

Portland Public Schools
Enrollment and Program Balancing
Phase 2 Southeast Guiding Coalition
December 16, 2021
Meeting Minutes, Virtual

Southeast Guiding Coalition Members in Attendance: Adriel Person, Cathy Murray, Kayla Wood, Jennifer Axelrod, Andy Jacob, Richard Smith, Beth Brett, Ellie Russell, Michelle Harada, Andrea Emerson, Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Marisa Bryman, Beth Cavanaugh, Meisha Plotzke, Kristy Mize, Sam Wilcox, Josh Cody, Michele Stahlecker, Micah Chu, Sheilagh Diez, Regina Sun, Jennifer Fontana, Alissa McMaken Roberts, Eddie Wang, Sondra Blair, Maya Mori, Carmen, Julia Brim-Edwards, Michael Rowell, Kathleen Bailey, Oscar Campos, Lisa Jackson, Seth Johnson, Chris Gustafson, Leah Dickey, Sarah Kincaid, Harmony Quiroz, Seth Johnson, Dee Reddy

Central Office PPS Staff in Attendance: Claire Hertz, Megan Salvador, Judy Brennan, Gail Warren, Meisha Plotzke, Terry Proctor, Shanice Clarke, Esther Omogbehin

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: 6:04 pm

Welcome: *Led by Dr. Esther Omogbehin, Regional Superintendent*

Meeting Agenda:

- Co-Chair corner
- Processing Community Feedback
- Improving a Narrowing Draft Proposals

Omogbehin welcomed all Southeast Guiding Coalition Members (SEGC) members along with BRIC and FLO Analytics. She talked about ongoing discussions on Enrollment and Program Balancing. She let everyone know how supportive the coalition members have been.

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

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

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

Board Meeting Update: *Led by Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent*

Board Meeting Update

- Standard vs Accelerated Approach
- Board desire for further instructional leaders program feedback
- Understanding tradeoffs and recommendations from Southeast Guiding Coalition (SEGC) and Staff

A small group of staff plus the co-chairs met with the board this week. So the question was asked “Should we proceed using the standard Student Assignment policy and procedures or accelerated implementation”?

Multiple voices were heard with staying with Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) and wanting to be thoughtful and the impact it will have on the community. Thinking about the RESJ with our underserved community. There is a hybrid coming from the board.

Understanding the tradeoffs that are coming as we look at Proposals. Looking at recommendations from the members and staff.

Board Update Co-Chair: *Led by Adriel Person and Beth Cavanaugh*

What the Co-Chairs have heard from the community

Cavanaugh started the conversation by being transparent and setting it straight that there was a misunderstanding at the board meeting on the co-chairs supporting Creative Science School (CSS) when in fact Cavanaugh said that is not the Co-Chairs role.

Both Cavanaugh and Person went through the bullets of the update.

Determine a timeline that allows for community engagement and good SEGC processes around boundary decisions once programmatic recommendations are finalized.

Considerations for engaging communities of color. Not discussed enough. Need deeper discussions.

Bringing to the table more families of color and making sure those families understand more.

Need for discussion of the C2 proposal that looks at Creative Science School as separate K-5 and 6-8 programs.

Discuss plans and implementation for increasing African American and Native American teachers and administrators in Portland Public Schools (PPS), particularly schools impacted by this process for fall 2022.

Clarity around the interaction of this process with the upcoming high school process.

Data request for Dual Language Immersion (DLI) outcomes with regards to whole-school DLI recommendation. Specifically around Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC).

Community Focus: How to listen to concerns in our communities while also helping our communities see the role that is played in the big picture for SE. The line that the Co-Chairs walk when doing this work.

Community members don't always feel comfortable expressing unpopular opinions within neighborhood school communities. Utilizing the space to share this opinion.

Southeast Guiding Coalition Members want to get a sense of where other coalition members are leaning in terms of program decisions and a starting point for revisions. Cavanaugh talked about how the Co-Chairs are going to do some polling to get a sense of what people are feeling. Which ones would be the best scenario? Steps toward that.

In the weeds: Questions about who gets transportation, high school feeder patterns, potential variations on legacy policy, middle school DLI configuration. Will transportation if all these boundary changes happen still be available?

Check-in: If members want to participate in coffee chats but haven't been able to, let Co-Chairs know how to remove those barriers.

Processing Community Feedback: *Led by Karina Ruiz, BRIC*

Ruiz talked about community feedback. And about doing a poll on "Have you had an opportunity to access data from the Open House"?

Processing Community Feedback continued

Ruiz takes the group into breakouts

Process and theming Focus Group Data

- What reinforced what you already think?
- What is new?
- What is missing?

Ruiz brought the group together and went over what was discussed in small groups.

Clackamas: Concern feeder patterns. Expand focus to greater SE. Dominant narratives might be too strong. Focus on positives is missing. Key themes were wanting more voices from Portland Public Schools (PPS). Try to be flexible. Hesitant to voice unpopular opinions. A balance of one solution that fits all the needs.

Willamette: Open House seems contentious -lack of clarity and transparency. Lack of trust in process and community. Lewis is heavily affected by filling Lane. No negative comments from Harrison Park or Lane parents. Arleta community wants to preserve community. Communities want to stay in tack.

Columbia: Similar commitment for Lent. More feedback from neighborhood schools. Benefit from more perspectives from families of neighborhood schools. Need staff and board to determine what is happening with CSS in order to move forward. Board and staff to work together around CSS location.

Schedule Updates: *Led by Judy Brennan, Director of Enrollment and Transfer*

Brennan shares with the group the dates on community engagement, the SEGC meetings, and Focus Groups, Program Decisions, Boundary Focus, and Board Worksession and Board votes.

Brennan started by talking about flexibility and gratitude. Hoping this is the last schedule change.

Tonight represents a pivot point. Not a lot of time to dig in and that can start at this meeting tonight.

Two phases for the next four meetings.

Start Program focus tonight. The goal by the end of the meeting on January 6 your best ideas and consensus on these program's recommendations.

She continued by going over the scheduled meetings and dates.

Improving and Narrowing Draft Proposals: *Led by Cavanaugh and Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong*

Cavanaugh and Kennedy-Wong talk about the Evaluation Rubric and the pros and cons of each district. It shows how we are evaluating each proposal.

Two different versions of the Evaluation Rubric are being shared.

Cavanaugh shared from the coffee chat that they talked about Spanish DLI, Mandarin DLI, and CSS and asked people to focus on those three areas and the rubric could be used for that.

Overarching Drivers: *Led by Hertz*

Hertz shared that this is the Board's charge and the board focused on access to comprehensive middle schools and schools for all students in the SE.

She shares that Harrison Park, moving K-5 students to Clark and increasing enrollment at Lane middle school.

Programmatic guidelines: Dual Language Immersion

Programmatic guidelines: Creative Science School

Led by Meisha Plotzke, Interim Senior Director of Middle School Redesign

Plotzke shares with the group about CSS how it is not a program but a school.

Refresher:

- Creative Science will move out of Clark but remain in Southeast
- CSS will join with a neighborhood program, where all students will learn through a constructivist theme
- Slots for non-neighborhood students will be reduced to make up about ¼ to ½ pf CSS in the future

Improving and Narrowing Draft Proposals: *Led by Cavanaugh, Person, and Ruiz*

Ruiz lets the members know they will be going into small groups and review program options in proposals and check for consensus'.

Then there will be a discussion on "Where is there initial agreement or differences"? "What ideas emerge for improvement"? Plan for next steps, such as additional meetings, writing, analysis and etc.

Columbia: Chinese DLI: Similar themes in A & B. Fist of 5 for C Middle School 3.5. Keeping class sizes low in co-located neighborhood programs is my biggest priority. Consolidating DLI at ES level, limits access. Fist of 5 B-Woodstock whole schools DLI, 1, 1,0, 2.5, 3. Harrison Park CH-DLI is a growing program.

Clackamas: Spanish DLI: C as a starting point. Atkinson Perspective. Need to address challenges about multiple types of DLI at Middle School level. Does Atkinson have enough room? Like a co-located model. Kellogg as all Spanish could be moved to people to support.

Proposal A was the whole school DLI. Proposal B is two whole sites. Proposal C the most positive interest. Most of the conversation was around C.

Willamette: CSS: CSS at Bridger. Currently only one strand. Capacity and modulars. Doesn't prioritize correctly. No longer walkable. Keep asking for a full look at C2 with CSS at Bridger.

Next Steps: *Led by Omogbehin*

Omogbehin thanks everyone from the district for the time and commitment. Valued efforts from the group and getting closer to narrowing down a proposal. The next meeting will take place on January 6.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:58 pm