

School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Committee Meeting of April 4, 2019

INFORMAL MINUTES

A meeting of the Board's Policy and Governance Committee meeting came to order at 2:02 pm at the call of Chair Brim-Edwards in the Willamette Conference Room at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

Board

Paul Anthony

Julia Brim-Edwards

Amy Kohnstamm-by phone

Rita Moore

Nick Paelser

Mike Rosen

Staff

Jonathan Garcia-Chief of Engagement

Mary Kate-Senior Legal Counsel

Cynthia Le-Chief Financial Officer

Rachel Lent-Paralegal

Rosanne Powell-Senior Board Manager

Student Representative Policy

There was new language added which allowed for the adoption of bylaws that are consistent with the policy. The committee made the recommendation to move to a first reading at the April 9th board meeting. Jonathan Garcia will work with Student Representative Paelser to communicate the proposed changes and the 21 day public comment period. Chair Brim-Edwards would like the community to have public input into the community engagement process.

Community Use of Building Policy

There should be communication sent out to schools about the update to this policy. Jonathan Garcia will assist.

Contingency and Reserves Policy

Claire Hertz requested a change to this policy, which would remove deadlines for establishing a minimum percentage of reserves, and instead have a range of reserves, instead of a specific threshold. This would provide the flexibility to deal with uncertainty in K-12 funding, and conform to best practice. Roger Kirchner stated that the Community Budget Review Committee (CBRC) had not seen these proposal and expects to have it provided to the CBRC for input as they have strong views about this particular policy. Director Moore said she was not sure she was ok with these changes, as she was on the CBRC when they added the timeline, and she sees value in

having deadlines. Roger Kirchner hoped there is a change to the perceived practice that reserves are used to fund projects supported by individual board members. Director Brim-Edwards does not think that is an accurate statement, and shared that reserves have been used to restore basic levels of support. Director Brim-Edwards wants to move the policy to the full board for a first reading. Director Moore does not agree that it is ready. She would like to keep specific dates in the policy. Cynthia Le shared there are best practices on how to request the use of contingency funds and how to have a plan to replenish. Director Anthony said the policy does not lay out language for allowable circumstances to tap into reserves. Cynthia Le would like to see Oregon budget laws incorporated into the policy and would like to hold a board work session on budget laws. Director Moore would like to see the statutes she is referring to before she agrees to incorporating them into policy, and wants to see clear language on using contingency funds incorporated into the policy. Chair Brim-Edwards would like to move for a first reading and add in drafted language at that time. Director Moore objected and asked that it not move out of committee until the policy is ready. The committee agreed to bring the draft policy with suggested edits to the next CBRC meeting, prior to coming back to committee.

Age of Grade Level at Entrance Policy

Judy Brennan gave an overview of the comments and questions submitted by Director Anthony and provided an overview of the data on the age of entry at Kindergarten. The committee agreed to move it forward for second reading at the April 15th board meeting.

Update on Committee Calendar

The committee reviewed the draft calendar. The Legacy and Boundary, Contingency and Reserve, and the Foundation Policies will be on the April 25th committee agenda. Chair Brim-Edwards thinks the Racial Equity Policy should be amended to no longer include twice a year reporting to the board.

Board of Education Self Evaluation Discussion

Chair Brim-Edwards shared examples of school board evaluations from the National School Board Association (NSBA) and Dallas School District. She would like the committee to make a recommendation to the full board on the timing and instrument to be used. Director Moore stated this was going to be part of the board retreat on April 13th. Chair Brim-Edwards thought the committee should decide.

Chair Brim-Edward adjourned the committee at 3:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Rosanne Powell, Senior Board Manager
PPS Board of Education