



Meeting Minutes

(Adopted 2/18/25)

INDEX

Meeting Location and Attendance	02
Call to Order	02
Proclamation and Recognition of February as Black History Month (Resolution 7044)	02
Superintendent's Report	03
Public Comment	03
Comments from our Union Partners	03
Board Committee and Conference Reports	03
Resolution to Appoint Representatives to the 2024-2025 Parent Advisory Committee (PAC): Distribution of Donations for Staffing (Resolution 7043)	03
Presentation: Draft 2025-26 School Calendar	04
High School Construction Cost Analysis Report	04
2025-26 Budget Overview	04
Consent Agenda - Resolutions 7039 - 7042	05
Other Business	05
Adjournment	05
Resolutions as adopted	06

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

Attendance

Director Julia Brim-Edwards: Present
Director Michelle DePass: Present
Director Herman Greene: Absent
Director Gary Hollands: Present
Director Christy Splitt: Present
Director Patte Sullivan: Present
Director Edward Wang: Present
Director Herman Greene: Present.
Student Representative JJ Kunsevi:

Call to Order / Opening

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm by Board Chair Eddie Wang.

Director Hollands introduced Jan Watt who has been an educator at Portland Public Schools (PPS) for 56 years. He and fellow board members shared stories about and appreciation for Ms. Watt.

Proclamation and Recognition of February as Black History Month (Resolution 7044)

Time: 6:21 pm

Staff: Issac Cardona – Senior Director of Schools; Margaret Calvert – Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement & Modernization; Alma Velazquez – Principal, Jason Lee ES; Maryam Lowe – Sun School Coordinator, Jason Lee ES; KD Parman – Principal, Roosevelt HS
Students: Gloria Zawadi and Maryam Hussein – Roosevelt High School

A video was shown of Rosa Parks Elementary students and staff celebrating Rosa Parks' birthday. Jason Lee Elementary's principal and SUN School Coordinator shared how they celebrate Black Excellence, showcasing Black brilliance in American history and connecting students with Black community members, including braiders, DJs, and dancers. They noted that this year's Black Brilliance event will be held on February 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. Principal Vasquez emphasized the event's strong attendance, including during the pandemic, when it was held virtually or in the parking lot.

Students from Roosevelt High School's Black Student Union (BSU) shared past Black History Month activities and noted that planning is still underway for this year. They emphasized the month's focus on uplift and education. Principal Parman added that curriculum-related activities are also planned.

Board Directors stressed the significance of Black History Month, acknowledging that Black history is American history. Director Hollands addressed ongoing systemic racism, highlighting how the system has failed students of color and affirming that these issues will not be ignored.

Public Comment: None

Actions:

Director Christy Splitt moved and Director Hollands seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 7044, Proclamation and Recognition of February as Black History Month. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed (Yes: 7, No: 0)

Brim-Edwards: Yes, DePass: Yes, Greene: Yes, Hollands: Yes, Splitt: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Wang: Yes
Student Representative Kunsevi:: Yes (unofficial)

Superintendent's Report

Time: 6:49 pm

Superintendent Dr. Armstrong shared that February 14 marks the 100th day of school and the completion of her 100-day plan. She introduced three newly hired senior leaders: Candice Gross, Chief of Communications; Michelle Morrison, Chief Financial Officer; and Nicole Watson, Senior Director of Engagement. The new team members then introduced themselves.

Student Comment

None

Public Comment

Time: 6:56 pm

- Greg Davenport – Raised concerns about bullying and retaliation by Lincoln High School's basketball coach.
- Jason Kafoury – Spoke about the negative impact of Lincoln High School's basketball coach on students.
- Suzanne Clarke – Advocated for bond support and stronger messaging on PPS's school modernization efforts.
- Dr. Effie Greathouse – Criticized the district for not utilizing air purifiers to improve air quality.
- Dr. Rachel Rochester – Highlighted a whooping cough outbreak and the need for better classroom air filtration.
- Ms. Rebecca Schenker – Expressed gratitude for community support and raised concerns about air purifier functionality.

Comments from our Union Partners

Time: 7:23 pm

- Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) : PAT President Angela Bonilla expressed appreciation for the Superintendent's early, community-inclusive budget planning, the district's stance on non-cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and its support for LGBTQ2SIA+ students and staff. She emphasized prioritizing transgender and gender-nonconforming students and staff over federal funding concerns, urged advocacy for continued state funding, and called for ongoing collaboration and concrete action to support affected communities.

Board Committee and Conference Reports

Time: 9:48 pm

- Audit Committee: Director Sullivan is working to schedule a meeting in March.

Resolution to Appoint Representatives to the 2024-2025 Parent Advisory Committee (PAC): Distribution of Donations for Staffing (Resolution 7043)

Time: 7:28 pm

Chair Wang introduced the resolution, and Superintendent Armstrong acknowledged Robyn Farrone for leading the committee. Directors DePass and Hollands highlighted the intentional selection process for applicants, while Director Brim-Edwards provided background on the committee's formation. It was also noted that the two student members will have voting rights.

Actions:

Director Michelle DePass moved and Director Julia Brim-Edwards seconded the motion to adopt Resolution 7043, Resolution to Appoint Representatives to the 2024-2025 Parent Advisory Committee (PAC): Distribution of Donations. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed (Yes: 7, No: 0).

Brim-Edwards: Yes, DePass: Yes, Greene: Yes, Hollands: Yes, Splitt: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Wang: Yes Student Representative Kunsevi:: Yes (unofficial)

Presentation: Draft 2025-26 School Calendar

Time: 7:34 pm

Staff: Genevieve Rough, Director of Employee and Labor Relations; and Margaret Calvert - Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement & Modernization

Staff outlined the goal of balancing contractual obligations, professional development for staff, and predictability for families, noting that the calendar closely reflects the previous year with only minor changes. It was noted that the schedule meets instructional time requirements and union contracts. Board members provided feedback, including appreciation for the inclusion of religious and cultural holidays, a suggestion to adjust the kindergarten ramp-up, and a question about student engagement, which staff acknowledged had been limited. The calendar will be considered for a vote on February 18, 2025.

High School Construction Cost Analysis Report

Time: 7:57 pm

Staff: Dan Jung - Chief Operating Officer; Stormy Shanks - Senior Director, School Modernization; Kiesha Locklear- Project Manager, Office of School Modernization; Erik Gerding - Senior Project Manager; Steve Effros - Senior Project Manager

Staff provided an overview of the High School Modernization design process, including community and stakeholder engagement, and summarized the HSCCA report, highlighting cost comparisons and potential savings identified in the report.

Board members provided feedback on three major areas for potential cost reductions: building square footage, alignment with Board policies (such as the Climate Crisis Policy and Equity in Contracting requirements), and high-cost spaces, such as teen health centers. Feedback included a general willingness to explore square footage reductions without impacting capacity or key programs like arts, CTE, and athletics, and a hesitation to align capacity with current enrollment. The importance of adhering to climate policy and upholding community values, particularly supporting electrification and maintaining equity in contracting, was heard from multiple Directors, as was a need for staff recommendations and answers to various outstanding questions to support decision-making.

Dr. Armstrong outlined the next steps, requesting Board members send questions to the Board Manager, with staff committed to responding within 48 hours unless further analysis is required. A Bond Work Session will be held on February 13, 2025.

Break

Time: 9:02 – 9:12 pm

2025-26 Budget Overview

Time: 9:12

Staff: Deborah Kafoury - Chief of Staff and Michelle Morris - Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Armstrong introduced the budget, outlining planning actions to date and key changes over the past year contributing to the current shortfall. Staff provided a high-level overview of general fund reductions for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years, noting a projected \$40 million budget reduction for 2025-26, primarily due to the expiration of one-time funds, declining enrollment, and increased PERS costs. Potential reduction areas were presented, with Dr. Armstrong emphasizing the goal of maintaining high-quality education and student support. Staff also highlighted ongoing state advocacy efforts.

Board members asked questions and provided feedback, discussing the funding impacts of enrollment declines, staffing allocations, support for early learning, and community engagement through town halls and student advocacy. They requested a breakdown of reductions, a list of large contracts, a review of learning app costs, and the timeline and criteria for staffing decisions. Dr. Armstrong noted the iterative nature of the budget process, emphasizing its responsiveness to board and community feedback.

Consent Agenda - Resolutions 7039 - 7042

Time: 9:49 pm

There was no Board discussion.

Public Comment: None

Actions:

Director Gary Hollands moved and Director Christy Splitt seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, including 7039 through 7042. The motion was put to a voice vote and passed (Yes: 7, No: 0).

Brim-Edwards: Yes, DePass: Yes, Greene: Yes, Hollands: Yes, Splitt: Yes, Sullivan: Yes, Wang: Yes Student Representative Kunsevi:: Yes (unofficial)

Other Business / Committee Referrals

9:50 pm

There was a request to add meetings to discuss the Bond in the coming weeks. It was noted that staff have identified dates for additional meetings.

Adjourn

Board Chair Eddie Wang adjourned the meeting at 9:51 pm.

Submitted by:

Kara Bradshaw
Executive Assistant/Board Clerk
Portland Public Schools

Resolutions As Adopted

No.	Title	Page
7039	Authorization for Off-Campus Activities	08
7040	Adoption of the Minutes	09
7041	Settlement Agreement.....	10
7042	Revenue Contracts that Exceed \$150,000 for Delegation of Authority	11
7043	Resolution to Appoint Representatives to the 2024-2025 Parent Advisory Committee (PAC): Distribution of Donations for Staffing.....	12
7044	Proclamation and Recognition of February as Black History Month	13

[illegible]

RESOLUTION No. 7040

Adoption of the Minutes

The Following Minutes are offered for Adoption:

- January 07, 2025 – Regular Meeting
- January 13, 2025 – Special Meeting

RESOLUTION No. 7041

Settlement Agreement

The authority is granted to pay a total of \$301,000.00 to resolve a disputed claim. The settlement agreement will be in a form approved by the General Counsel.

RESOLUTION No. 7042

Revenue Contracts that Exceed \$150,000 for Delegation of Authority

RECITAL

Portland Public Schools ("District") Public Contracting Rules PPS-45-0200 ("Authority to Approve District Contracts; Delegation of Authority to Superintendent") requires the Board of Education ("Board") enter into contracts, except as otherwise expressly authorized. Contracts exceeding \$150,000 per contractor are listed below.

RESOLUTION

The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve these contracts. The Board accepts this recommendation and by this resolution authorizes the Deputy Clerk to enter into the following agreements.

NEW REVENUE CONTRACTS

No new Revenue Contracts

NEW INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS ("IGAs")

No New Intergovernmental Agreements

AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING CONTRACTS

No New Amendments to Existing Revenue Contracts

Contractor	Amendment Term	Contract Type	Description of Services	Amendment Amount; New Contract Amount	Responsible Admin, Funding Source
State of Oregon	7/1/24 through 6/30/25	Intergovernmental Agreement / Revenue IGA/R 64777 Amendment 9	Funding for Columbia Regional Inclusive Services to provide services to regionally eligible children. This amendment extends the agreement and adds grant funds.	\$8,268,440 \$94,892,754	J. Buno

RESOLUTION No. 7043

Resolution to Appoint Representatives to the 2024-2025 Parent Advisory Committee (PAC): Distribution of Donations for Staffing

RECITALS

- A. On May 7, 2024, the Portland Public Schools Board of Education adopted the Districtwide Advocacy and Fundraising Policy (7.10.020-P).
- B. The Districtwide Advocacy and Fundraising Policy requires the establishment of a committee for the following purpose:
 - a. *A formula for the distribution of any funding to individual schools shall be developed in advance of the school year by a Parent Advisory Committee, shared with school administrators for feedback, and a recommendation made to the Board of Education for its approval.*
- C. The Charter for the Districtwide Advocacy and Fundraising Policy indicates that members will initially be appointed to staggered terms of one and two years with all subsequent terms being two years. Each member may serve up to four years total on the Committee.
- D. The Charter for the Climate Crisis Response Committee indicates that two positions of the committee will be specifically for student members with terms of one year.
- E. The first inaugural Committee shall be determining the same formula for the distribution of funds for 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, in order to meet the requirement of having the formula in place in advance of the school year. This will empower donors with the knowledge of where their donations will be allocated for the following school year.

RESOLUTION

- 1. The Board appoints Sun Lee, Casey Vanos, David Lamadrid and Suzanne Clarke to a one (school) year term, ending 6/30/2025.
- 2. The Board of Education appoints Ayla Ercin, Audrey Gnich, Daniel Levine, Curtrina Guff and Alisa Welch to a two (school) year term, ending 6/30/2026.
- 3. The Board appoints the following students Sachin Wheatley (student) and Annika Houghton (student) to a one (school) year term, ending 6/30/2025.

RESOLUTION No. 7044

Proclamation and Recognition of February as Black History Month

RECITALS

- A. The Board of Education of Portland Public Schools is committed to fostering a diverse, welcoming and inclusive educational environment that reflects the rich cultural heritage of all people.
- B. Black History Month is an annual celebration of the achievements and cultural contributions of African Americans to society and to the history of the United States.
- C. Black history is US history.
- D. The contributions of African Americans have shaped every aspect of our nation's culture, and progress, from the arts, sciences, politics, and business, to the advancement of civil rights and the fight for social justice.
- E. The local community has enriched the diversity of perspective and experience in our District; and the Board of Education desires to recognize and honor the achievements and contributions of African Americans.
- F. It is important for students, educators, and the community to recognize and understand the significance of these contributions and how they have influenced and continue to shape the course of history.
- G. The Board of Education encourages all adults within the district to engage in educational activities, programs, and events with our students that promote awareness and understanding of Black history, culture, and the experiences of African Americans.
- H. This observance offers an opportunity for all of us to learn, reflect, and celebrate the diversity that strengthens our community and nation.
- I. Through leadership and practice, Portland Public Schools is dedicated to goals that advance racial justice, especially for Black communities in the Portland Metro area.

RESOLVED

- 1. The Board of Education of the Portland Public Schools hereby recognizes the month of February 2025 as Black History Month and encourages all educators to commemorate this occasion with appropriate ceremonies, instructional activities, and programs.
- 2. The Board of Education of Portland Public Schools supports the integration of African American history into the curriculum throughout the entire year, not just during February, in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the African American experience in the United States.