

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1J, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON
Board's Charter Schools and Alternative Programs Committee
February 03, 2020

INFORMAL MINUTES

Committee Members

Eilidh Lowery – Committee Chair
Amy Kohnstamm
Scott Bailey

Staff and Other Attendees

Kara Bradshaw – Executive Assistant, Board of Education
Mary Catherine Moore – Auditor
Rosanne Powell – Senior Board Manager
Korrina Wolfe – Area Senior Director, Multiple Pathways to Graduation
Joseph LaFontaine – Regional Superintendent
Mary Sage Davis – Opal School
Beth Hutchins – Opal School
Susan Spreadborough – Portland Arthur Academy
Stephani Walker – Portland Arthur Academy
Tara O'Neil – Director, Charter Schools
Jessica Haughey – Portland Village School
Alison Day – Portland Village School
Jenni Stackhouse – Portland Village School
Kali Thorne Ladd – KairosPDX
Zalika Gardner – KairosPDX

Ms. Wolfe noted that if there were concerns at either schools requesting an extension that the District staff would have requested a full renewal instead of an extension.

Portland Arthur Academy

Ms. O'Neil shared a summary of the Portland Arthur Academy's State Report Card and Annual Performance Framework and Report, noting that because they have more than 500 students they have a more robust testing sampling of students and that the academic results are overall high. Susan Spreadborough, from Arthur Academy, shared that their attendance rate has been low in part due to many families taking month long trips, but that they are also working with other families to help them get to school daily. There was a question regarding teacher turn over, and Ms. O'Neil shared that it is normal for a charter school to have a 50% teacher retention rate, because they don't have the funding capacity to offer a pay package that meets what public districts can offer.

Charter School Full Renewal Requests

Kairos PDX

Ms. Wolfe introduced the renewal request for KairosPDX, sharing that the data on the state report card looks skewed because it doesn't take into account the demographics, and noting that the school is doing better than PPS in serving African American students. Ms. O'Neil summarized the school's State Report Card and Annual Performance Framework and Report. She noted that the school expanded their grade range from K-2 to 3-5 two years ago, and for that reason, there is no long term academic data grades 3-5. There was a request from Director Kohnstamm for data regarding how much it costs for the district to run charter schools as well as a summary of what other local districts are doing. The data would allow for a conversation regarding increasing the percentage of dollars that are passed to Charter schools. KairosPDX specifically asked for an increase in pass through dollars because they are serving a much high percentage of historically under served and impacted students. It was noted that all charter schools pay a high percentage in PERS which is an additional cost. Marsha Williams noted that KairosPDX is going to be increasing the enrollment from 244 to 255.

Portland Village School

It was noted by Ms. O'Neil that Portland Village School (PVS) was asked to go through the full renewal process a year early because they were on an intervention plan and they wanted to take a deeper look at the school. Ms. Wolfe shared that the results of the interventions over the past year has be successful. Ms. O'Neil shared some of the ways that they've improved, including a better teacher retention rate, recovery of the decrease in enrollment, and strong financials allowing them to invest in their improvement plan. She shared an overview of the school's State Report Card and framework. They were asked to improve grades 5-8 math and 3-5 LA and their overall results show a very notable increase, as well as increased their testing participation rate. Jenni Stackhouse shared that the attendance data on the stn(be)-12gd eng a bet

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