

RESOLUTION No. 6806

Resolution Authorizing Reassessment of the Modernization Design of Jefferson High School

RECITALS

- A. The Board of Education adopted resolutions 6153 and 6161 authorizing submission to the voters of Portland Public Schools (PPS) a general obligation bond that included the full modernization of Jefferson High School.
- B. The election was duly and legally held on November 3, 2020, and the general obligation bonds were approved by a majority of the qualified voters of PPS voting at the election.
- C. On December 13, 2022, the Board of Education approved Resolution 6627, which authorized the Jefferson High School Modernization Comprehensive Plan and directed staff to utilize the Jefferson High School Comprehensive Master Planning Report as a guide to construct the modernized Jefferson High School to an approximate size of 339,000 square feet.
- D. Development of the Jefferson High School Modernization Comprehensive Plan was informed by considerable community feedback over the course of several years. Community input was material in the decision to retain and modernize the original 1909 school building.
- E. After significant due diligence, in June 2023, PPS refined the project costing structure of the approved schematic design, and identified significant project overage above the board-approved budget. One of the primary cost drivers was the unexpected cost to modernize the 1909 building (a 4-story historic unreinforced masonry structure) while also keeping students on site during construction. In mid-July, the Jefferson Modernization Project Team hosted a workshop to review project assumptions, goals, and strategies and to look for opportunities to get the project back on budget. The outcome was a design that would retain and modernize the 1909 building but require Jefferson High School students to temporarily relocate to the Marshall High School Campus during construction.
- F. The need to temporarily relocate students during construction in order to retain the 1909 building was new information to the District and community, and posed several challenges due to the distance of the swing site. Community feedback received over the last several months is that the Jefferson High School community would strongly prefer to keep the students on site during construction and construct a new high school building, demolish the 1909 building, instead of temporarily relocating students.

RESOLUTION

- 1. The Board of Education directs the Superintendent to reassess the current site and building design and related land-use efforts so that Jefferson High School students and staff will not relocate to another temporary site during construction of the modernized Jefferson High School.
- 2. The Superintendent will return to the Board of Education in 120 days with an updated plan to modernize Jefferson High School. The updated plan will include a targeted student enrollment of 1,700, will keep students and staff largely on the Jefferson High School campus during construction, demolish the 1909 building, and will seek to conform to PPS's current high school education specifications area program. The plan will strive to deliver the project within the currently available bond (and other available) funding and will identify anticipated budget overage. The plan will not include colocation of the Center for Black Student Excellence, Harriet Tubman Middle School, or other unaffiliated to Jefferson High School programs.