

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

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4749 Resolution in Support of Measure 26-150: Renewing the Portland Children's Levy

April 22, 2013

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

A Study Session of the Board of Education came to order at 6:01pm at the call of Co-Chair Greg Belisle in the Board Auditorium of the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon St, Portland, Oregon.

There were present:

Pam Knowles
Ruth Adkins
Bobbie Regan
Trudy Sargent
Martin Gonzalez, Co-Chair
Matt Morton
Greg Belisle, Co-Chair

Alexia Garcia, Student Representative

Staff

Carole Smith, Superintendent
Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Senior Specialist

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jan Zuckerman, a teacher at Sunnyside, asked the Board to help examine their current enrollment and transfer processes. Their neighborhood catchment has grown too big and there are no transfer slots available. He believes this is a violation of the District's Equity Policy.

Karen Shay stated that she wanted true equity for ACCESS and no longer wants a lottery to exist for the school.

Rob Johns asked the Board to raise the enrollment cap for Benson High School. Job readiness is a real issue.

Greg Burrill spoke on the District's intent to appeal the 6 of 8 arbitration.

Eliza Erhardt Eisen commented that the pace was not fast enough for student achievement. Funding was inadequate and class sizes were too big. She would like the District and PAT to be held more accountable in teaching our children, and make training and experience as important as seniority for teachers.

Jenni Pullen, Crime Prevention Coordinator with the City of Portland, stated that she works with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement and was asking parents to clean out their medicine cabinets and take advantage of prescription disposal sites in an effort to prevent prescription abuse by children.

CHILDREN'S LEVY

Director Knowles provided background information on the Children's Levy and urged the Board to vote in favor of the levy. County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury stated that they were asking the voters to renew a five-year levy and asked the Board to endorse it. A focus will be placed on child hunger. Co-Chair Gonzalez mentioned that it was a great investment and it addresses inequities.

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LINCOLN CLUSTER UPDATE

Macarre Traynham, MLC Principal, reported that MLC was the only K-12 alternative school in the District. Their challenges were: decline in graduation rates, capacity rates, and lost in allotment of fte. MLC was deeply immersed in the racial equity work; however, their diversity is minimal.

Tanya Ghattas, Forest Park Principal, stated that she has 520 students in a K-5 environment. Forest Park was known as the school of excellence. They have an international community that represents many countries. They have pockets of underserved students and providing services for all children was a challenge.

Jane Fielding, Bridlemile Principal, commented that Bridlemile was also a school of excellence and continues with its enrichment programs. Their library is the heart of the school. They are a predominantly white school in a white community serving mostly white children; however, they continue to focus on the equity work.

Cindy Roby, Ainsworth Principal, reported that they have 565 students in a K-5 environment and offer music, art, and physical education. They have 302 students in the Spanish Immersion Program. 158 families applied for 52 kindergarten slots. They were in their third year of the equity work.

Scott Choate, Chapman K-5 Principal, stated that they have 605 students and offer a robust academic program. Equity is at the heart of all their professional development. Cuts in special education next year will result in larger classroom for their most fragile students. 35% of their students were students of color.

Jill Sage, Skyline Principal, indicated that the school was a tight community. They were the only K-8 in the Lincoln cluster and operated as an IB school.

Kate Boyce, East/West Sylvan middle school principal, commented that they have 900 students and next year would be at 1,000. Their opportunity and challenge was in being a big school. They offered four world languages and have a Spanish Immersion Program. One challenge was that they are a two campus school, separated by a freeway.

Peyton Chapman, Lincoln Principal, reported that they have 1500 students and offer an IB program, six foreign language strands, visual and performing arts, yet have a list of challenges. Ms. Chapman recommended some books that the Board should read. 20% of their students struggle and need additional support, but they do not have adequate funding or facilities which affect instruction.

Co-Chair Belisle asked what MLC's graduation rate was. Ms. Traynham responded that it was 66%. Co-Chair Belisle questioned that when the Board begins to look at enrollment balancing, should they look at some of the schools that have very low enrollment.

At 7:45pm, the Board took a five minute break.

AUDIT REPORT: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Auditor Richard Tracy provided a PowerPoint presentation. The audit he prepared had four major objectives: to determine current federal and state requirements for preparing school improvement plans; to determine how well PPS meets the requirements; to obtain management and school principal views on the importance and value of preparing school improvement plans; and, to identify opportunity to improve the school improvement plan process at PPS to add more value and benefit.

Co-Chair Gonzalez stated that after having read the improvement plans for the schools, he noticed there was no consistency in the reports and some things were missing. Director Adkins asked if we want the

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SIPs to be living documents. We shouldn't put everyone through the process if we do not want it to be a living document. There needs to be standard accountability district-wide in the documents.

2013-2014 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Superintendent Smith provided the background on what was being proposed in the 2013-2014 budget in terms of staffing.

Director Adkins asked what Plan B was if the art tax funds do not materialize. David Wynde, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, responded that the District will continue to work with the City of Portland as they believe they are on track to collect the revenue. The City was completely aware that the District was staffing schools currently and staffing at a 500:1 ratio. Sue Ann Higgins, Chief Academic Officer, commented that staff was working with principals in analyzing their staffing recommendations and schedules and determining if there were places that we could be strategic about and support in other ways, and which ones were fte dependent.

Director Knowles stated that she was concerned about high schools and the high school schedule. She was hearing that there were some schedules with large holes during the middle of the day. She asked how the District could support high schools more. Superintendent Smith responded that it had two parts: resources (funding) and also the 6 of 8 arbitration decision.

Director Sargent questioned how many fte it would take if all high school students were taking seven classes. Sarah Singer responded that it would take 26.5 fte. Director Sargent asked what the District was doing to staff study halls. Trip Goodall responded that a campus monitor was staffing study hall this year. Next year, staffing has been restored in the school-wide table. Director Sargent asked if one person was enough for a study hall. Mr. Goodall responded no, we would rather have a tutor-qualified person in a study hall. Co-Chair Gonzalez stated that we must explore every opportunity we can get; perhaps some of our tutoring partners could assist us.

Director Regan asked if we could delay textbook adoptions for a year so that we could hire more teachers. Or delay some investments for a year to give our high school students a full class day. She was open to going into reserves to fill the void somehow. With a 62% graduation rate, how can we accept a budget that has high school students in 1 or 2 study halls a day. Director Regan added that, at some point, we need to look at whether we need to close some of our smaller schools. The 6 of 8 schedule has caused havoc and we need to discuss whether that is the right high school schedule.

ADJOURN

Co-Chair Belisle adjourned the meeting at 10:08pm.

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Other Matters Requiring Board Action

The Superintendent RECOMMENDED adoption of the following item:

Number 4749

During the Committee of the Whole, Director Knowles moved and Director Morton seconded the motion to adopt the above numbered item. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously (vote: 7-yes, 0-no; with Student Representative Garcia voting yes, unofficial).

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RESOLUTION NO. 4749

Resolution in Support of Measure 26-150: Renewing the Portland Children's Levy

RECITALS

- A. Measure 26-150: The Portland Children's Levy would continue to support proven programs designed to help children arrive at school ready to learn, provide safe and constructive after school activities for kids, help foster children, and prevent child abuse and neglect. If renewed, a fifth focus would be added: preventing child hunger.
- B. Measure 26-150 will continue to help over 14,000 of Portland's neediest children, 50% of whom live in extreme poverty with a household income at or below the Federal Poverty Level.
- C. The Children's Levy will continue to raise funds at the rate of \$0.4026 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, the same rate voters approved in 2002 and renewed in 2008.
- D. Measure 26-150 is solely dedicated to helping children in Portland. Portland Children's Levy funds can only be used for:
- **Child abuse prevention and intervention:** addressing juvenile crime, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse and homeless youth.
 - Early childhood programs: making childcare more affordable and preparing children for success in school.
 - **After school, summer and mentoring programs:** promoting academic achievement, reducing the number of juveniles victimized by crime and increasing graduation rates.
 - **Children in foster care programs:** helping foster children succeed who have been abused and neglected.
 - **Addressing child hunger:** improving children's access to nutritious meals, leading to improved health and academic success.
- E. The Portland Children's Levy has proven itself accountable to the taxpayers of the City of Portland by:
- Funding only proven, cost-effective programs
 - Capping administrative costs at or below 5%
 - Undergoing annual independent audits
 - Allocating funds through a 5-person citizens' oversight committee

RESOLUTION

The Board of Education for Portland Public Schools supports Measure 26-150 because of its dedication to supporting Portland's children and its success in providing proven programs designed to help children arrive at school ready to learn, provide safe and constructive after school alternatives for kids, help foster children and prevent child abuse and neglect and family violence.