

School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon  
Board Special Meeting of May 10, 2018

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors came to order at 4:05pm at the call of Chair Julia Brim-Edwards in the Board Auditorium at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

There were present:

Board of Directors:

Julia Brim-Edwards, Chair  
Rita Moore, Vice-Chair  
Julie Esparza Brown, Vice-Chair  
Am Kohnstamm  
Paul Anthony  
Scott Bailey  
Mike Rosen

Staff:

Guadalupe Guerrero, Superintendent  
Liz Large, Interim General Counsel

Chair Brim-Edwards indicated that the purpose of the Special Meeting was to receive the Report to the Portland Public Schools Board of Education: Findings and Recommendations of the Whitehurst Investigation Team. The Board received background information and were introduced to the Whitehurst Investigation Team (Team). The Team provided highlights of the Report, including the findings and recommendations.

Ms. Large stated that the Report would have some redactions, mostly to protect the privacy of the former students who shared their stories with the Team. Some students gave permission for their stories to be told. The independent investigative team was free to ask the questions they needed to and they were not the ones who independent officers with PPS had been interviewed and were not to be purged or destroyed due to the Portland Association of Teachers contract. PPS lacks an effective document management systems and that was a systemic failure which contributed to the district not being able to connect the dots with Mr. Whitehurst and the many schools he worked at. The Team interviewed over 100 witnesses and nearly all witnesses were credible. On very few occasions over the last 32 years, Mr. Whitehurst was spoken to regarding his sexual intentions. The Team found many witnesses who testified to his sexual harassment. By asking students to meet him in his hotel room to have sex was illegal conduct. But his conduct went largely undetected by supervisors. Follow-up with him was not documented, not maintained in his personnel file, and not passed on to the next principal he worked for. Nothing ever arose to discipline status. District investigations of students were inadequate and incomplete. There is a lack of documentation regarding his sexual conduct. What documentation there is was transient and not well tracked. PPS lacks a viable records management system; building files were



Vice-Chair Esparza Brown indicated that PPS has some Pre-K classrooms and asked if the law pertains to those classrooms also. The Team responded that PPS has an obligations to report. For the District, you would always report the educator for inappropriate behavior. At a previous Board meeting, the Board asked then Interim Superintendent Bob McKean what needed to change in the district. He and former Human Resources Chief Sean Murray reviewed the Human Resources policies and put training in place.