

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Retreat of September 11, 2015**

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Retreat of the Board of Directors came to order at 2:07pm at the call of Chair Tom Koehler in the Mt. Hood Room of the World Forestry Center, 4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland.

There were present:

Board of Directors:

Tom Koehler, Chair
Amy Kohnstamm, Vice-Chair
Paul Anthony
Steve Buel
Julie Esparza Brown
Pam Knowles
Mike Rosen
Katie Davidson, Student Representative

Staff:

Carole Smith, Superintendent
Amanda Whalen, Chief of Staff
Rosanne Powell, Board Office Manager
Trevor Cartwright, Facilitator
Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Office

HOW ARE WE DOING SO FAR?

Trevor Cartwright, Facilitator, asked the Board to provide feedback on their recent Board meetings. Director Kohnstamm stated that the meetings were going a little smoother. Chair Koehler commented that there was room for improvement, but the Board has had some open discussion with varying views that had been very respectful. Chair Koehler added that all Board members could improve their interaction with staff.

ARE WE ALL ALIGNED ON OUR ROLE AS A BOARD?

The Board generally agreed with the list that Mr. Cartwright distributed.

DO THE WORKING AGREEMENTS WE CREATED MAKE SENSE AND CAN WE ALL HONOR THEM?

Director Kohnstamm stated that the Board's effectiveness was driven by what they do collectively with common understandings. In reviewing Mr. Carthwright's six agreements, Director Esparza Brown suggested that the language in one of the agreements simply state, "find common ground through dialogue". Chair Koehler commented to leave the language as it was and suggested an additional box for the equity lens working agreement. Director Esparza Brown stated that the equity lens should not be a working agreement as everything should be filtered through the equity lens. Director Rosen suggested a language change to, "keep each other informed and acknowledge potential conflict." Director Knowles asked about a working agreement regarding holding each other accountable. Director Buel responded that there is a Board policy on holding each other accountable. Chair Koehler suggested keeping the language, "avoid surprises".

BOARD PRIORITIES AND SUPERINTENDENT'S PERFORMANCE MILESTONES

Mr. Cartwright stated that the Board Priorities and Superintendent's Performance Milestones were shared priorities by the Board and Superintendent. Director Buel commented that he would prefer to use a Wish List approach. Mr. Cartwright reported that once the priorities are determined, staff will determine a couple measures and metrics for each.

At 4:00pm, the Board took a five minute break.

Priority 1. Prepare students to be college and career-ready, and life ready. Director Buel commented that we want more students graduating the right way. Director Esparza Brown requested that we not base the achievement gap on one metric.

Priority 2. Create a system of Academic Supports to improve literacy for all children.

Priority 3. Create a system of positive behavior supports that reduce expulsions and suspensions, and reduces disproportionality.

Priority 4. Prepare for a productive and successful PAT contract negotiation process and outcome.

Priority 5. Create an environment in which teachers thrive (supports, etc.) and have a voice in District-wide decision making.

Priority 6. Ensure a strong principal in every building that is well matched to the school community.

Priority 7. Ensure the bond continues tracking on time and on budget and addresses innovative, 21st Century schools as a priority.

Priority 8. Create a successful enrollment balancing framework.

Director Knowles commented that she would prefer a focus on 4 or 5 priorities and that she does not like long lists of priorities. Chair Koehler mentioned that he also leans towards less is best, but with a clear understanding that just because a topic might not be a priority does not mean the Board was not passionate about it. Superintendent Smith stated that in addition to the priorities, there were items that occur every year, such as the budget process. Staff was already proposing a budget framework that prioritizes placing money in the classroom.

Director Rosen questioned when the Board would see the measures and metrics for the priorities as there was a sense of urgency. Superintendent Smith responded that staff would work on the measures and metrics with the goal of having them completed within 30 days.

Director Rosen requested a definition of what putting more money in the classroom would look like.

At 5:03pm, the Board took a two minute break.

OUR OPERATING PROTOCOLS: HOW WILL WE MOVE FORWARD?

Amanda Whalen, Chief of Staff, provided a PowerPoint presentation on Operating Protocols that were in place prior to July 1, 2015. Director Rosen commented that he would like to receive copies of PowerPoint presentations in the Board packet and not wait until the actual meeting to receive them. Director Rosen also suggested a secure FTP website where Board members could review contracts. Ms. Whalen responded that she would look into it. Chair Koehler mentioned that he wants data in the Board packet and not wait until a Board meeting to receive the data in a PowerPoint presentation.

The Board revised Public Comment procedures. An individual can no longer “hold” speaking slots and cannot sign up additional individuals. Each person must contact the Board Office directly if they wish to participate in Public Comment. Ms. Whalen added that Student Testimony would be an agenda item at every Board meeting. The Board agreed that only clarifying questions would be asked of public commenters. Chair Koehler asked that that only occur with a high degree of self-discipline. In addition, Chair Koehler commented that if additional comment slots are requested beyond the customary six, that the Chair will decide whether or not additional slots would be added.

Mr. Cartwright stated that the Board will continue their discussion of Operating Protocols at their next Retreat.

The Board discussed having an audio/video recording of Committee meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Porter stated that the Board was missing some priorities. They need to think about internationalizing their business and digital technology and how it applies to your corporation. Both apply to a school district and shaping children to the world they will live in. The Board should expand Dual Language Immersion programs and offer a study abroad program for high school students. In addition, the District should expand on-line learning for school students, including on-line learning from other than PPS. Also, more Community Based organizations were needed for students to be interns.

Roger Kirshner stated that contract negotiations should be a Board priority.

ADJOURN

Chair Koehler adjourned the meeting at 5:55pm.

Submitted by:

Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk
PPS Board of Education