



Agenda/Notes
Office of Governor Tina Kotek
RJC Education Committee
October 27, 2025 – Zoom
1:00 -2:30 pm

MEMBERS

X	Angela Uherbelau	E	Jenny Pool-Radway		Kali Thorne Ladd
X	Aryn Frazier	X	Jaclyn Caires Hurley	X	Marie Chisholm-Burns
X	Cynthia Richardson	E	Jennifer Simonson	X	Mark Jackson
X	Djimet Dogo	X	Jennifer Wilson	X	Nelly Patiño-Cabrera
X	George Mendoza	X	Jimmy Howard		Sonya Moody-Jurado

OTHER ATTENDEES

	Andre Bealer		Johnna Timmes	X	Yasmin Solorio
X	Rachael Moser	X	Javier Cervantes	E	Dr. Charlene Williams, ODE
		X	Candice Castillo, ODE	X	Michael Essien, ODE

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Welcome New Committee Member, Dr. Nelly Patiño	<i>Cynthia initiates meeting at 1:05pm. Dr. Nelly Patiño provides brief introduction.</i>	
Moving Forward After Legislative Days, Cynthia, Mark, and Angela <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update with Legislators• Update Meeting with Speaker Fahey (Co-Chairs & Community Advocates)• Refine Priorities	<p>Angela: Met with Rep Ruiz, Rep Kropf and Chair Sanchez. Really good to establish relationships with them. Heard and saw that legislature and legislators are feeling the burden of reduced funding federally and at the state. We stressed safeguarding equity programs. Rep Ruiz mentioned he will move forward with this idea of looking at the school funding formula: https://www.oregonlive.com/education/2025/05/oregons-school-funding-formula-undercounts-poverty-denying-some-districts-millions-lawmakers-are-poised-to-approve-it-anyway.html?gift=2426b04c-3a7d-41de-8815-7c1c4d3400c6</p> <p>Mark: Met with Speaker Fahey. We talked about issues around patrol and those barriers. Was quite sincere. Asked about meeting with Cynthia and myself and advisory group chairs to be more informed of these plans. There is tremendous opportunity to educate officials on the Success Plans, impact and value of the work. She was receptive and said we have a five-week window. Working with Rachel and Johnna to get it scheduled, we also asked if she would partner with GO and ODE to look at the budget through an equity lens. Getting close to that five-week window and would like to get that locked down. Would like to include Wendy or someone from LSFO to help them see the face of the folks operationalizing the success plans.</p>	

Angela: The fourth meeting I had was with Sen Sollman's staff person, since the Senator was on the floor. The staff person said it would help if the council and committee could share data that's quantitative as well, showing what programs lead to outcomes for students. In the climate of reduced revenue, the more we can push those outcomes it's easier to showcase the wins.

Javier: I think the co-chairs and Angela stayed true to the priorities for the committee. Commend our partners here and the RJC for those commitments and seeing faces to those doing the work.

Mark: After sending the follow up RJC one-pager, did you get anything back or responses?

Javier: Didn't get anything back.

Javier: Mark and Angela are meeting with Senator Jama. Feel free to offer any items to bring up or be more specific about.

Mark: Do you have any unique context to help inform him of our priorities?

No questions or comments from committee

Javier shares committee workplan

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bvEGu7Hr3jXCpiJR0fLM_M6xrjYhHocBw/edit

Rachael: Many of you were tracking passage of bills in 2025 session. We are in the rule making process. If you're interested that is a way to engage.

Dr. Castillo: We are working internally to refine our internal structure. We have had some engagement with our districts, and would like to include additional interest groups to help inform a bit better and our external reporting pieces. Likely towards end of the academic year for other opportunities.

Angela: If ODE could share with us the programs that lead to increased outcomes. There is a lot of funding streams, are there particular things we want to ask ODE to see certain data.

Mark: I agree with Angela. Also want to add that articulating what's in our control and what are your outcomes or things we can control for our success measures pre-cuts and the impact after to paint a clear picture on the impacts to services. Does ODE have resources to help us paint that picture.

George: When you see requirements around interim informative assessments, a lot of districts do those when we aren't getting accurate information and doing it beginning, middle and end of year. The reality is what do you do during to ensure they are on level. You have small group earning or independent skill development time – you need to have staffing or resources for that.

Mark: With the Success Plans, across the board grantees receive a 68% budget cut across the board. That ranges from large to small budget. It's a significant impact.

**Intro to ODE Assistant
Superintendent of EDI,
Michael Essien**

*Introductory presentation truncated due to technical
difficulties.*

Mark: Congrats on your appointment, would like to hear why you chose Oregon for your leadership and your transition.

Essien: Been doing work in Oregon for quite some time doing racial equity issues. Was keynote at a mental health and school safety summit, a good friend and family, moved here as well. Had an opportunity to move here and go into ODE was not a hard decision for me.

Mark: Hoping myself and Cynthia can get time with you if possible.

Essien: Would love to know what are bright spots you have championed and supported, and what are the challenges you find important to lean into?

George: Do want to hear what you've done in California as it relates to equity and inclusion and how it translated into schools.

Essien: About 8-7 years ago our state asked us to implement an equity lens with decision making. Our school district did and liked having it apart of our decision making and integrated guidance. We do look to see who will be impacted and if we got feedback from their perspectives. We look at disciplined data and policies, what we can do from a restorative standpoint.

George: What troubles me, is we have some rules like opt-out. A lot tend to opt-out of a state test. About 5 years ago culturally responseless for the test was a concern but now the outcome is about 80% in LaGrande don't take the test.

Essien: Saw your presentation and the state board and would like to meet with you.

Angela: Oregon has made strides that are very important. The challenge we've seen on this committee and Oregon writ large is success depends on leadership and we haven't made systemic changes, so student success isn't drawn on luck based on their teacher or program they get. Have a test that reflects the whole student population is important so we know where to invest. Oregon

	needs to pull ideas from other states to support our districts, teachers and students.	
District Accountability: ODE Presentation & Discussion (40 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting & Processing Discrimination & Racial Harassment Complaints • Local Control Challenges to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Background check fees ○ Funding targeted to support underserved students 	<p>Rachael: Really hoping for discussion. Hearing a lot about local control and challenges between districts. Would love if there are particular challenges or concerns, please elevate those. If you have ideas about things that could be improved, we welcome that too.</p> <p><i>Big areas of challenges were discrimination and harassment complaints, background checks between districts, and student success plans for different student groups.</i></p> <p>Dr. Castillo: would love to hear if there's a particular area you have a question on.</p> <p>Mark: Consolidating background checks – staff transition and will need to repay.</p> <p>George: 2.5% or 5% budget exercise. Would say protect measure 98 funds or school funds as much as you can. If there's certain programs we all aren't using much, such as summer school – it's around \$65M dollars and only 10-13% participate in summer school. We spend a lot of money on summer school for smaller participation. Save measure 98 funds or student success funds so we have strong services and programs.</p> <p>Dr. Castillo: Appreciate that. Want to put it in context that it's not always as easy to do, as some programs have several funding streams that make up that program.</p> <p>Aryn: Want us to be careful on who is being served. We should serve the most needed, vs most students.</p> <p>Nelly: You are thinking about numbers and programs. Numbers aren't an indicator of the student population. Summer learning programs serve a lot of migrant students.</p> <p>Angela: Would love to be briefed by ODE on the latest test scores at our next meeting. We know numbers aren't great for students of color and those experiencing poverty. What are ways which we can do things quickly do address the crisis.</p> <p>Marie: In terms of getting our data, I like to look at the differences in disparities and the interventions</p>	Committee requests update on test scores from ODE for next meeting.

addressing the disparities. Now I would like to look at the dollar spent per capita, where and who are getting those dollars. If it's not going to the greatest need, it's going somewhere. Putting a metric around that would be helpful.

Rachael: As part of larger accountability work SB141, a financial dashboard could potentially be helpful to see where dollars are flowing.

Marie: What does the significant points say - We can data paralysis, just show me the top seven and look at it with a lens of equity.

George: We need resources for whatever want to see improve.

Aryn: Would implore to share data people ask as one pagers that make sense and relevant to conversations we have now. We can build some parts now and have a comprehensive thing later. Dashboards can take years to make.

Rachael: The department has been able to pull snapshots and might be able to do that without the dashboard. Can be impactful and show where dollars are going. What we can pull now and help note our long term as well.

Dr. Castillo: Building the dashboard is the least of all the challenges, it's ensuring that the right data is being collected and the data can talk to the elements at the state. Limited also to what information is shared.

George: We've created lots of rules and requirements to follow in our district. We have many multiple requirements controlled by ODE, on top of the budget district committees, auditors, etc. we have layers and layers. I get people want transparency and accountability - it's hard on people and can be more to do. Piling on isn't making it better, it's making it usually more complicated. We want kids at the core to graduate, feel safe, etc.

Marie: We measure what we value. Without the measure, it's meaningless. Compliance is what I do all day long for healthcare business, there should be standardization through that goes across. Without that we are fighting a loss cause. Without that, we will have incomplete or different data.

Javier: If there's opportunities for us to engage with design or opportunities for us to engage in the input sessions with rule making and design, we hope to hear about them.

*Next meeting is Monday December 22nd.
Cynthia closes meeting at 2:32pm*

Meeting Materials



Racial Justice
Council Legislative P

Committee workplan:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bvEGu7Hr3jXCpiJR0fLMM6xrjYhHocBw/edit>

Zoom Chat

13:03:55 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:
Education Committee Agenda (Oct 27 1 PM)
Welcome New Committee Member
a. Dr. Nelly Patiño (5 minutes)
Intro to ODE Assistant Superintendent of EDI, Michael Essien (10 minutes)
Moving Forward After Legislative Days, Cynthia, Mark, and Angela (30 minutes)
a. Update with Legislators
b. Update Meeting with Speaker Fahey (Co-Chairs & Community Advocates)
c. Refine Priorities
District Accountability: ODE Presentation & Discussion (40 minutes)
a. Reporting & Processing Discrimination & Racial Harassment Complaints
b. Local Control Challenges to include:
Background check fees
Funding targeted to support underserved students

13:16:18 From Angela Uherbelau she/her to Hosts and panelists:
<https://www.oregonlive.com/education/2025/05/oregons-school-funding-formula-undercounts-poverty-denying-some-districts-millions-lawmakers-are-poised-to-approve-it-anyway.html?gift=2426b04c-3a7d-41de-8815-7c1c4d3400c6>

13:23:29 From Yasmin Solorio, Gov Office to Hosts and panelists:
Legislative Days Nov 17-19th

13:37:18 From Nelly Patino Cabrera (she/her/hers) to Hosts and panelists:
Nice meeting and welcome to Oregon Michael

13:37:33 From Michael Essien | ODE (he,him) to Hosts and panelists:
Nelly, thank you!

13:37:36 From George Mendoza: La Grande SD to Hosts and panelists:
Michael Essien- My cell phone number is 509-851-2234

13:37:59 From Michael Essien | ODE (he,him) to Hosts and panelists:
Aryn, I am working on setting up a meeting with you.

13:38:23 From Nelly Patino Cabrera (she/her/hers) to Hosts and panelists:
*Nice meeting you :)

13:39:11 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bvEGu7Hr3jXCpiJR0fLMM6xrjYhHocBw/edit>

13:39:23 From Aryn Frazier (she/hers) to Hosts and panelists:
Wonderful, thank you, Essien. Looking forward to it, and great to learn more about you here today.

13:41:03 From Michael Essien | ODE (he,him) to Hosts and panelists:
My (Michael Essien) contact information: 971.240.3932

13:41:50 From Angela Uherbelau she/her to Hosts and panelists:
Angela Uherbelau: uherbelau@gmail.com, 503-915-7459

13:50:58 From Nelly Patino Cabrera (she/her/hers) to Hosts and panelists:
I'll be back (quick break)

14:13:21 From jennifer.wilson to Hosts and panelists:
I would be interested in developing that dashboard. i have developed something similar for OIT.

14:17:36 From Mark Jackson to Hosts and panelists:
Totally agree with Aryn

14:18:37 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

All, please note, our next meeting as a committee is scheduled for December 22. That meeting is during the holiday week. We have a doodle poll out for you all to vote on your availability to move the meeting to earlier in December.

14:19:55 From Aryn Frazier (she/hers) to Hosts and panelists:

Jennifer, could you please share links to any of those dashboards? (Assuming they're publicly available)

14:21:38 From jennifer.wilson to Hosts and panelists:

Forgive me i need to step away for a moment

14:21:59 From Yasmin Solorio, Gov Office to Hosts and panelists:

Doodle poll for December's meeting: <https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/b4KPAj1a>

14:23:40 From Angela Uherbelau she/her to Hosts and panelists:

George, I agree with your call for longterm advocacy on diversifying and increasing revenue sources. As that continues, I hope we push for a redistribution of existing education funds to the students and schools that need them the most. For example, looking at the latest state test scores, there's 39 schools where 3rd-5th graders have been lowest proficiency in literacy for *at least* six years. Those schools deserve significant supplemental support, but they're not getting it.

14:29:28 From George Mendoza: La Grande SD to Hosts and panelists:

Angela- I agree that funding to address gaps should be a requirement; There should be accountability for improvement with training, with staffing, We can indicate over time that additional funding outside of core services goes to targeted needs with potential coaching and corrective action to require improvement processes to take place.

14:30:40 From Yasmin Solorio, Gov Office to Hosts and panelists:

Doodle poll for December's meeting: <https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/b4KPAj1a>



Racial Justice Council Legislative Priorities

Codified into law in 2021, the Racial Justice Council (RJC) is composed of six committees, with individuals from across Oregon consisting of people with unique backgrounds and life experiences. The aim of the RJC is to build a way for the state to better engage with, listen to, and support Oregon's Black, Indigenous, people of color, and immigrants and refugees. The RJC has been a critical partner and advisor to Governor Kotek, helping to align priorities and the state's policies and operations with a racial justice and equity framework.

Housing and Homelessness

Theme: Impacts of Race-Based Housing Disparities

- Implementation of existing programs
- Housing Development

Economic Opportunity

Theme: Maintain existing equity-focused programs and build resilience of front-line communities to decide for themselves their economic opportunity and prosperity.

- Analyzing Agency Effectiveness
- Finalize Recommendations for an Updated Executive Order-22-15
- Workforce Workgroup: Implemented Recommendations for Future Ready Oregon and Modeling Workforce Development

Environmental Equity

Theme: Strengthen current policy and laws for the protection of vulnerable populations and advocating cost-neutral fiscal impacts.

- Partner on Efforts Related to the Oregon Environmental Restoration Funds
- Engage on Resiliency Efforts
- Working with Environmental Justice Council

Health Equity and Human Services

Theme: Provide values and equity framework to consider as we move into a budget constricted environment and inform how changes are communicated.

- Federal Medicaid & SNAP impacts to Oregon
- Coordinated Care Organizations
- Behavioral Health
- Healthier Oregon Program
- Traditional Health Workers
- Regional Health Equity Coalitions

Criminal Justice Reform

Theme: Accessibility, monitoring, and learning for the appropriate alignment of criminal justice reform.

- Affirming Sanctuary Law
- Advocate and maintain 1115 Medicaid Waiver for People in Custody and Continuation
- Restorative justice and reinforcing efforts
- Track relevant criminal justice bills to prevent widening of penalization system

Education

Theme: Information and data sharing and collaboration.

- Messaging the Fiscal Impact of Cuts
- School District Accountability

Meeting Calendar

The calendar of meetings can be found online at

<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/pages/racial-justice-council.aspx>

Contact information

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