

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon  
Study Session of November 18, 2014**

**INFORMAL MINUTES**

A Study Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 6:05pm at the call of Co-Chair Pam Knowles in the Board Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, OR, 97227

There were present:

Board of Directors:

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

Student Representative:

Minna Jayaswal

Staff:

Carole Smith, Superintendent  
Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Office

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marisha Childs stated her disapproval of the proposed Enrollment and Transfer Policy, stating that the recommendations were unacceptable and should be rejected. She was concerned about the impact the recommendations would have psychologically as it was important to keep siblings together.

Micah Grigonis stated that parents apply for a transfer with the idea in mind that siblings would continue all the way through to high school. That was the deal they applied under and now the Board wanted to change that.

Nicole Iroz Elardo commented that their community was one of diversity. Their principal informed them that she would be leaving in December and they want the next principal to build on what has been created. Parents want to be involved in the selection of the next Principal for Scott, but PPS administrators seem to find that policy messy and avoid it.

Richard Greensted stated that he was now embarrassed about his previous testimony to the board regarding Ockley Green, and he owes the Board and Ockley Green an apology. Both his kids love the school and have grown. Strong leadership was needed in every neighborhood school, along with the supports needed to succeed. We need to stand up for all students. He commended SACET on the work they performed and for making the tough decisions.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S TIMELINE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENROLLMENT AND TRANSFER**

Superintendent Smith walked the Board through her recommendation memo.

Director Koehler stated that the number 1 recommendation was missing: making sure that the neighborhood schools were performing to the degree that they should and to face consequences if they don't.

Director Buel commented that it was a very fast timeline and sketchy. The Board was looking at massive changes. At least three public meetings should be held which allow for dialogue. SACET members should be present at the public meetings to answer any questions. The meeting locations should be Madison, Roosevelt and Wilson high schools. Co-Chair Adkins requested that suggestions be given tonight and then she and Co-Chair Knowles and Superintendent Smith will discuss at Board Leadership.

Director Koehler commented that PSU said they wanted to reach 40% of the people or not do it at all; he liked that suggestion. He would like to set an aggressive target on how we will reach out to all people in the district.

Director Regan mentioned that she would like interaction with the community on the SACET recommendations, and then Board discussion at the end of public comment. Listening sessions with the community have always been successful.

Director Belisle stated that the Enrollment and Transfer Policy has always been an issue and it was unequitable. He felt SACET had done a great job in reaching out and he was comfortable in moving forward with the public hearings that were suggested by the Superintendent. Superintendent Smith added that an electronic survey would also be available online for public comment, and that people were already reaching out and communicating with us.

Director Morton commented that he was open to having more listening sessions on the topic as those bring out a lot of good information.

## **BOND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

CJ Sylvester, Chief of the Office of School Modernization, provided a report and PowerPoint presentation.

Director Buel questioned if the proposal would double what one was paying in 2016. Ms. Sylvester responded that there would be no more increase in the tax rate with the second bond. Subsequent ballot measures would be renewals. \$2 per thousand would remain intact for the remainder of the 32 years.

Director Belisle stated that there is talk of PCC wanting to utilize the Jefferson campus as additional space and he wanted to make it known that he was not interested in ceding the property to PCC.

## **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

David Williams, Director of Government Relations, stated that the Board's packet contained the draft PPS 2015 Legislative Platform. The ad hoc Board Legislative Committee had prepared the document and he walked the board through the highlights of the platform. The major point was around school funding. Legislative priorities included: CTE, life-long learners, quality education

model, state school distribution fund process, smarter balanced assessment, and supporting community and state partners.

Director Williams indicated that the Governor will release his budget proposal on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Director Buel commented that the state was asking us to send down all our student data to a system they have that they cannot protect. A breach occurred with the state's unemployment data. Director Buel stated that we need to go down to the legislature and say that we will not hand over our student data so that they can hand it over to the criminals. Director Belisle stated that it was difficult to protect data as even the FBI and CIA have been hacked.

Director Regan mentioned that the Fifth Year Student issue was not included in the document. Director Williams responded that that bullet point would be in the next draft.

Director Williams reported that the next task of the Legislative Committee would be to develop an advocacy plan and work on doing concerted advocacy in December and January, and then throughout the legislative session that will begin in February. He would schedule a meeting with legislators and Board members to review the platform.

Director Regan asked who was following local agendas to see if there were partnership opportunities for PPS or items we may be interested in. Director Williams responded that staff tries to weigh in where appropriate; however, the vast majority of his time is spent with the state legislature.

Director Belisle stated that he would like to add language on local bonds.

### **OREGON SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS**

Co-Chair Knowles stated that Director Regan was President-Elect of OSBA and asked her to provide an overview of the proposed OSBA resolutions.

Director Regan commented that the Board was being asked to vote on candidates for the OSBA Board, along with resolutions, one of which was OSBA's Legislative Platform. Two additional resolutions were housekeeping in nature.

Director Buel stated that he was opposed to achievement compacts on OSBA's Legislative Platform and also opposed to OEIB continuation.

### **ADJOURN**

Co-Chair Knowles adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.

Submitted by:

---

Caren Huson-Quiniones, Senior Specialist  
PPS Board of Education