

December 9, 2014

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 6:33pm 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  
Greg Belisle, Co-Chair

Minna Jayaswal, Student Representative

Staff

Carole Smith, Superintendent  
Caren Huson Quiniones, Board Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Christine Klein spoke on the value of the 2014 Courageous Conversations Summit. Equity work was hard work; it was emotional, humbling and empowering. Each day she becomes a more effective teacher to all her students.

Febe Armendariz stated that she also had attended the Summit and that the conference definitely was not a waste of money. This conference has the most depth in terms of equity. It assures her that she was not alone in doing the equity work.

Emily Grant Molina commented that the Summit was a beneficial experience for her as a teacher and that supporting equity in PPS schools was not an easy task. But she left the conference with confidence and tools and returned inspired. It had been a life changing experience for her.

Laura Stepp stated that she wants to make sure that sibling preference does play a role in populating our schools. She values diversity in all schools and would like balanced representation in the Odyssey program. Race and gender can be viewed through many lenses. Odyssey results speak for themselves and should be replicated in neighborhood schools.

Ann Scheiman commented that she was representing the Japanese teachers at Richmond. Sibling preference was beneficial to everyone and she asked the Board to please consider what Richmond needs. Younger siblings almost always arrive in kindergarten with a strong language foundation, and siblings make up a third of the Japanese classes. Assuring sibling preference will provide stability as most families want to keep their children together.

**DISCUSSION: MALES OF COLOR PLEDGE**

Superintendent Smith reported that she had traveled with Co-Chair Knowles to Washington DC and had signed on to a pledge to support males of color in the school system. Co-Chair Knowles indicated that a resolution was included in the Board packet which the Board will vote on at their next meeting. Director

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Regan read the resolution aloud. Co-Chair Belisle commented that he appreciated the reaffirmation of the District's work.

Director Morton stated that this was something that needs to be directly in front of the Board's faces. It was humiliating that we can predict success of students by race through our data. The proposed resolution is a symbol, and he hopes it sets a tone that this is something we have to pay attention to. It is not acceptable to determine achievement by race.

Student Representative Jayaswal stated that in light of Ferguson, many students have had courageous conversations; she was in full agreement of the resolution.

### **COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

Tim Gillette of TKW, outside auditors, presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to the Board and spoke on the independent auditors report. The Management discussion and analysis provides a good overview of things and comparisons. In regards to Circular 133, no deficiencies in internal controls were noted. For an agency as large as PPS, it was very unusual to have no findings.

### **DISCUSSION: ENROLLMENT AND TRANSFER POLICY**

Co-Chair Knowles walked the Board through a PowerPoint presentation on the process to date and stated that a first reading of the policy would occur the following week.

Director Buel stated that it was critical to have siblings enrolled in the language programs, and perhaps we should add a sibling preference for daVinci. Superintendent Smith responded that that would be part of the Focus Option review.

Director Adkins commented that she supports the Superintendent's recommendations and did not see a negative impact for siblings if free or reduced lunch was the preference.

Director Regan stated that she preferred sibling preference over free or reduced lunch; that would still accept 95% of what was recommended.

Student Representative Jayaswal indicated that she was in support of free or reduced lunch as the preference.

Director Koehler commented that he prefers sibling preference as it will keep families together.

Director Morton stated that the Board has to be very motivated to make change now. We need commitment to the racial equity policy. We need to move forward with recommendations that may create discomfort and we need this District to best serve our students. Director Morton stated his support of the Superintendent's recommendation as it was written as it was the best and healthiest direction for the district to go.

Co-Chair Belisle mentioned that co-enrolled siblings was a challenge for him, but he wants to align us with our equity racial policy.

Director Morton commented that it felt like a game of Fear Factor - fear of change. The Board has heard testimony about change in the schools and fear for the Board when they make the decision. He understands the discomfort that change makes, but we need to create a new normal. For decades at PPS we have had certain students in certain neighborhoods of certain races and socioeconomic classes that have not been allowed to experience things. The equity policy was so important and we shouldn't be afraid of different. We need to get to the new normal.

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Director Buel stated that it was best to go forward with sibling preference at the top. He believed that the way we test now in Oregon was racist. There are 20 things we are doing that we should be doing differently per equity.

Director Adkins mentioned that change from the current policy causes fear, but looking at the numbers, there will not be issues with sibling preference being the second preference after free or reduced lunch.

#### **UPDATE: WORKLOAD COMMITTEE**

Sean Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, provided an overview of the documents in the Board packet. Brock Logan, Director of Labor Relations, reported about the online form for PAT members to request review of their workload. He has received eight requests for workload review to date. Director Buel asked if there was a timeline when there will be some actual action out of the committee. Mr. Logan responded that one request has already been resolved and a couple others have worked themselves out.

Director Regan stated that she was excited to see this level of conversation between PAT and PPS.

#### **BOARD MEMBER CONFERENCE REPORTS**

Co-Chair Belisle provided a report on the Courageous Conversations Summit he attended. There was attendance by school board members across the nation.

Co-Chair Knowles provided a report on the Council of Great City Schools conference. She attended workshops on principal evaluations and budgeting, and received a number of reports.

#### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

Director Regan requested a future discussion about the PERS bubble and to look at the incentive provided to employees when they provide us advanced notice that they will be retiring.

#### **ADJOURN**

Co-Chair Knowles adjourned the meeting at 9:21pm

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Other Items Requiring Board Action

The Superintendent RECOMMENDED adoption of the following items:

Numbers 4995 and 4996

During the Committee of the Whole, Director Morton moved and Director Belisle seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 4995. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously (yes-7, no-0; with Student Representative Jayaswal voting yes, unofficial).

Director Belisle moved and Director Morton seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 4996. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously (yes-7, no-0; with Student Representative Jayaswal voting yes, unofficial).

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**RESOLUTION No. 4995**

Acceptance and Approval of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Reports to Management and Report on Requirements of the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133

**RECITALS**

- A. The Board of Education is committed to accountability for how Portland Public Schools spends its tax dollars and other resources, and recognizes that transparency, accuracy, and timeliness in financial reporting are important components of financial accountability.
- B. The District Auditor, Talbot, Korvola & Warwick, LLP, has completed their independent audit of the financial reporting for the year ended June 30, 2014, and provides assurance that the District's accounting and reporting is in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- C. The District has received awards in Excellence in Financial Reporting for 34 consecutive years from both the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) and plans to submit the current financial reports for similar award consideration.

**RESOLUTION**

The Board of Education accepts and approves the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Reports to Management, and Report on Requirements of the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133 of School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, and authorizes the reports to be distributed to required state and federal agencies and filed for future reference.

*Y. Awwad*

**RESOLUTION No. 4996**

Re-Employment of Retirees

The authority to pay District employees who retire from Multnomah County School District #1J on or after January 1, 2015 and are re-employed to complete the 2014-15 school year on the terms presented to the Board and filed in the record of this meeting is granted.

*S. Murray*