarke talked about the High School implications and the next process into that.

**Decision Making Framework:** *Led by Ruiz*

Ruiz was framing the context of what the group has been doing and had used both Fist to Five Consensus and Majority and doing that through various Polls.

The SE Guiding Coalition will use modified consensus-making to develop a recommendation to the Deputy Superintendent. The SE Guiding Coalition will use the Fist to Five Consensus Building method to reach consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the Guiding Coalition may use a majority vote rule. The Deputy Superintendent can modify the recommendation before forwarding it to the Portland Public Schools (PPS) Board of Education. The PPS Board of Education makes the final decision and can adjust

the recommendation.

***What have you heard?***

Ruiz said there is a struggle trying to get a consensus.

Ruiz went over the Voting Principals count and Parents/Community Members Count.

She also talked about which of the three draft proposals is favored the least and the most? F1, F2, F3?

***Recommendation Review: Led by Ruiz***

Ruiz went over the Evaluation Feedback Summary and the Key Factors for votes on Program Placement.

She went over the Members who voted “Yes”, Yes with caveats, and Members who voted “No”.

Then she went over the Key takeaways from the members who voted “No”.

***How you Respond: Led by Ruiz***

***Board Work Session Feedback: Led by Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent***

Hertz asks the Board members if there was anything else to add?

The Board met for a 2-hour work session and captured the sentiments of what was said.

Overall the board is very appreciative of everyone who gave time and brought forth this proposal.

***Individual Board members suggested:***

*Hertz shared the member's suggestions/sentiments:*

Include a recommendation to ensure equitable programming for a five-year period as balancing settles.

Low enrollment is an issue, and confirmed Board direction was not to close a school.

Support for the whole school DLI program.

After spending so much time, the Southeast Guiding Coalition (SEGC) brings forward the best plan for students.

She affirmed working with the Lent community on a plan to transition the non-DLI students.

Concern for multiple displacements and the trauma this causes.

Include a recommendation to plan for transportation needs with Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), Safe Routes to School, and bus routes for high traffic streets.

Hertz reiterated the concern for South Tabor moving to Harrison Park due to the walkability and keeping the neighborhood together.

SEGC has started to work with where our schools are located and even though it's hard to drive by a school this proposal is the best plan given the factors we have and admitted that it is very difficult.

The need for an update on Harrison Park facility improvements as it transitions to a middle school.

With that, those are some of the comments in front of the Board session on Tuesday.

***Handed it over to Director Brim-Edwards***

Brim-Edwards spoke about the vast amount of changes that have happened since she has lived in SE Portland for many years. She acknowledged how complicated it was.

Acknowledging the work that was done but also the amount of work that still needs to be done.

The nuance was not captured accurately. Very concerned about the Lent neighborhood. It is the highest rate of poverty having had children in the neighborhood.

The other piece is a high-level of the middle Schools and the 2000 students being moved. All the pieces that need to be moved. None of the boundary changes were covered the other night at the Board Work Session.

Director Brim-Edward's is very concerned about parents having the ability to drive the kids around and that there will be more kids needing to get around more and more with programs moving. Hoping there will be another iteration before getting to the Board.

**Writing Team Update (Co-Chair Corner):** *Led by Adriel Person & Beth Cavanaugh*

Cavanaugh handed it over to the writing team: Led by Andy Jacob, Parent, Dee Reddy, Parent, Sarah Kincaid, Parent

The Writing Team doesn't have a final proposal yet. Still having conversations on what that will be.

Sections on some of the challenges we're not able to resolve. Implementation consideration. Have not gotten farther than some rough bullets from reflections in the past.

Dissenting a minority opinion group. Key areas of development and points of feedback.

Let the Writing Team know if there is a coalition member that you feel strongly about.

**Draft Proposal F-3:** *Led by Roberts*

Moving us toward a final vote.

Roberts talks about modeling based on October enrollment and as if implementation occurs immediately. Which is not the plan and changes can be mitigated by transition planning. Also, modeling family choice in the future with configurations that have not existed is incredibly challenging.

**Middle School Chinese DLI at Harrison Park/Middle School Spanish DLI at Kellogg**

**Draft Proposal F-3 Racial Equity Impact**

Roberts reminded the group of full summary statistics

Some of the middle schools below are target areas. Real improvements to the

**Suggested Amendments to Draft Proposal F-3:** *Led by Roberts*

Amendment 1 & 2

Suggested Amendments to Draft Proposal F-3

Amendment 3

Suggested Amendments to Draft Proposal F-3

Amendment 4

**Roberts takes questions from the Group about the Proposed Amendments:**

1. Why can't just keep South Tabor together even if it means keeping Kellogg out of its attendance area? The practical effect on the neighborhood is almost the same regardless--*i.e.* If the group supports this plan, we're already okay with most of the neighborhood not feeding its neighborhood middle school, so why not just make the geography more logical?
2. Hard to fill all three schools to 270 with all of the students at Atkinson - How many students would there be?
3. If the group were not able to attend the extra sessions how can the group recommend additional amendments?
4. Roberts was also concerned about Bridger/Creative Science Schools (CSS) having only 318 students as a K-8 school. Does that mean increased lottery slots? Would those be likely to pull more from Harrison Park and its feeder schools nearby?

Roberts summarizes the amendments.

Amendment 1-The area staying with Lewis and Sellwood

Amendment 2-72nd being the split between Marysville and Arleta

Amendment 3-Arleta proposed to come to Creston and Kellogg to Hosford

Amendment 4-Br-AR-01 and BR-MV-01 being assigned to Arleta

**Vote:** *Led by Ruiz*

- Would you agree to amend F3 with the amendments proposed?
  - 87% said Yes
  - 13% said No
- Can you support the proposed program placement and boundary recommendation?
  - 52% said Yes
  - 48% said No

**Large Group Discussion:** *Led by Ruiz*

Ruiz asked the group if F3 has been refined enough to vote on?

What is being asked is this vote saying whether the proposal that will move forward for the coalition to vote on will be F3 or F3 as amended?

1. Can we achieve consensus around the amendments to F3?
2. What questions or concerns do you have?

**Ruiz brought the quads back for a large group discussion.**

One member didn't understand the assignment when in the breakout so held space for hearing one another on what was happening.

Another said the same with their group. Seems as though priorities are more on people's feelings and not priorities. The process isn't feeling equitable.

Another group talked about the process and the coalition and how the process hasn't worked and the non-negotiables have changed many times.

### **Ruiz talked about the caveats**

**Implementation and Conditions for Success:** *Led by Judy Brennan, Director of Enrollment and Transfer*

- Special Education: Noelle Sisk, Family Engagement Specialist for Special Education Department (SPED)
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- Middle School Redesign: Margaret Calvert, Regional Superintendent
  - What we are looking at as we move forward like with HS a transition implementation process. How these processes cross each other.
- Early Education: Katrina Edwards, Early Learners, Academic Program Administrator
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- RESJ and SUN Partnerships: Dani Ledezma, Sr. Director, Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ)
- Transportation: Lisa Wheeler,
  - The transportation guidelines will still stand. And any kid outside of 1 mile will be provided transportation. Guidelines still stand for DLI as well. Stops are made on the native-speaking students. Probably will have a stop near Woodstock School. Developing a stronger relationship with Safe Start Schools. Transportation will be at the table through all of this.

### **Student and Program Transitions:** *Led by Brennan*

Brennan went over what boundary changes would be implemented and when. That families will learn about the changes this year and if families want to opt-in next year they will be allowed. Boundary changes would be fully in effect by 2028. Hosford would stay to finish.

### **Student and Program Transitions**

- Focus on Programs

### **Lent and Bridger Transitions:** *Led by Brennan*

Brennan let the SEGC know that Planning Sessions have started.

The plan for Lent over 3 strands per grade level K-5 may be less at some grades when Bridger plus Lent combine.

### **Ruiz had a second go-around with the Poll:**

- Can SEGC support the proposed program placement and boundary recommendation?
  - 59% said Yes
  - 41% said No

**Next Steps:** *Led by Dr. Omogbehin*

Omogbehin reviewed the upcoming agenda items. By end of day on February 23 SEGC will review and finalize any last edits or minority opinions for the written recommendation.

On March 1, the Deputy Superintendent, Claire Hertz will present the SE Enrollment and Program Balancing recommendation to the Board of Directors.

On March 10, there will be a placeholder for a potential meeting if the Board has any modifications they would like SEGC to address.

And on March 15, The Board votes on SE Enrollment and Program Balancing.

**Ruiz closed the meeting:**

She let the group know how hard they have worked and what the board has put in front of everyone.

This is not the fault of the members.

Hertz and the team will follow up with the SEGC tomorrow on the next steps and if another meeting is needed.

**Dr. Omogbehin closed out with last words.**

Hertz had “thank you” words ...phenomenal work. Work everyone should be proud of. Everything that was asked of the group was done.

**Meeting adjourned at: 9:08 pm**