

October 16, 2023 TTSD School Board Work Session Minutes

Tigard-Tualatin School District, 23J

The minutes are official after Board approval and will be posted at www.ttsdschools.org

Board Members Present:

Tristan Irvin, Chair
David Jaimes, Vice Chair
Kristen Miles
Jill Zurschmeide
Crystal Weston

Administrators Present:

Dr. Susan Rieke-Smith, Superintendent
David Moore, CFO
Traci Rose, Director, Communications
Len Reed, Director, Human Resources
Darin Barnard, Director, Bond/Operations
Carol Kinch, Director, Student Services
Dr. Zinnia Un, Director, Equity & Inclusion
Todd Robson, Director, Teaching & Learning
Jarvis Gomes, Operations Administrator

Others Present:

Patty Roberts, Executive Assistant
Thor Kuhn, Teacher & Technology Specialist
Jeff Smith, Superintendent's Husband
Nick Nunn, SRO
Owen Ahlbrecht, Student Representative, Tigard HS
Jamie Hartmann, Student Representative, Tualatin HS
Atticus Beckley, Student Representative, Creekside CHS
Rima Hussein, Student Representative, Tigard HS
Olivia Trone, Student Representative, Tualatin HS
Briana Castellanos Zuniga, Student Representative, THS
Katt Beckley, Parent, Creekside Community HS
Paul Verstraete, District Data Assessment Coordinator
And
Members of the Community via the Internet

(Please access the online video of this meeting, through the TTSD YouTube Channel, for full verbiage in its entirety.)

I. WORK SESSION ~ 5:32 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER ~ Time: 5:32 PM

Chair Tristan Irvin convened this Board work session of the Tigard-Tualatin School District Board of Directors to order at 5:32 PM at the Tigard-Tualatin Training Center, at 9550 SW Murdock St., Tigard, OR 97224. This Board work session was streamed live on the [TTSD YouTube Channel](#).

B. Board Policies Review – Presenter: Chair Irvin

Chair Irvin introduced Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith, Superintendent who noted that there are handouts including, [Board Policy JFCM, Threats of Violence**](#) as well as the following recent survey results information, including: [Safety Insights and Feedback Survey – Participant](#); [Safety Insights and Feedback Survey – Resolved Race](#), and [Safety Insights and Feedback Survey – School](#). The survey was provided to all TTSD families, staff and students. All are attached to these minutes. Chair Irvin noted that last week when the Board met, they looked at some of the initial data that was received specific to Hazelbrook MS, and now the data we see is from all schools.

Those in attendance discussed, in detail, information regarding Board Policy, Administrative Rules, and what information should be placed in the Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook, a link can be found in the agenda.

C. Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Matrix – Presenter: Carol Kinch

Director Carol Kinch and Director Dr. Zinnia Un shared information from a PowerPoint presentation, a link can be found in the agenda, regarding Behavior Incident Framework and they discussed:

- [Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook](#)
- Background and Context
- Behavior Incident Categories that will be Addressed
- Behavior Incident Example

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- Escalating Levels of Response
 - Level 1 Response
 - Level 2 Response
 - Level 3 Response
 - Level 4 Response
 - Level 5 Response
 - Physical Altercation/Assault

The Board and guests shared the following questions & comments:

- There was discussion regarding behaviors and consequences. There was appreciation shared for the language, found in the handbook, is understandable to parents.
- There was a suggestion that we may want to develop a glossary or to change the terms, for some of the specific terms found in the handbook.
- There was discussion regarding:
 - The variety of behaviors and appropriate & unintended consequences.
 - The criminal justice system, and the school to prison pipeline.
 - That students need to be treated courteously.
 - Education, Accountability, Solutions, and Healing (EASH) categories.
 - Level One and Level Two incidences and teacher tolerances to situations.
 - Students, administrators, teachers & community points of view.
 - Repairing student disruption with the teacher, administrator and other classroom students.
 - Teachers will be trained to be an active partner in situations, and will be ready when a student is returned to their classroom.
 - Consistency.
 - Student safety.
 - How are teachers and administrators being trained and empowered to response to questions from parents and students in the classroom, regarding specific situations?
 - Add a communication piece of how parents can contact the school administrator or teacher, when there is a situation.
 - Manifestation of disabilities, which is part of IDEA and 504 laws and is very specific.

At 6:32 PM Chair Irvin shared that this is a really rich conversation, and she suggested a switch, in topic to discuss to [Board Policy JCFM: Threats of Violence](#). Superintendent Rieke-Smith shared that the reason for this work session is that there is some very discrete language regarding acts of violence, in this case, specific to a personal threat to another.

The Board and guests shared the following questions & comments:

- There was discussion regarding the development of a student violence policy, along with a reminder to be careful and aware that certain policies come straight out of specific laws. And it was noted that there is not a specific law, in Oregon, about student violence.
- It was noted that TTSD is not the only district that is facing this challenge with our students and trying to balance between providing the level of discipline that needs that is warranted based on the act, but also the opportunity to continue to educate and repair the student, so that their action doesn't occur again.
- Violence has a very specific definition and it the Board will want to make sure it's very, very clear what we are talking about when we talk about violence. And hearing from the community, at our schools, it is not just assaults, this physical interactions between students, physical aggression, that is creating a feeling of being unsafe in hallways, etc.
- There was discussion regarding:
 - Development of one (1) Administrative Rule with some kind of a grid and have legal counsel review it.

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- Administrative Rules tells administrators, “this is the process to follow” regarding specific situations.
 - Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and Administrative Rule.
 - Consider an acts of violence policy, not just a violence policy, so we don’t miss something.
 - Current Board Policy JFC: Student Conduct
 - It is important to clear up misinformation and provide correct information.
 - Reminder that there are definite differences between, elementary, middle and high school students. Student’s backgrounds are very different. It is important to have consistency.
 - Having students talk about their lived experiences on a daily basis.

At 7:12 PM Director Dr. Zinnia Un shifted the conversation to discuss the parent survey data. This data was provided for from the Community Work Group Safety Insights and Feedback survey and in grouped by: [Participant](#), [Resolved Race](#), [by School](#). She shared that, as a reminder, a lot of the themes came from the themes that the Board had talked about and much of the process connected to policy, and the first part was around policies, procedures and processes. She noted that there are approximately 1660 responses. Paul Verstraete, TTSD Data Coordinator, reviewed this preliminary data and shared that the results are predominately provided by adults.

The Board and guests shared the following questions & comments:

- There were questions regarding the types of questions asked within the survey, for example, the same questions for parents, staff and students.
- I was surprised that the question regarding restrooms did not rise to a level that I thought it would. Also, it was disappointing that the strong relationships and feeling of a sense of belonging had a big disparity when broken down by race.
- Would it be possible to get data by level?

Chair Irvin shared that as we move forward and considering our next Work Session on, Monday, 10/23/23, do we want to consider making some clarification revisions in the JFC policy, not necessarily revising the language, but making it more clear as to where to look for information.

- There was discussion regarding:
 - Will we also consider a threats of aggression form of policy?
 - Looking to add severe and moderate incidents and also adding it in the handbook, to be added to over time to make it more comprehensive.
 - It was noted that our Threats of Violence policy includes threats of aggression.
 - There was detailed discussion regarding where and how parents can find specific policy information.
 - There was detailed discussion regarding the organization of the Student Rights & Responsibility Handbook.
 - There was detailed discussion regarding the process to begin drafting the Acts of Aggression policy.
 - There was a request when looking at the progressive discipline, it is important for it to be evidence based, meaning the literature is consulted, on what has been effective and what isn’t effective.

Superintendent Rieke-Smith asked Director Kinch to provide information regarding PAX Framework and MTSS tiered system. Director Kinch said that everything we do is anchored in evidence-based research. She will share the PAX framework that talks about social emotional skills and students. And she will share information from the PBIS.org, a national website that has a lot of information, including all the research around responding and preventing violence in schools.

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IX. ADJOURN ~ Time: 7:39 PM

Board Chair Irvin adjourned the Board work session of the Tigard-Tualatin School District Board of Directors at 7:39 PM.

This Board Meeting was streamed on the [TTSD YouTube Channel](#).

APPROVED BOARD MEETING

DATE: 12/11/2023

CHAIRMAN:

CLERK:


Susan R. Perkins, Ed. D.