

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 Special Meeting of the Board of Education came to order at 5:02pm at the call of Co-Chair Martin Gonzalez 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
Trudy Sargent – *via phone*
Martin Gonzalez, Co-Chair
Matt Morton
Greg Belisle

Staff

Carole Smith, Superintendent
Jollee Patterson, General Counsel
Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Senior Specialist

PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: CAPITAL BOND

CJ Sylvester, Chief Operations Officer, provided a PowerPoint presentation and overview of the capital bond proposal.

The following individuals testified in favor of the proposed capital bond:

Alissa Keny-Guyer, State Representative for House District 46; Michael Dembrow, Representative from House District 45; Lew Frederick, Representative; Jeff Cogen, Multnomah County Chair; Nick Fish, Portland City Commissioner; Charlie Hales, Mayoral Candidate; Jefferson Smith, Representative; Kevin Matheny, Concordia University; Steve Novick; Emma Rosen; Scott Bailey; Nancy Hamilton; Amy Kohnstamm; Rachel Fox; Ted Wolf; Betsy Salter; Stuart Emmons; Will Dann; Joshua Curtis; Kevin Truong; Naomi Dann; Scott Overton; Randall Heeb; Rita Moore; Mike Verbout; Roger Kirchner; Charlene Williams, Roosevelt Principal; Shane Endicott; and, Jason Blumklotz.

Taylor Marrow stated that he would not support the bond as PPS was one of the most inequitable school systems he has ever seen.

Director Regan stated that it felt much better than the last time the District went out for a bond. Director Regan requested that we be clear this time in explaining the debt repayment and list and name the schools that benefitted from prior work that the District has done. In addition, she would like a discussion on planning money for the remaining high schools which will not be improved in phase one of the bond. Director Regan commented that she would like to see us stay at the \$1.10 per thousand assessed value. Ms. Sylvester mentioned that \$1.5 million would be an appropriate amount of planning money for the remaining six high schools, but that it would not include bringing partners to the table. Co-Chair Knowles stated that we need to do the master planning piece, but to keep in mind that future Boards could change that plan.

Director Adkins mentioned that she wants to make sure that we focus the funds on this bond on the schools being proposed, adding that we could learn from the planning process for the first three high schools and then spinoff from that for the six remaining high schools. Director Adkins added that she would like to see the \$1.5 million go for two new roofs. Director Morton commented that it was reasonable to have reserves available for roof repairs and to use some funds for the master planning.

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Co-Chair Gonzalez stated that the majority of the Board could potentially look at readjusting the package and investing \$1.5 million for master planning for the six remaining high schools, with eight schools to be re-roofed.

Director Morton commented that we need to engage our students in the design phases. Ms. Sylvester responded that staff would do their absolute best to involve students in the design and construction phases.

Co-Chair Gonzalez read Director Sargent's email into the record. Her preference was for some money to go towards investment in technology and to change the bond package by cutting facility improvements to \$64.5 million. Director Adkins stated that technology was an important issue, but she did not want to shift the package any further. The Board did not support the change requested by Director Sargent.

Co-Chair Gonzalez stated that he shared the frustration from Taylor Marrow when he testified on inequity. We always need to keep equity in mind. There is a hope that we will do the best we can for all our students.

Co-Chair Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.

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The Superintendent RECOMMENDED adoption of the following item:

Numbers 4624

Director Regan moved and Director Belisle seconded the motion to amend the Attachment "A" to Resolution 4624. The motion was put to a voice passed and passed 5-1 (vote: 5-yes, 1-no [Adkins], with Director Sargent not voting). Director Knowles moved and Director Belisle seconded the motion to adopt amended Resolution 4624. The motion was put to a voice passed and passed 6-0 (vote: 6-yes, 0-no, with Director Sargent not voting).

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RESOLUTION No. 4624

Development of a General Obligation Bond Ballot Measure and Explanatory Statement
for the November 6, 2012 Election.

RECITALS

- A. The Board of Directors of Portland Public Schools, Multnomah County, Oregon (“PPS”) is committed to maintaining and preserving the useful life of its school buildings.
- B. PPS understands that its schools are the property and pride of all citizens of Portland, and are strong anchors needed for livable neighborhoods.
- C. The average age of PPS school buildings is 65 years old and they have received only minimal updates over time.
- D. PPS recognizes that the condition of its facilities has a direct impact on the ability of teachers to teach and students to learn and succeed.
- E. PPS is committed to all students having the same up-to-date technology, equipment and teaching approaches as students in schools with newer buildings so our students can compete for college and in the workplace.
- F. Due to inadequate state funding for schools, PPS has prioritized use of General Fund money for its core educational mission, resulting in deferral of major maintenance on its facilities, leading to secondary damage and increased facility costs.
- G. Capital dollars last made available in 1995 were fully expended years ago and that debt has been retired.
- H. Four years of facility assessment, community-wide work sessions, the Board’s adoption of Criteria to Determine the Order of Rebuilding and Renovation in Resolution No. 3986 and the Long Range Facilities Plan in Resolution No. 4608, have helped develop criteria to identify schools for capital improvement.
- I. The June 25, 2012 proposal to rebuild schools and update learning environments for students was developed and refined by community input.
- J. At its meeting on June 25, 2012, the Board preliminarily determined that it would be appropriate to seek voter approval in November, 2012, for general obligation bonds to finance the high school, seismic and access priority option (Option C in the materials that were presented to the Board).
- K. The Board held two public hearings on June 28, 2012 and July 9, 2012, regarding its preliminary determination to request voters to approve general obligation bonds in November, 2012, and has decided that the Board will request PPS voters to approve the bond option that is attached as Exhibit A (the “Preferred School Construction Bond Proposal”) at the Board meeting on August 20, 2012.
- L. Oregon law requires PPS to submit measures that will appear on the November 6, 2012 election to the county elections officer no later than September 6, 2012.

RESOLUTION

- 1. ORS 294.655 requires PPS to notify the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission not later than 30 days before September 6, 2012, if PPS proposes to place a general obligation bond measure on the November 6, 2012 general election ballot. The Board directs PPS staff to notify the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission that PPS will place the Preferred

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School Construction Bond Proposal on the November 6, 2012 general election ballot pursuant to ORS 294.655.

2. The Board directs PPS staff to develop a general obligation bond ballot measure and explanatory statement for the Preferred School Construction Bond Proposal and present those documents to the Board at its meeting on August 20, 2012, so that the Board may approve those documents prior to their submission to the county elections officer.
3. The Board authorizes PPS staff to comply with any other legal requirements and take any other actions that may be desirable to allow the Board to act at its August 20, 2012 meeting to place the Preferred School Construction Bond Proposal before the voters on November 6, 2012.

C. Sylvester