

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Study Session of December 2, 2014**

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Study Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 6:07pm at the call of Co-Chair Pam Knowles in the Board Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, OR, 97227

There were present:

Board of Directors:

Pam Knowles, Co-Chair
Ruth Adkins, Co-Chair
Bobbie Regan
Matt Morton
Tom Koehler
Greg Belisle
Steve Buel

Student Representative:

Minna Jayaswal -

DISCUSSION: ENROLLMENT AND TRANSFER POLICY

Director Koehler stated that the public has asked for the model that staff was running and has stated that we have not been able to give it to them. That model should be transparent and replicated for all focus option schools. Judy Brennan, Director of Enrollment and Transfer, indicated that the methodology that was used was online and that the results from the modeling have also been posted to date. Co-Chair Adkins commented that that was not a good use of staff time; she wants to look at how we would implement the new policy. The key piece was getting

populate our schools, then we can no longer continue as business as usual. We need to support the schools in a manner that makes them better. We can no longer be compliance oriented, but school oriented. We can no longer spend \$14 million on consultants. We can no longer dally when parents are unhappy with their school. We must get the librarians and reading specialists in the schools and we must build a solid educational foundation. We need to focus on our schools and not ourselves, meaning his Board members.

Co-Chair Knowles mentioned that the only reason she is on the Board is because she cares about children. She considers letters she receives and tries to make the best decision possible. The entire Board is dedicated to our students. The petition process is at the top of her list and she wants to make sure it is unbiased and fair. She wondered how we were going to get free or reduced lunch students to apply and she would like to see what the marketing will look like. And once they apply, one barrier is the school welcoming to culturally different students? What are we going to do to make sure our schools are welcoming to the students we want to go there? We need to perform a check and balance on it each year and that language needs to be in the resolution. We want to be able to make amendments if we need to.

PRESENTATION: COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Sharie Lewis, Director of Accounting and Payroll, introduced Cheryl Anselone and David Schick who helped assemble the CAFR. The Single Audit Report was also in the Board's packet. Ms. Lewis announced that there were no findings this year on the District's internal controls. The District was in Good Standing. The auditors will attend the Board meeting the following week and at that time, staff will ask the Board to approve the financial statements in their totality.

Director Buel questioned if the District could also do a summary budget in addition to the budget required by law. Ms. Lewis responded yes, and that staff was looking at different ways to provide a budget for the public to understand.

UPDATE: MULTIPLE PATHWAYS

Korinna Wolfe, Senior Director of Alternative Education, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to give an understanding of the depths and breadths that Multiple Pathways serves. Multiple Pathways provide wraparound services to various schools and programs, and that included prevention, intervention and re-engagement.

Director Morton asked, in regards to reconnection services, what role our community partners played in that. Carla Gay, Vice-Principal at the Reconnection Center, responded that outreach coordinators have been added, and they knock on doors to get kids back into school. They also coordinate with CBO's and Juvenile Justice and attend task force meetings to connect with those partnerships.

Director Regan questioned why MLC was an alternative school and not a focus school. Ms. Wolfe responded that the primary purpose for Alliance is drop-out recovery; MLC is an alternative school by nature as they have the same category per Oregon Statute. Director Regan asked what the greatest need was for Alternative Education. Ms. Wolfe responded that wraparound supports, staffing and more fte would be their greatest need, and it would be nice to start building back to previous levels. The largest need is that they do not have enough seats for the students in alternative schools.

At 9:03pm, Co-Chair Knowles called for a five minute break.

UPDATE: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Greg Wolleck, Program Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Joe LaFontaine, Funded Programs Senior Director, described how Indestar works and added that the state has been using Indestar for four years. All schools have codes for their programs. The codes will be available to the public for transparency. The Indestar software program was given to all school districts from ODE. School Improvement Plans were drafted once a year in the fall but were difficult to monitor and the content was difficult to review. They were not coherent from one year to the next.

Director Belisle asked how we imagined incorporating our partners into this. Mr. LaFontaine responded that he did not know what the tool would look like, but partners would be involved. Co-Chair Knowles commented that she was surprised that stakeholders were coming into the program late. Mr. Wolleck assured her that family and community involvement was utilized. Director Regan stated that the new tool sounds very positive, but was also concerned about parents and the site council process.

Director Buel questioned who owned the Indestar program. Mr. Wolleck responded that the tool was developed by an institute in Illinois. The Oregon Department of Education adopted it and was requiring it for many schools. The software has been customized for PPS and ODE pays for it. The state requires it for all title schools and will eventually move to all our schools.

Director Morton mentioned that the new Climate Survey will be rolled out next year and he was curious at how the multiple layers will play out. He is hearing that, as a tool, it can be used consistently across staff and the school community and is worthwhile so far. How will we layer new stakeholder information that comes in and how good of a tool is this for accountability on a school level? Mr. LaFontaine responded that at the school level, it was very easy to use. One could change the course of the work with this tool. You can delete future tasks and create new tasks as the work needs to be changed.

FIRST READING: AMENDED CASH MANAGEMENT POLICY

Barbara Gibbs, Senior Treasury manager, stated that before the Board was an amendment Cash Management Policy that the Board will vote on each year at the same time the Board votes on the CAFR. Tonight would be a first reading of the amendment policy, with the second reading and vote to occur on January 6th.

ADJOURN

Co-Chair Knowles adjourned the meeting at 10:07pm.

Submitted by: