

Intergovernmental Committee Meeting  
Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:00 PM

Virtual

## **Agenda**

1. Opening and Acknowledgement of Minutes
2. Public Comment
  - \*To sign-up for public comment  
email [PublicComment@pps.net](mailto:PublicComment@pps.net) or  
call Kara Bradshaw at 503-916-3906.
3. School Reopening - Intergovernmental Collaboration
4. School Board Electoral System Next Steps
5. Legislative Updates
6. Adjourn



**MEETING NOTES**

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*The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the actions taken by the School Board and of discussions and reports given. Anyone interested in viewing the full meeting, please visit the School Board website at <https://www.pps.net/domain/219>.*

A meeting of the Board of Education's Intergovernmental Committee came to order at 4:34 pm at the call of the Committee Chair Andrew Scott. This meeting was held virtually due to Covid-19 and streamed live at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ppscomms/videos>

**There were present:**

Committee Members

Director Scott (Chair), Director Brim-Edwards, Director Moore, and Student Representative Shue

Other Attendees

Kara Bradshaw – Executive Assistant, Board of Education  
Cassie Bruske – Eames Consulting  
Director DePass – Board Director  
John Eames – Eames Consulting  
Guadalupe Guerrero – Superintendent of Schools  
Sushella Jayapal – City Commissioner  
Amy Kohnstamm – Board Director  
Dani Ledezma – Senior Advisor, Racial Equity and Social Justice  
Parker Myrus – District Student Council Representative  
Rosanne Powell – Senior Manager, Board of Education  
Terry Proctor – Manager, Multimedia Services  
David Roy – Senior Director, Communications  
Stephanie Soden-Back – Executive Chief of Staff  
Tae Thomas – District Student Council Representative  
Kali Thorne-Ladd – ReImagine Oregon  
Courtney Westling – Director, Government Relations  
Angela Donley – Multnomah County Policy Director

Pre-meeting

The virtual meeting opened for attendees to arrive at 4:15 pm. No deliberation or decisions were made prior to the start of the meeting.

ReImagine Oregon

Time Started: 4:40 pm

Kali Thorne-Ladd provided an introduction and overview of ReImagine Oregon. She noted that ReImagine Oregon is organized by various black-led organizations, is centered on humanity, with the goal of liberation, and that it came out of the Black Lives Matter's movement. She provided an overview of the education framework. She noted that the areas of focus identified included diversity in the education workforce, racially diverse contractors, expanding affordable childcare, studying student suspensions, educator training for restorative justice practice, modeling Charter Schools that predominately serve students of color, supporting the Educator Advancement Council's initiative, supporting ethnic studies curriculum, and addressing the state school fund weights for poverty and race.

Senator Michael Dembrow shared that he was grateful that the work had been done to provide a framework for continuing the work into the future, noting that it has given public officials a renewed push to focus on racial equity. He provided an overview of the bills that would be brought forth because of the

Relmagine Oregon framework. Senator Dembrow shared that they will be speaking with Denver representatives to talk about the process of making changes towards restorative justice in their school settings. He stated that the legislature for ethnic studies curriculum is in progress, but because of how long it will take to be completed, they are working with districts to sign on for early adoption. Commissioner Jayapal provided an overview of the work being done at the county level. She noted that Relmagine Oregon collaborated with public officials, who then committed to pushing specific parts of the agenda aligned with work they were already doing.

The committee provided comments and asked questions. There was discussion regarding what Portland Public Schools (PPS) could do to support the Relmagine Oregon work. It was noted that PPS was already doing some work to support the initiative but that they could help get colleagues on board with the framework and legislative proposals and state a commitment to the framework and the resulting legislature. Commissioner Jayapal shared that their restorative justice work is new. She noted that while it was not something that can be mandated, the goal is to create shared learning across organizations. There was discussion regarding collaboration with Multnomah Education Service District (MESD) and other area organizations. There was discussion regarding response to statewide legislative mandates and the challenges to statewide acceptance of racial equity and ethnic studies mandates.

### **PPS Legislative agenda discussion and adoption**

Time Started: 5:30 pm

Director Scott shared that the draft agenda has been worked on in previous meetings. He stated that they would address any last concerns and consider moving the draft to the full board. Courtney Westling shared that she updated the State School Fund advocacy dollar amount. There was discussion regarding the language regarding alleviating the childcare burden and how to tie it to legislative actions. Ms. Westling stated that she would clarify the language to be more specific. There was discussion regarding the I5 project language that was student-focused but not too far-reaching. It was decided to update the language to read "school safety, including air quality". Director Scott requested to add "PPS supports and will advocate for all legislative measures that help get children back into the classroom as soon as it is safe". There was discussion regarding changing the language around current service level funding. Director Kohnstamm requested consideration to include language supporting activism for refinement of the arbitration process and for the Legislative Agenda to state support for a civics education bill led by the Classroom Law Project. It was decided to remove the bullet that states that the district will oppose all unfunded mandates, noting that while the district does oppose many unfunded mandates, that a blanket statement is restrictive. Student Representative Shue stated interest in a statement of support for climate justice. It was decided that a general statement of support for Climate Justice would be drafted by Ms. Westling and Student Representative Shue to be included in the draft for consideration at the full board meeting.

Director Brim-Edwards moved and Director Moore seconded the motion to move the legislative agenda to the full board for consideration. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed 3-0, with Student District Council Representatives Davai Do Che' and Myrus voting yes (official).

### **Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) legislative agenda adoption**

Time Started: 6:11 pm

Ms. Powell shared that the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) requested that the board review their legislative platform and vote to approve it, which would signal support for their agenda. Director Moore shared that the OSBA policy committee developed the platform and that they get their legislative power from being backed by school boards across the state. There was discussion regarding adopting the agenda, including whether they could accept or acknowledge the agenda instead of adopting it, and whether the district needs to be aligned with all OSBA priorities. It was noted that, as part of a coalition, they did not need to agree with every statement of priority, instead the adoption of the platform would be a show of support for an organization that works to support all school districts in the state.

Director Scott moved and Director Moore seconded the motion to recommend adoption of the OSBA Legislative Platform to the full board. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed 2-0, with Director Brim-Edwards and Student Representative Shue abstaining.

**Future Meetings**

Director Scott shared that future topics would include discussion on the COVID-19 vaccine for teachers and the voting age in School Board members' election.

**Public Comment**

Time Started: 6:07 pm

- Jessica Colby: Ms. Colby thanked staff for supporting students during a pandemic. She stated a lack of training in teaching programs to support students with multiple needs and student of color using best practices. She noted that the district is working to support teachers by patching holes left by teacher training programs. She asked that PPS develop advocacy and provide leadership in requiring that teaching programs prepare teachers to support all students' needs.

**Adjourn**

Committee Chair Scott adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

The next meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee is scheduled to be held on January 14, 2020.

Submitted by:

Kara Bradshaw

Kara Bradshaw, Executive Assistant  
PPS Board of Education



# PPS School Board Elections

- Currently board elections require candidates to live in a particular “zone” but are elected at-large, which can disenfranchise voters and candidates of color
- Smaller voting areas level the playing field because candidates have to reach a smaller number of voters, which is much less expensive
- Board members better reflect the children and families PPS serves





# How can we increase access to more candidates for the PPS Board?

- Reform our process by limiting voting to defined zones within the district
- In 2019 the state legislature enacted ORS 255.400 (HB 3310)
  - Prohibits districts from conducting elections that would impair members of a protected class from having equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice
- 2020 Census: every 10 years, after Census Data is available, PPS is required to redraw its boundaries. 2020 Census Data is expected in second half of 2021.





## Next Steps

- Develop a project plan to include a project team consisting of staff, board members, and robust community engagement
- Consult with experts on data analysis and potential electoral system structures
- Work with county election offices for guidance and timing
- Bring forth options and recommendations to the Board by the end of the calendar year

