PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School District No. 1J, Multnomah County
Board of Education

September 22, 2026
Policy Committee Meeting

Informal Meeting Minutes

In accordance with ORS 192.650, the District's official School Board Meeting Minutes are maintained via video recording and may be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/@ppsboardofeducation

Pursuant to notice made by posting to the Board's public notices webpage and emailed to persons on the mailing list, the Policy Committee Meeting of the Portland Public Schools Board of Education was held at Dr. Matthew Prophet Education Center, 501 N. Dixon Street, Portland, OR 97227 and streamed live at: https://www.youtube.com/@ppsboardofeducation/live

Attendance

Committee Members: Directors Englesman (Committee Chair), Sullivan, and La Forte; Chair Wong (ex officio member).

Other attendees: Emily Courtage - Senior Legal Counsel; Rosanne Powell - Senior Board Manager.

Call to Order / Introductions

Director Englesman called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Public Comment

- Miranda Rake - urged the Committee to adopt a proven benefit standard for bringing digital products into classrooms, raised concerns about AI and the i-Ready assessment.
- Holly Hofkamp - summarized themes from the American Psychological Association's recent report on children's learning and educational technology, including opportunity costs and caution regarding AI
- Anna Wiehe-Beck- asked the Board to adopt a strict policy limiting screen time in all grades and asked whether the District has data showing edtech investments improve learning.
- Anine Mines - described her son's experience with screen use during class.
- Lauren Moore - spoke in support of strict limitations on classroom screen time like those in the Schools Beyond Screens proposal.

Discussion: 2026-27 Committee Work Plan

Director Englesman and Emily Courtage introduced the proposed 2026-27 committee work plan, developed by the Chair and legal staff and noted the plan may shift as topics take more or less time than expected. Revisions to Board Policy 3.30.080-P were posted early for review and will be discussed in

October, with public comment time provided. Committee members expressed appreciation for the work plan.

Discussion: Schools Beyond Screens Digital Device and Screen Use Policy Draft

Director Englesman introduced the draft policy, which was developed by Schools Beyond Screens Portland and received by legal and staff only the prior week. She noted that this was an initial discussion only and that no presentation or staff analysis was expected until October, when staff will be asked to weigh in on issues such as required assessments, digital resource purchasing and contracting, and special education requirements. Committee members expressed strong interest in adopting a screen time policy this year, and discussed a parent's concern about a school-issued laptop sent home with a freshman without the ability to restrict its use.

Chair Wong recommended separating the draft into high-level direction, vision, and limits suited for policy and prescriptive requirements suited for an administrative directive, so the District can adjust quickly to unintended consequences, and recommended forming a teacher work group to identify any conflicts with academic freedom and other policies. Members noted Schools Beyond Screens has been working with the Portland Association of Teachers (PAT), and asked the group to document which teachers and PAT representatives it has met with and what was said. Members also discussed unwinding existing screen use in classrooms, limits on out-of-class screen time for grades 9-12, and giving families advance notice of what technology will come home. Director Englesman asked staff for an answer by October on whether Governor Kotek's assessment requirements apply to K-1 students, and Ms. Courtage agreed to follow up. The item was placed on the October agenda.

Discussion: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Director Englesman started a preliminary discussion on developing an AI policy, noting that the District has an AI guidebook and AI language in some administrative directives but no AI policy. Director La Forte shared that the AI audit requested in June is expected in October and may be presented at either the Teaching, Learning, and Enrollment Committee or the full Board. Committee members shared observations that high school educators are restricting computer note-taking because of AI use and that student feedback on AI has been overwhelmingly negative. Director Englesman asked for staff assistance in preparing early policy ideas for October, and Committee members expressed interest in involving educators.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items

Committee members suggested several future topics:

- Motorized bikes on school property: A community member raised safety concerns about motorized and electric bikes at schools. Members noted existing rules and limited enforcement authority and suggested staff review current policies and directives, and potentially involve the city or county.
- Outstanding bond audit recommendations: Director La Forte will send the Committee a list of outstanding recommendations from prior bond audits that relate to policy, including the Equity in Public Purchasing and Contracting policy, to be incorporated into the work plan.
- Vegetarian and plant-based meal options: Director Englesman proposed revising existing policies to ensure a vegetarian option in school meals, potentially through a nutrition policy, the Climate Crisis Response policy, or Board Policy 4.30.023.

- Use of student images: Director Englesman proposed a policy on the use of student images on social media and other public channels, tentatively scheduled for February. The Committee asked to hear from communications staff on the existing photo opt-out process and enforcement.
- Alternate transportation: Possibly addressed through the Climate Justice policy.

Adjourn

Director Engelsman adjourned the meeting at 5:28 pm.

Submitted by:
Rosanne Powell
Senior Board Manager / Board Secretary
Portland Public Schools