

School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon  
Board Work Session of September 25, 2018

INFORMAL MINUTES

A Work Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 8:30pm at the call of Chair Rita Moore in the Mazama Conference Room at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

There were present:

Board of Directors:

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

Staff:

Guadalupe Guerrero, Superintendent  
Liz Large, Interim General Counsel  
Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent Business and Operations

CTE experience should every PPS student have? What is the Board's vision for district-wide CTE programming, facilities, and level of resources? Given Benson's role as a combined CTE and comprehensive high school, what should the experience be for Benson students?

Director Brim-Edwards stated that there were huge equity issues across the District and there is nothing at PPS which states what should be offered in high schools. Ms. Yerkovich responded that staff has worked at providing the same CTE classes across all high schools.

Director Kohnstamm commented that it would be nice to get an industry group for each CTE program. Ms. Yerkovich responded that one current example is the Benson radio program which has advisors from radio stations who advise on what is new and what is no longer being done.

Chair Moore questioned the overlap for STEM and CTE. Director Bailey responded that there was a lot of overlap in the clusters. STEM was average in terms of occupational aspirations, but computer technology was off the charts. Ms. Terry responded that STEM hubs in Oregon are not aligned with CTE regions.

Ms. Terry stated that next steps include coming up with some basic standards of success and criteria so that staff can set up policy of what that looks like. Director Kohnstamm added that that was fundamental for Benson. Director Kohnstamm asked what were the best national practices currently, and if we want Benson to be a premier CTE high school, what does that look like? She would like to receive a recommendation from staff.

Chair Moore mentioned that we have CTE and hands-on, we have high school and middle school, where were we in terms of hands-on? Ms. Terry responded that it was another opportunity for growth. Seventh grade students have a 3-day makerspace experience; ninth grade has some career exploration activities and CTE in high schools. Chair Moore questioned if we could look at what we have historically offered, such as shop. Director Anthony stated that George Middle School has great shop space but few students were using it. Director Bailey mentioned that CTE should be student centric and their interests should drive the programs. In addition, every high school should have a hands-on program, entrepreneurial program, etc. Mr. LaFontaine commented that we have to consider the space we have in the high schools. If we want to offer everything, then we'll have to take away things. Director Bailey questioned why the Alliance students couldn't access the Benson CTE. Ms. Curtis responded that it had to do with scheduling and the "that's the way we've always done it". Director Kohnstamm commented that Benson was not accessible to many high school students. Director Anthony stated that he had written up a vision for Benson and would share it with the Board.

Board members requested basic information on the various models, the pros and cons, and the costs and benefits of each.

Director Kohnstamm stated that she was concerned about the development of the Educational Specifications for Benson. We need to come up with specifications for a premier CTE high school. It will be the most expensive high school in the United States. We don't have the entire program identified, so how do we get there? Superintendent Guerrero indicated that we need to identify guiding principles. Director Brim-Edwards added that key questions need to be answered. Ms. Terry stated that staff will take the Board comments and questions and come up with the important questions, receive Board insight, and then come back with recommendations.

## ADJOURN

Chair Moore adjourned the Work Session at 10:38pm.

Submitted by:

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Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk  
PPS Board of Education