

OFFICIAL MINUTES: OCTOBER 13, 2008 WORKING SESSION



PARKROSE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3  
10636 N.E. Prescott Street  
Portland OR 97220-2699

Working Session of the Parkrose Board of Education of School  
District No. 3, Multnomah County, Oregon

Monday, October 13, 2008

MINUTES

THE WORKING  
SESSION WAS  
CONVENED

**WORKING SESSION BOARD MEETING – CALL TO ORDER – 5:00 P.M.**

The Parkrose Board of Education of School District No. 3, Multnomah County, Oregon, convened in working session at the Parkrose District Office in the Boardroom in the said District, County, and State at the hour of 5:00 p.m. on the date hereinabove shown and by common consent of the directors.

Chair Woods called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. The Chair noted the following were present:

**PRESENT:** James Woods – Chair  
Ed Grassel – Vice-Chair  
Alesia Reese  
Guy Crawford  
Katie Larsell

Others in attendance: Superintendent Karen Fischer Gray, Business Operations Director Mary Larson, Director of School Improvement Yuki Monteith, Director of Student Services Kathy Keim-Robinson, Director of Human Services Marian Young, and Board Secretary Apryl Jump.

a> **REVIEW OF SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS**

Presentation:

Chair Woods briefly reviewed the evaluation process that had already been undertaken. The Chair and Vice-Chair were scheduled to meet with the superintendent to review the evaluation. The Chair would then provide an executive summary of the evaluation at the October 27, 2008 Board meeting.

b> **BALLOT MEASURE RESOLUTIONS**

The Board reviewed Ballot Measures 56, 58, 59, 60, 62 and 64 and associated resolutions. There was some discussion around Ballot Measure 58 which dealt with ELL and bilingual education.

Board Action:

1. *Accept/Reject a Resolution Supporting Ballot Measure 56.*

Resolution in Support of Ballot Measure 56: Restoration of Simple Majority Voting Requirement

WHEREAS, the 2007 Oregon Legislature adopted HJR 15, which refers a constitutional amendment proposal to Oregon voters at the November 4, 2008 General Election that would modify a portion of the double-majority requirement, restoring simple majority voting; and

WHEREAS, under the so-called ‘double-majority’ requirement, to get voter approval of a finance measure, 50 percent of all registered voters must vote, along with “50 percent plus one vote”, with the exception of General Elections in even-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, this requirement places more election power in the hands of citizens who do not vote, rather than those who have decided to exercise this right; and

WHEREAS, the so-called ‘double-majority’ requirement has resulted in many jurisdictions crowding the even-numbered General Election ballots with many competing taxing interests; and

WHEREAS, the so-called ‘double majority’ requirement has resulted in the failure of several finance measures, despite the measures receiving a majority “yes” vote; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Legislature created a very workable compromise, restoring the simple majority voting requirement for local bond and levy measures on all November and May ballots;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parkrose Board of Directors support the Oregon Legislature's passage of HJR 15 to restore the simple majority voting requirement to all May and November elections.

Adopted this 13th day of October, 2008

**Chair Woods called for a motion accepting a resolution supporting Ballot Measure 56. Vice Chair Grassel so moved. Chair Woods called for discussion. Hearing no discussion, the MOTION to ACCEPT the resolution supporting Ballot Measure 56 passed by a 5-0 vote with Katie Larsell, Guy Crawford, James Woods, Alesia Reese, and Ed Grassel voting in the affirmative.**

*2. Accept/Reject Resolution Opposing Ballot Measure 58*

Resolution Opposing Measure 58: Statewide Prohibition of Teaching Public School Students in Language other than English for more than 1-2 years

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 58 and its resulting ballot measure would establish a statewide policy that English is the "language of opportunity" and mandate that non-English speaking students shall be immersed in English so they can be mainstreamed as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 58 proposes to place non-English speaking students in English immersion classes for state-specified, limited time periods based on grade level (a maximum of 1 year for K-4 students; 1.5 years for grades 5-8; and 2 years for grades 9-12); and

WHEREAS, current, district-specified courses being taught to assist non-English speaking students who are unable to benefit from classes taught in English would effectively be eliminated,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parkrose Board of Directors strongly opposes Ballot Measure 58 because it severely reduces our authority and ability to meet the unique needs of our students who must learn English – while also learning academic skills.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008

**Chair Woods called for a motion accepting a resolution opposing Ballot Measure 58. Ms. Reese moved the Board accept the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 58. Chair Woods called for discussion. Hearing no discussion, the MOTION to ACCEPT the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 58 passed by a 5-0 vote with Katie Larsell, Guy Crawford, James Woods, Alesia Reese, and Ed Grassel voting in the affirmative.**

*3. Accept/Reject a Resolution Opposing Ballot Measure 59*

Resolution Opposing Measure 59: Federal Income Tax Deductibility

WHEREAS, K-12 public education receives the majority of its funding through a direct appropriation from the state legislature in the form of the State School Fund, generally comprising over 40% of the total state general fund; and

WHEREAS, the state relies on personal income taxes for almost 90% of all state revenues, making public services, including public education, highly sensitive to any changes in personal income tax collections; and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 59 proposes to increase the amount of federal income taxes paid that can be deducted from an individual taxpayer's Oregon taxable income from a limit of about \$5,500 to the entire amount of federal taxes paid; and

WHEREAS, the changes proposed in Ballot Measure 59 are estimated by the Legislative Revenue Office to result in a \$1.244 billion loss of state revenue in the 2009-11 biennium and a \$2.268 billion reduction in the 2011-13 biennium; and

WHEREAS, such a dramatic reduction and instability in state revenues would likely result in a direct reduction in revenues for public education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parkrose Board of Directors strongly opposes the passage of Ballot Measure 59 and its efforts to destabilize and dramatically reduce revenues available for public services; and

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008

**Chair Woods called for a motion accepting a resolution opposing Ballot Measure 59. Ms. Reese moved the Board accept the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 59. Chair Woods called for discussion. Hearing no discussion, the MOTION to ACCEPT the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 59 passed by a 5-0 vote with Katie Larsell, Guy Crawford, James Woods, Alesia Reese, and Ed Grassel voting in the affirmative.**

*4. Accept/Reject a Resolution Opposing Ballot Measure 60*

Resolution Opposing Measure 60: Statewide Merit Pay

WHEREAS, Measure 60 would impose a statewide mandate requiring all school districts to institute a new teacher compensation program, short-circuiting the existing local collective bargaining process; and

WHEREAS, the measure lacks the necessary definitions and clarifications that would help local boards to thoroughly understand and effectively implement such a statewide mandate; and

WHEREAS, the measure could likely result in discouraging collaboration among teams of teachers in schools and instead foster competition for test scores; and

WHEREAS, the official state fiscal impact committee has estimated that Measure 60 would require additional spending of between \$30 million and \$72 million statewide in the first year and between \$30 million and \$60 million statewide in subsequent years without raising additional revenues to compensate local districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parkrose Board of Directors opposes the passage of Ballot Measure 60 and its effort to implement an unfunded statewide mandate overhauling the existing local teacher compensation system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parkrose Board of Directors urges voters to oppose Ballot Measure 60 and will work to educate local voters about the impact this measure will have on the local control of public schools.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008

**Chair Woods called for a motion accepting a resolution opposing Ballot Measure 60. Ms. Reese moved the Board accept the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 60. Chair Woods called for discussion. Hearing no discussion, the MOTION to ACCEPT the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 60 passed by a 5-0 vote with Katie Larsell, Guy Crawford, James Woods, Alesia Reese, and Ed Grassel voting in the affirmative.**

*5. Accept/Reject Resolution Opposing Ballot Measure 62*

Resolution Opposing Measure 62: Constitutional Amendment Allocates 15% of lottery proceeds to public safety fund for crime prevention, investigation and prosecution

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 62 would amend the Oregon Constitution to direct 15% of lottery proceeds to the establishment of a public safety fund for crime programs, criminal investigation, additional funding for police and sheriff departments, and at risk children programs; and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 62 would redirect money currently used to fund an education stability fund and natural parks funding; and

WHEREAS, currently education is underfunded and the state lottery provides needed revenue for the education of all children in the state of Oregon,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parkrose Board of Directors opposes Ballot Measure 62 because it would divert needed funds away from one of its primary purposes which is to provide additional funding to Oregon schools.

Adopted this 13th day of October, 2008

**Chair Woods called for a motion accepting a resolution opposing Ballot Measure 62. Ms. Reese moved the Board accept the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 62. Chair Woods called for discussion. Hearing no discussion, the MOTION to ACCEPT the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 62 passed by a 5-0 vote with Katie Larsell, Guy Crawford, James Woods, Alesia Reese, and Ed Grassel voting in the affirmative.**

*6. Accept/Reject Resolution Opposing Ballot Measure 64*

Resolution Opposing Measure 64: Statutory Initiative Penalizes person or entity for using funds collect with public resource for political purpose

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 64 would limit the right of public employee unions to raise funds from their members for political purposes; and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 64 would exclude small dollar contributions employees make from their paychecks while continuing to allow substantial political contributions from other special interests;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parkrose Board of Directors opposes Ballot Measure 64 because it would undermine the ability of public employees such as teachers, firefighters, police officers and nurses to defend their economic interests in the political process.

Adopted this 13th day of October, 2008

**Chair Woods called for a motion accepting a resolution opposing Ballot Measure 64. Ms. Reese moved the Board accept the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 64. Chair Woods called for discussion. Hearing no discussion, the MOTION to ACCEPT the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 64 passed by a 5-0 vote with Katie Larsell, Guy Crawford, James Woods, Alesia Reese, and Ed Grassel voting in the affirmative.**

c> BOOK REVIEW

The Board and administrative staff met for the remainder of the meeting to review a book on cultural competency. There was light discussion and review of the first few chapters.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Woods adjourned the working session of the Parkrose Board of Education at 7:30 p.m.