

School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon
Board Retreat of June 28 and 29, 2017

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Retreat of the Board of Directors came to order at 8:36am at the call of Vice-Chair Amy Kohnstamm, Chair Tom Koehler in the Library at Concordia University, 2811 NE Holman Street, Portland, Oregon, 97211.

There were present:

Board of Directors:

Tom Koehler, Chair - absent
Amy Kohnstamm, Vice-Chair
Paul Anthony
Steve Buel – absent June 28th
Julie Esparza Brown
Pam Knowles - absent
Mike Rosen

Staff:

Sascha Perrins, Interim Chief of Staff
Rosanne Powell, Board Office Manager

Panasonic Foundation (Facilitator):

George Perry
Barbara Anderson

Board Elect:

Julia Brim-Edwards
Scott Bailey
Rita Moore
Moses Tran, Student Representative

JUNE 28, 2017

Welcome; Ice Breaker/Team Building Activities

George Perry stated that the purpose of the Retreat was an opportunity for Board Members to reach a shared understanding of their roles and responsibilities and to consider policies and practices that build their capacity to exercise governance and leadership and instill trust and confidence in Portland Public Schools.

The Board participated in an Ice Breaker exercise in which they shared their connection with each other.

Discussion of Values and Aspirations for PPS

Board Members were asked what values they have and want to remain true in regards to public education. Responses included: students always as the center focus; every student deserves the opportunity to achieve their potential with the support of the community.

prepared; earn respect; here to serve; accountable; build trust; clear communication with the public; ethics; service oriented.

At 10:30am, the Board took a ten minute break.

Discussion of Aspirations for the Board

Board Members were asked how they wanted to be known as a Board. Responses included: why have updating of policies not occurred as that is the foundation of the Board's work; we are the model of civil discourse and need communication protocols and common consensus; we need a shared understanding of what Board leadership means and need to evaluate if the Board has been following policy; should be flexible with policies as sometimes a policy will not address something or it is a very old policy. Ms. Anderson reviewed the comments Board members had made during their individu47f phner

- Sharon Reese, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, and Lisa Gardner, Interim Deputy Chief Human Resources Officer – Human Resources
- Anna Richer-Taylor, Interim Chief of Communications – Community Involvement and Public Affairs

The Board adjourned at 5:45pm on June 28, 2017.

JUNE 29, 2017

Vice-Chair Amy Kohnstamm convened Day 2 of the Retreat at 10:53am.

The Board participated in an Ice Breaker exercise in which they shared the career they would have chosen knowing what they know now.

Coming Together as a Board

Board Members were asked what their concerns of the Board were. Responses included: not just one problem with the Board, there were several; senior staff of color leaving saying they did so over the treatment of them by the Board; need to acknowledge the issue of white privilege on the Board; the way we talk about each other and the way we talk about employees; lack of communication to the community; need to be present, put electronic devices away during meetings; the tone of communication in a public meeting; no strategic vision, everything is disconnected; Board is reactive due to lack of information; need

Next Steps

Mr. Perry indicated that at the next Board Retreat, the Board would begin work on their Strategic Plan.

Department Presentations

Staff members provided an overview of their department:

- Van Truong, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning – Office of Teaching and Learning
- Antonio Lopez, Assistant Superintendent of School Performance – Office of School Performance
- Stephanie Harper, Senior Legal Counsel – General Counsel Office
- Jeanine Fukuda, Senior Director – Office of Equity and Partnerships

ADJOURN

Vice-Chair Kohnstamm adjourned the Retreat at 6:18pm on June 29, 2017.

Submitted by:

Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk
PPS Board of Education