

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1J, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1J, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON
BLANCHARD EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
PORTLAND, OREGON

The Study Session of the Board of Education came to order at 6:02pm at the call of Co-Chair Pam Knowles in the Board Auditorium of the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon St, Portland, Oregon.

There were present:

Pam Knowles, Co-Chair
Ruth Adkins
Bobbie Regan - *absent*
Tom Koehler
Steve Buel
Matt Morton
Greg Belisle, Co-Chair

Andrew Davidson, Student Representative

Staff

Carole Smith, Superintendent
Caren Huson, Board Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Zuniga, speaking on behalf of the Parent Coalition, applauded the changes made in the recently approved PAT contract. She was pleased that for the first time in years that high school students were encouraged to take a broad range of classes. She encouraged PPS to look for ways to extend learning opportunities, and she would like the disaggregated forecasting data for each high school, the list of staff allocated to each high school, and a copy of the strategic framework plan and how it was staffed by May 1st.

Dana Brenner-Kelley spoke on the high stakes testing culture of the Common Core and stated that test scores were driven by corporate interest. Charter school teachers have told her that their teaching was being compromised.

Robey Clark requested a moratorium on the Common Core State Standards and the 40/40/20 plan. He urged the Board to take a close look at the Common Core and to resist it.

Steven Siegel commented that MLC parents will not allow their children to be subjected to high stakes testing. They will fight for their community and teachers. MLC parents are angry and have woken up. Tests are designed to fail a number of our children, and the Common Core standards will widen the achievement gap. MLC is an alternative school and the parents want their children to develop resiliency. The Common Core was detrimental to children.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Co-Chair Knowles stated that she was very impressed with the list of employees who were receiving service awards. Superintendent Smith honored the employees and highlighted the career of a 45-year PPS employee.

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FAUBION MASTER PLAN

Co-Chair Knowles stated that the Board had previously heard and discussed the Faubion Master Plan and would be voting on it that evening.

DISCUSSION: IMPLEMENTATION AND TIMELINE FOR COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Sue Ann Higgins, Chief Academic Officer, reported that this was the third year that staff has reported to the Board on the Common Core implementation. The Common Core contains a set of standards, but not a specific curriculum; 44 states have adopted the standards. Ms. Higgins provided a video on the Common Core which was prepared by the Council of Great City School.

Melissa Goff, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, provided a PowerPoint presentation and stated that Oregon developed new standards in English/Language Arts, English Language development, math, and science. The Common Core was a single set of clear student performance standards for English Language Arts and math, and was aimed at preparing students to succeed in college and the workforce. Ms. Goff added that the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) begins in Spring 2015 and is aligned with the Common Core. Each time a student's answers a question correctly, the test will ask a more difficult question. The test was beyond a single multiple-choice format.

Director Adkins stated that she was excited about having higher and consistent standards for children, but wants to be sure the state's evaluation is effective. She asked if the state will provide any resources and what the timeframe was for the SBA. Ms. Goff responded that state support was providing a stewardship team to help school districts create an implementation timeline and what tools can be shared across districts. We will only receive targeted professional development dollars this year. Director Buel questioned if current District computers could run all the programs needed for SBA. Josh Klein, Chief Information Officer, responded yes and that staff was in the process of collecting data on the use of computer labs and equipment.

Director Adkins commented that she would like the District to be able to provide feedback to the state on the pilot field test/for the SBA. Joe Suggs, Director of Research and Evaluation, stated that the District would not receive information from the field test; the state will receive it in the fall. However, the District will hold some focus groups with students after the field test.

Director Morton questioned what latitude teachers have in implementing the Common Core and also the SBA. Kimberly Matier, Director of Curriculum, responded that the Common Core will allow for more creativity and innovation by teachers, and will allow for greater collaboration.

Co-Chair Belisle stated that he has heard a lot of concern about the test being all electronic so the program does not test the knowledge of the student. Mr. Suggs responded that it was true that a lot of new skills are involved in the test; his hope is that training will be available for students in using the tools available to them. Director Morton mentioned that accessibility to technology was an issue in some communities and that he was concerned about creating standards that are high and elevate expectations for children who are already achieving, but leave behind students who are struggling.

Director Buel questioned if staff was concerned about the weakness of the tests. Ms. Goff responded that staff has seen some test sample questions, but they are not the questions that will be given to the students. Her concern was that the results will not be shown to the District.

Director Adkins asked the Board if there was interest in submitting a statement to the state about the concerns the Board was hearing. The Board affirmed their interest.

Director Buel read his proposed resolution.

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ADJOURN

Co-Chairs Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm.

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Other Items Requiring Board Action

The Superintendent RECOMMENDED adoption of the following items:

Numbers 4901 and 4902

During the Committee of the Whole, Director Belisle moved and Director Morton seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 4901. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously (yes-6, no-0; with Director Regan absent and Student Representative Davidson voting yes, unofficial).

During the Committee of the Whole, Director Adkins moved and Director Buel seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 4902. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously (yes-6, no-0; with Director Regan absent and Student Representative Davidson voting yes, unofficial).

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RESOLUTION No. 4901

Authorizing Faubion PK-8 Master Plan with Concordia University College of Education
as Part of the 2012 Capital Bond Program

RECITALS

- A. Portland Public Schools (PPS) and Concordia University (Concordia) have a long-standing relationship which has mutually benefited students of each institution, with ongoing tutoring and mentoring at several schools and most specifically at Faubion PK-8 school.
- B. Concordia students, particularly through their Student Service Corps, have donated hours of assistance to Faubion students to improve their academic success, while allowing Concordia students to receive valuable hands-on teaching experience.
- C. Concordia students further provide assistance with the Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) program, support for school nurse services, volunteers for the SMART reading program, and support for arts and physical education.
- D. PPS and Concordia have jointly used each other's facilities to expand and enrich the program offerings of each institution including PPS' play fields as well as Concordia's new library and sports complex.
- E. Concordia's campus and Faubion PreK-8 school are adjacent but not currently built out to take advantage of potential synergy between them.
- F. There are significant needs within the Cully-Concordia neighborhoods which a replaced Faubion PreK-8 school could help address including a health clinic, early learner center, family resource center, and other wrap-around services.
- G. Concordia and PPS entered into a Predevelopment Agreement in September 2013 establishing the framework for Master Planning of the project.
- H. PPS, Concordia, and the Faubion-Concordia community have jointly, collaboratively and cooperatively developed a master plan to realize the maximum potential synergy between and amongst the two organizations and the community.
- I. This master plan proposes a community-centered campus modeling a holistic approach to education. It is intended to inspire excellence in teaching and learning and provide for the needs of our children, families and community.
- J. This master plan provides a blueprint for a new model for PPS as well as academic institutions around the country through the unique collaboration among PreK, K-8, wrap-around service providers and an institution of higher education.

RESOLUTION

- 1. The Board of Education commends the Faubion Design Advisory Group members, Faubion community participants, Faubion School leadership and teachers, wrap-around service and other partners, and Concordia leadership for their dedication to this project.
- 2. The Board of Education directs staff to utilize the current Draft PK-8 Area Program as a guide to construct the new Faubion PK-8 School to approximately 83,300 square feet as part of a larger project of approximately 130,700 square feet in partnership with Concordia University.

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3. The Board of Education approves the preferred Master Plan dated March 17th, 2014 and directs staff to proceed with Schematic Design, Land Use Planning, and the drafting of a Development and Disposition Agreement between Portland Public Schools and Concordia University for the entire project.

C. Sylvester/J. Owens

RESOLUTION No. 4902

Appointment of Custodian Civil Service Board Member

RECITALS

- A. The term of Ray Thomas on the Custodian Civil Service Board expired on June 30, 2013.
- B. The District posted the vacant Custodian Civil Service Board position to the community and received just one application, that of Patrik Antich.
- C. Mr. Antich meets all of the criteria to qualify for appointment to the Custodian Civil Service Board.

RESOLUTION

Patrik Antich is appointed to the Custodian Civil Service Board with a term that expires June 30, 2017.

S. Murray