

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 6:04pm 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  
Tom Koehler  
Steve Buel  
Matt Morton - *absent*  
Greg Belisle, Co-Chair

Minna Jayaswal, Student Representative

Staff

Carole Smith, Superintendent  
Caren Huson Quiniones, Board Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Catherine Greenblatt stated that she considers parents as one of the greatest assets of the District and that they were aspirational stakeholders. Many Cleveland cluster parents have not been allowed to be heard.

Maria DeSilva, Rigler parent, commented that she had received a letter in December from the Early Childhood Team regarding transition to kindergarten. There was no information as to when the meeting was to occur, and her son had five special needs. Monday meetings for low income people do not work. She asked the Board to not vote on the Enrollment and Transfer Policy as they had not their job.

Matt Marjanovic stated that the District has bungled the language in implementing the intent for the focus option lottery process and no fixes have appeared.

Michael Willes, Ainsworth parent, stated that Seattle was a model of inequity due to its policies and SACET was setting up the District for a costly fight. Tonight was not the time for the Enrollment and Transfer vote.

Dave Porter requested that a high school study abroad proposal be given to the Board and included in the next year's budget to pay for two students to study abroad in 2015-16; one in China and one in Mexico.

Tamberlee Tarver had concern about the enrollment and transfer survey as the District was not reaching all the masses of people. If you know there is limited access to internet, why do you do the surveys online? Principals should not be allowed to dictate whether their building is available for computers for the public. There are things that go on in the school buildings and to and from school that the Board does not know about. She asked if the Board has ever had a conversation with real people. She was dismissed on a regular basis by PPS staff.

Abdirahman Omar proposed a Somali dual language immersion program to the Board and encouraged the Board to fully assist the Somalis community with the program.

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Kayse Jama acknowledged the work that has been done by the Dual Language Department and that there was support from the Somali community. There was a huge disparity in how Somali students are faring in the schools. There were not enough Somali teachers. The Somali community would like four accommodations: Outreach Specialist as liaison; ownership of the process; help to develop a Somali Task Force; and, to work together with them.

### **SECOND READING: AMENDED ENROLLMENT AND TRANSFER POLICY**

Jessica Thompson stated that she was disappointed to see that the Board has placing sibling preference over free or reduced lunch status. This was the Board's chance to do something right and just. She asked the Board to not be a stumbling block for the most underserved students.

Richard Greenstead asked the Board to align all their policies with their Racial Educational Equity: Policy, and added that there were issues with communication in certain areas of the city.

Mike Westling commented that the lottery system has been creating a private school system at PPS and urged the Board to end the neighborhood-to-neighborhood lottery.

Kristin Binkley stated that she lives in the Chapman neighborhood but was given the option to transfer to Ainsworth due to under crowding. They were told that younger siblings would be allowed to follow, but now the Board was changing that process. The Board needs to consider the parents that were given a guarantee.

Director Regan mentioned that two revisions had been incorporated into the resolution and policy.

Director Koehler stated his concerns about language and application of the free or reduced lunch formula. Judy Brennan, Director of Enrollment and Transfer, stated that it would apply to any school whose overall numbers were below the District average. Staff's finding was to move it to something based on the size by grade level would not be more effective.

Director Buel asked for clarification of the Chapman to Ainsworth issue. Ms. Brennan responded that she was sorry if there was any misunderstanding, but staff did not guarantee that siblings would follow if a parent volunteered to transfer from Chapman to Ainsworth. Staff never did intend a guarantee.

Director Buel moved to vote on the SACET recommendations in two weeks and that the Superintendent have two large community meetings, one at Roosevelt and one at Madison, and that Jon Isaacs be directed to publicize the meetings and publicize them to parents who are in communities where we have underserved children. Receiving no second, the motion failed.

### **2015-16 BUDGET / UPDATE: DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION**

Debbie Armendariz, Senior Director of Dual Language, and Michael Bacon, Assistant Director of Dual Language, provided PowerPoint presentation.

Director Buel suggested that the District go to the City and tell them that we need portables at our schools and to limit the cost to place them.

Director Koehler asked if the District could make Rigler and entirely immersion school. Ms. Armendariz responded that staff would have to review their data. Co-Chair Knowles commented that she was also concerned about King and their language program.

Director Buel stated that staff needed to look at the language school in Provo Utah and how they do their instruction. Ms. Armendariz commented that she would send Director Buel a copy of the ESL adopted curriculum.

**BUDGET PRIORITIZATION**

Yousef Awwad, Chief Financial Officer, indicated that exercise would gather the Board's ideas on budget priorities for 2015-16. Board members provided their priorities.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2**

Mr. Awwad provided a PowerPoint presentation, and David Wynde, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Budget Director, reviewed the beginning fund balance changes, fall balancing changes, additional school staffing, and contingency.

Director Regan stated that there was frustration in the community about finding extra funds after the budget cycle and asked what could be put in place to avoid that in the future.

Director Koehler asked if staff had surveyed principals to see what they would do if they had extra funds. Superintendent Smith responded no, that the Board could direct her to do that, but she was concerned about the uncertainties for funding next year. Director Koehler stated that there were needs in the schools now.

Director Buel commented that we should take some one-time funds and spend on one-time purchases, such as library books or maybe art supplies, but put it toward something needed in the schools. Allocate \$2 million and ask each school what they want or need.

**DIVISION 22 REPORT AND FIRST READING: ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY**

Amanda Whalen, Chief of Staff, provided a PowerPoint presentation, stating that school districts were required to provide annual reports to the community regarding compliance with Division 22 standards by January 15<sup>th</sup> and then submit assurances to the Oregon Department of Education by February 13<sup>th</sup>. The District was found out of compliance in 6 areas, one of which was our Anti-harassment policy. The Board was holding a first reading of that Policy this evening.

Director Buel stated that clarifying language on reporting an incident was needed. Jollee Patterson, General Counsel, responded that staff would review the language. Director Buel added that the SBAC test indicates at the end if a child failed the test, and to him, that was harassment.

**Adjourn**

Co-Chair Knowles adjourned the meeting at 10:17pm

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Other Items Requiring Board Action

The Superintendent RECOMMENDED adoption of the following item:

Number 5009

Director Regan moved and Director Adkins seconded the motion to adopt the above numbered item. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed by a vote of 4-1 (yes-4, no-1 [Belisle]; with Student Representative Jayaswal voting yes, unofficial). Director Buel did not vote or abstain.

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**RESOLUTION No. 5009**

Revisions to Policy 4.10.051-P, Student Enrollment and Transfers

**RECITALS**

- A. In February 2013, the PPS Board of Education unanimously approved resolution 4718, the PK-8 Jefferson Enrollment Balancing Resolution, directing staff to develop and recommend a process for a comprehensive review of school boundaries district-wide and policies related to student assignment and transfer to better align with the Racial Educational Equity Policy and promote strong capture rates and academic programs at every grade level.
- B. The Superintendent charged the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Enrollment and Transfer (SACET) with recommending revisions to enrollment and transfer policies to improve alignment with Portland Public Schools' strategic framework and Racial Educational Equity Policy. Over an 18 month period SACET met more than forty times and provided three status updates to the Board. It issued final recommendations to the Superintendent in October 2014.
- C. The Superintendent presented her recommendations to the Board in November 2014, including proposals for revisions to policy 4.10.051-P, Student Enrollment and Transfers. A first reading was presented on December 16, 2014.
- D. The policy reflects the following changes to align with the Racial Educational Equity Policy:
  - I. Builds an equitable neighborhood-to-neighborhood transfer system: this policy ends the neighborhood-to-neighborhood lottery system supporting the strengthening of our neighborhood schools.
  - II. Provides a preference for students eligible for free and reduced meals and Head Start programs in the admission lottery for focus option schools and programs: creating this preference will provide greater access for historically underserved students.
  - III. Allows special education students who have been required to transfer to a school other than their neighborhood school, to stay there until the highest grade.
- E. In addition to the regular public comment at Board meetings, there were three additional opportunities for comment dedicated to this topic, as well as a public survey and a written comment period.
- F. An administrative directive will be developed and information about the transfer changes will be distributed in multiple languages through the district website, schools and community partners in time for the upcoming transfer cycle.
- G. Additional resources will be requested to support procedural changes, and semi-annual reports will be provided to the School Board showing summary results of the petition process.

**RESOLUTION**

- 1. The Board of Education hereby adopts the revised Student Enrollment and Transfers Policy, Policy 4.10.051-P.
- 2. The Board acknowledges and appreciates SACET for developing transfer policy and procedural recommendations.
- 3. The Board directs the Superintendent to make publicly available the criteria to be used in the petition process prior to the start of the next transfer cycle and to brief the Board on the criteria no later than March 1, 2015.
- 4. The Board directs the Superintendent to brief Board members on the outcome of the new procedures prior to the 2016 transfer cycle.

*J. Isaacs*