

**School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon  
Board Work Session of February 13, 2017**

**INFORMAL MINUTES**

A Work Session of the Board of Directors came to order at 6:03pm at the call of Chair Tom Koehler in the Mazama Conference Room at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

There were present:

Board of Directors:

- Tom Koehler, Chair
- Amy Kohnstamm, Vice-Chair
- Pam Knowles
- Paul Anthony
- Steve Buel
- Julie Esparza Brown
- Mike Rosen
- Aliemah Bradley, Student Representative

Staff:

- Bob McKean, Interim Superintendent
- Amanda Whalen, Chief of Staff
- Jerry Vincent, Chief of School Modernization
- Courtney Wilton, Interim Chief Operations Officer
- Yousef Awwad, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- Rosanne Powell, Board Office Manager
- Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk

**WORK SESSION GOALS**

Chair Koehler mentioned that the purpose of the Work Session was to move forward a bond package for Board vote on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SUMMARY OF BOND SURVEY RESPONSES AND TOWN HALLS**

Amy Ruiz, Bond Consultant, summarized the process to date for the proposed 2017 Bond. A city-wide phone survey had been conducted, along with an on-line survey in which 884 responses were received. Many comments received concerned the lead in water issue. The vast majority of respondents preferred Option 1 at \$790 million (with approximately 30% of modernization and rebuild budgets targeted to health and safety projects in all applicable categories). A Board public hearing and four Town Hall meetings were held on the bond proposals.

Chair Koehler mentioned that the Board had set aside funds for auditorium repairs the previous year. Director Knowles stated that not a lot of money was put aside, but thought that the money was used towards rigging. David Hobbs, Senior Director, stated that auditorium work at Cleveland had cost \$550,000, and 2-3 small stages also had repairs at \$35,000.

**BOND STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDATION**

Ms. Ruiz stated that the Bond Stakeholder Advisory Group (BSAG) came to a consensus agreement with Option 1 being the preferred bond scenario. The BSAG had additional requests of the Board:

1. That the Board and Superintendent by December 2017 be able to clearly articulate a short and long-term strategy that addresses all currently identified health, safety, and ADA issues.
2. That the Board has a clear plan on how the \$150 million of additional health and safety investments will be spent to first address all high-risk areas as a priority: lead paint, lead in water fixtures and pipes, radon, exposed asbestos, and a minimum level of acceptable fire protection with the rest of the remaining dollars to address other health, safety, and ADA issues. The Board should consider increasing the amount of additional health and safety investment in this bond to ensure issues of lead, radon, exposed asbestos and high risk facility issues are fully resolved.
3. That the Board dedicate \$8 million in state matching funds to addressing additional health, safety, and accessibility needs, and communicate to the public that the \$8 million investment is on top of the \$790 million.
4. That the Board should request clarification from the Superintendent and staff about how investments in seismic upgrades are prioritized, and affirm its understanding that two effective ways to increase student and staff safety include full modernization and replacement of schools and adding or strengthening seismic bracing when roofs are replaced.
5. That the Board concludes that the school district's plan for 1700 students at each of the existing and future high schools is well supported by current birth rates and kindergarten enrollments and that all high school spaces being rebuilt will be enrolled in a way that is balanced and the board is committed to boundary and policy changes to ensure that neighborhood and focus option high schools have sufficient enrollments to support a rigorous and diverse curriculum in a cost effective way in all geographic areas of the city.
6. That the bond package and public message associated with the bond measure should focus first on addressing critical safety and health issues, backed up by the message that modernizing our high schools comprehensively addresses health and safety issues in those buildings while also providing modern learning environments.
7. That the Board acknowledges with gratitude the support of Portland voters for school bonds in 1995 and 2012 and commits to the continued modernization of schools to provide the health, safety, full inclusion, and learning opportunities that every child in Portland deserves.

In addition, the BSAG stated that the Board needs to address a long-term maintenance plan.

#### BOARD QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Director Esparza Brown requested additional information on the prioritization of ADA compliance. Courtney Wilton, Interim Chief Operating Officer, responded that staff will update the current ADA Plan, but more discussion needs to occur and the consideration of committing future bond funds to ADA compliance. Director Esparza Brown asked for more information on each school in terms of ADA compliance. BSAG members asked when the ADA plan would be completed. Chair Koehler responded that it would be completed by December 2017.

Director Buel questioned if staff was currently cleaning up lead paint chips in the schools. Mr. Wilton responded that if maintenance is informed of the lead chips, then they are cleaned up.

The Board discussed the issues of asbestos in PPS buildings. BSAG members stated that they had discussed adding \$5 million for asbestos, but agreed that the \$8 million from state funds could address items such as that.

Director Buel suggested adding an addition \$5 million to the bond packet for ADA compliance. Director Kohnstamm responded that the original bond target number was \$750 million and that she would first like to see more clarity on the ADA Transition Plan when it is completed in December.

**BOARD DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING BOND PACKAGE**

Director Anthony stated that he was very happy with the proposed Option 1, and that he would like to see it on the Board's February 28<sup>th</sup> agenda. He added that the resolution should state that the Board would uphold the spirit and intent of the additional BSAG recommendations. Board members concurred.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Koehler adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

Submitted by:

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Caren Huson-Quiniones, Board Clerk  
PPS Board of Education