

School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Committee Meeting of January 31, 2019

INFORMAL MINUTES

A meeting of the Board's Policy and Governance Committee meeting came to order at 8:35 am at the call of Chair Brim-Edwards in the Wy'East Conference Room at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227. Wy'east

Committee

Julia Brim-Edwards-Chair
Amy Kohnstamm
Rita Moore-absent
Mike Rosen

Staff

Judy Brennan-Director, Enrollment and Transfer
Stephanie Cameron-Senior Director, Communications and Community Engagement
Joe Crelier-Director, Risk Management
Guadalupe Guerrero-Superintendent
Nancy Hauth-Program Manager, Child Care and Early Learning Program
Claire Hertz-Deputy Superintendent, Business and Operations
Mary Kane-Senior Legal Counsel
Sara Kling-Director, Planning and Asset Management
Liz Large-Interim, General Counsel
Frank Leavitt-Senior Manager, Facility Services and Operations
Veronica Magallenas-Director, ESL
Rosanne Powell-Board Manager
Elisa Schorr-Director, High School Programs
Linda Smith-Director, Talented and Gifted (TAG)

Purchasing and Contracting Rules Policy

Chair Brim-Edwards stated that the Purchasing and Contracting Rules Policy will move to the Audit Committee for work. She asked Liz Large if the Audit Committee had authority to move it out of policy, who agreed she would look into it.

Age and Grade Level at Entrance Policy

Judy Brennan shared there have been questions on how to place a child who has prior grade level experience who does not meet age levels for Oregon. Right now schools each handle it differently, and they would like to have a clear procedure. They are seeking Board approval on a revised policy now, so that school staff can be informed of what the practice is in preparation for the enrollment process for the coming year. There was discussion on the process for early entry. The committee agreed to bring back to the committee on February 21st for final review, with recommended language about compulsory age for entry, and then go to the full board for a first reading on February 26th. Chair Brim-Edwards would like to

know what process there is for grade level acceleration. Linda Smith shared that typically the process begins at school and then gets referred to the TAG office.

Discussing on Retaking Classes at Home High Schools

Chair Brim-Edwards would like to review the options for students to retake classes at their home high schools. She said looking at data she requested, she thinks most students are retaking courses at evening or summer programs. Superintendent Guerrero agreed there are issues in how the district is supporting students and thinks that they need to work with high schools. Chair Brim-Edwards asked if D's are acceptable and said there needs to be a clear statement of value because right now students can pass class with D. Superintendent Guerrero stated there needs to be more extended learning options, including Saturday programming. Elisa Schorr said the data they were looking at needed to be cleaned up. Chair Brim-Edwards would like to see course retake data as well. She would also like to understand counseling practices and intervention for off-track students, and what courses have a virtual scholar module. Elisa Schorr stated that counselors would love clear guidance and a common practice across the district.

Civic Use of Building Fees at Title 1 Schools

The parent community at Scott School has raised concerns regarding the fees they have to pay to use the school on weekends, which eat into the profits made by fundraising events. Sara King stated requests for fee waivers are considered by district administration. Parent Teacher Association groups already qualify for reduced fees on weeknights, however the issue is when a civic use permit is requested on weekends and custodial costs incur. Claire Hertz stated that the district is looking at how to support Title 1 schools. Chair Brim-Edwards would like to see better communication on how to request waivers. Sara King confirmed that the district administrative directive does not have a process for requesting a waiver. Chair Brim-Edwards thought the policy could be revised to include it. Superintendent Guerrero said it was a management function.

Off Campus Activities Policy

Public comment was heard:

Jago Dorn-Former Hosford Mandarin Immersion student who stated that the proposed change to limit field trips to no more than five instruction does not allow for enough time.

Georgia Knudsen-Hosford Mandarin Immersion student shared how much she was looking forward to going to China and that she does not want to see these trips discontinued.

Sara DeLuca, Amy Star Thomas and Sean Egusa-Co-presidents of Oya No Kai who shared concerns about the process for revising the Field Trip Policy. They stated frustration that there were not being slots on the public comment list available when they called.

Shannon Baird-Hosford Mandarin Immersion parent who stated that the trip to China had to happen during the school year due to the parameters set by the school they visit and that there was a conflict of interest on the board regarding this issue. He said two members had a relationship with the parent who complained about the length of the trips. He asked for their resignations.

Lisa Zuniga-Parent that said she first began raising this issue in the 2012-13 school year with the school principal at the time. She ended up filing a complaint that has been poorly handled. She is in full support of the proposed revisions and requests that there is outreach to the stakeholders who are impacted when left behind in half empty classrooms.

Geoff Dorn-He said this issue had already come up in previous Teaching and Learning Committee meetings and asked how much the committee was aware of those meetings. He feels like the concern about the issue of the trips snuck back in.

Russ Knutson-Hosford parent who has chaperoned previous trips. He said it was incredible to watch the growth that occurred in the students during the trips..

Barbara Leese-Hosford parent of a 7th grade student who stated her support for the trips to China.
Dick Lee-Mandarin Immersion parent in support of continuing the foreign trips and said his own family is not affluent and gained access to the program through the lottery.
Jade Chan-Woodstock parent who wanted the committee to know there are no financial barriers for the trip to China. No child is turned away from going on the trip due to cost.

Chair Brim-Edwards stated that public comment for the proposed policy revisions has been extended until February 21st and that it had been previously stated at a board meeting that the policy if approved would not apply to this year's students. She then shared some background into why the policy was under revision stating that the Whitehust investigation report recommended e areas that this policy be revised to address student safety issues. She agreed that there needs to be involvement by communities affected by proposed policies, and stated this meeting agenda included a report from Stephanie Cameron from the Communications And Public Engagement about improving outreach to communities relating to board policy revisions . Stephanie Cameron stated that she she had planned on sharing the policy communication plan, but since the the meeting was running behind schedule, she would like to share it at the next meeting. Chair Brim-Edwards agreed. Superintendent Guerrero stated he would meet with the members of Oya No Kai to hear their perspective.

Chair Brim-Edwards adjourned the committee at 10:30 am.

Submitted by:

Rosanne Powell, Board Manager