

**African American Black Student Success Plan  
Advisory Group Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Oregon Department of Education  
Zoom Communications**

**Meeting Scribe:** Ana Salas

**PARTICIPANTS**

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|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joyce Harris, Chair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Deloney for Tony Hopson Sr. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Wimmer      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carmen Xiomara Urbina           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Jackson             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Richardson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colt Gill            | <input type="checkbox"/> Nkenge Harmon Johnson               |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Lange            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kali Throne Ladd         |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelaswau Crier      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Logan                |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renee Anderson       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe McFerrin II          |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvette Alex Assensoh | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donell Morgan            |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iris DeGruy Bell     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DL Richardson            |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Veronica Dujon   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Markisha Smith       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Paul Coakley                | <input type="checkbox"/> Frank Hanna Williams                |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Djimet Dogo          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Earlean Wilson-Huey      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kendra Hughes                   |  |  |

Item	Discussion
<p><b>Welcome – 9:00am</b> <i>Chair Harris</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Opening Statements</li> <li>● Roll Call</li> </ul>	<p>Chair Harris began the meeting with welcoming the AA/BSS Advisory. Chair Harris took attendance.</p>
<p><b>OEDI Director</b> <b>Welcome – 9:10 a.m.</b> <i>Deborah Lange, OEDI Director</i></p>	<p>Deb Lange began her section with thanking the advisory group for their attendance. Deb then introduced Kara Boulahanis who is part of the SIS team and will give a brief update on the mental health side. Sonji A. Moore represents YDD and will be part of the advisory group.</p>
<p><b>ODE Update – 9:15 a.m</b> <i>Colt Gill, Director</i> <i>Carmen Xiomara Urbina, Deputy Director</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update on ODE goals</li> <li>● Ready School Safe Learners</li> </ul>	<p>Colt then shares information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decisions that the Governor made on Dec. 23, 2020 regarding returning to in person instruction. Resources delivered and still coming from the Cares Act. Since then Congress has established the Appropriations Acts 500 million dollars to move funds to our schools. Colt also shared Governor Brown’s 5 directives to transition to in person instruction. Colt also points out two important Local decision making factors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Get the community case count to a low enough number that the community is not regularly introducing COVID-19 into the school.</li> <li>○ Implement public health and safety protocols/requirements in schools with fidelity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- January 1 Ready School Safe Learners Guidance (RSSL) updates
  - “0 Section” changes from mandatory (required) to advisory (recommended). Schools do not need to submit new blueprints unless they are changing their instructional model. Weekly Status report still remains required for schools
  - Align with CDC/OHA quarantine changes. Shortened quarantine time from 14 to 10 days.
  - Updated physical education guidance
  - Definition updates based on CDC/OHA input (Contact Tracing, Exposure, Viral test for COVID-19 definitions)
  
- Changes on the guidance and further edits for January 19, 2021. Engagement January 19 RSSL updates
  - Teacher feedback was shared
    - Critical information not always making to to frontline educator
    - ODE improve engagement with educators
    - Respond to COVID-19 and Oregon's Racial and economic disparities
  - Key questions shared by Colt Gill for the next update (see power point provided below Slide 20)

**Links shared provided below**

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Letter%20from%20Governor%20Kate%20Brown%2012-23-2020.pdf>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FNMkTghzOuRjkkLTw2Rhcp4qMOnuVOeQ/view?usp=sharing>

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Ready%20Schools%20Safe%20Learners%202020-21%20Guidance.pdf>

[https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Key%20Takeaways%20About%20Oregon%20Teachers%27%20Experience.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Key%20Takeaways%20About%20Oregon%20Teachers%27%20Experience.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Q: Iris Bell are there ways you are instructing or engaging school districts in regards to the information that they are going to try to make available to families around the vaccine and the spread?

A: Colt answered to improve and add recommendations and requirements. There have been engagement tools sent out, guidance for how to go about engagement, and ready to share documents sent out to parents in multiple languages.

Q: Iris Bell will be penalized when their families don't feel comfortable sending their kids back to school?

A: Colt Gill mentioned that in the metric requirements points out that if in communities with high levels of spread they have to option and allow distance learning. This becomes a family and student choice.

Q: Joe asked will some of these resources be put towards the Student Success Act (SSA)? What will ODE do to insure that those dollars go to the families that it was designed for?

A: Colt mentioned that resources are separate from the SSA. SSA has resources that come from the state the corporate activities tax. The funds that are going to schools SSA are being reviewed and audited. The 500 million are Federal dollars and they have their own acceptable uses. This will insure dollars go to education online and in person. Colt will add the Acceptable use list in the chat.

**General explainer from one site on the new federal stimulus dollars shared by Scott Nine:**

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/2020/12/22/22195843/stimulus-schools-education-explainer>

**Information on "ESSER2" funds:** <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/Pages/CARES-Act-Resources.aspx>

Q: Kali Thorne Ladd mentioned that there is concern in regards to distribution of funds to assure that schools have "capacity" to do both online and in person. Is the 500 million going to help with the capacity? And how are you going to ensure that every school has access? Will there be a priority for schools that serve a disproportionate number of low-income kids and kids of color?

A: Colt that is not in state control and the federal government set the distribution model and has based it on the Title 1 allocations that is based on the number of economically disadvantaged students in a school district. This is how the funds will be divided up. Schools can use the funds to hire additional staff for teaching, online, and mental health specialists.

"We need to hear from the people who we are making the plans for"- Cynthia Richardson

Q: Earlean Wilson-Huey will our students be forced to take vaccines and will there be a penalty?

A: Colt Gill today the governor will be holding a press conference key topic vaccine vaccinations. It will be a while until vaccines are available for students/children. Colt mentioned that he has not heard talk about mandatory vaccinations for students or staff. He has also not heard about any changes to vaccination laws in Oregon. Phase 1(A) teachers as the next group to get vaccination this includes first responder and those at greater risk. This will assist with moving back to in person instruction. This will be an effort that will begin this month or next month.

Q: Renee Anderson is this money going to go through the summer so we can work with students to get them caught up?

A: Scott Nine responded that we do not have the administrative rules from the U.S. department of Education they should come in the next 10 days. The prior round of federal stimulus dollars went all the way through the summer. We are waiting on the technical range of details on what are the boundaries on how these funds can be spent. Yes, the funds should be going through the summer. The plan is to do a round of engagement around the 500 million. The SSA resources were built for July 1 the title 1 summer program that were suspended last summer but will come into play for this summer. **Time 9:56 a.m.**

Scotts Nine mentioned that the governor made the decision to go back to this local control process with the metrics being advisory with the health and safety protocols and not being advisory. OHA and ODE perspective is that there has not been transmission inside of the school and the governor thought that it was time to begin and prepare a mechanism. Scott Nine mentioned there is a short window where he will be able to take

in specific feedback or requirements before the Guidance comes out on Jan. 19th. He will send out the survey and track feedback. Please provide feedback before the end of the weekend.

**Feedback Survey Link:** <https://forms.gle/HZZcgrrbbuVaxv9T8>

Chair Harris shared her concern around communities of color receiving the messages that are being sent out and the communication strategies that are working are actually being used.

Q: Kali Throne Ladd spoke on additional strands that are arising from COVID-19 and the Governor reconsidering based on new information?

A: Scott Nine mentioned that OHA is hesitant on making any move without science being a backup factor. Under executive order you are only able to act on it for only a certain amount of time “strict scrutiny”. Scott mentioned that there is still a lack of clarity.

Q: Laurie Wimmer in the chat wrote that we have no evidence of in-school transmission because we do not do enough testing and contact tracing to verify transmission in school, not because it does not exist

A: Scott mentioned Oregon has different testing strategies then other states. OHA does what is called “cereal testing” broad, raw, rapid testing. Focus on when people are symptomatic. There have been questions on changing this approach. Contact tracing in schools that have been operating have been found to have had no transmission/spread through the school. Scott Nine contact tracing is a big issue in the larger urban areas.  
**Time 10:22 a.m.**

Laurie Wimmer mentioned that the visual inspection piece that is in the guidelines is being problematic and invasive to students. Scott Nine this may be an issue with the interpretation of the guidance.

**Approval of 2020 Minutes – 10:10 a.m**

- Feb. 7, 2020
- April 3, 2020
- June 12, 2020
- Dec 4, 2020

**Meeting minutes Feb-Dec**

Feb 7, Minutes - Approved  
 April 3, 2020 - Approved  
 June 12, 2020 - Approved  
 December 4, 2020 - Add "Laurie Wimmer was asked by Chair Harris to develop a crosswalk reflecting how the Student Success Act aligns with the AABSS goals for students." Approved

**Rules Revision – 10:40 a.m.**  
*Shelaswau Crier, AABSS Coordinator*

Shelaswau shared her PowerPoint on the Rules Revision. Shelaswau mentioned that during a subcommittee meeting with other advisory groups from OEDI. They were able to share their rules and changes that they created using the AA/BSS rules. Shelaswau will collect feedback.

**Rules:**

AA/B rules (current):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LFGGTzXmDChKq3sfK2LqyNR7VRa8UDvi/view?usp=sharing>

LatinX rules (current):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wQQvsSIKIEHzsRjsENGKe8KRvhoguVIQ/view?usp=sharing>

AI/AN rules (current):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qx315WFIFsICKhKQpgsCqrt31aWvS9zM/view?usp=sharing>

### **Timeline:**

- Feb. 5 Advisory Meeting: Input on Draft Rules/Plan
- Feb. 18 State Board of Education (SBE) meeting - 1st Read: Rules and Plan
- March 18 SEB meeting - 2nd Read: Adoption Rules and Plan
- March - June: New Grant Process for 21-23 biennium

Shelaswau mentioned that the goal is to get this approved by the State board of education before the RFA goes out.

Subcommittee recommendation was to review terms and definition because there may be added terms. Example: "Community Voice"

Review of Admin Rules link, working draft, and Revisions Draft:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LFGGTzXmDChKq3sfK2LqyNR7VRa8UDvi/view?usp=sharing>

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ygm8-Da1\\_I8vcegyQT2T1bU4iCSvfrJ/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ygm8-Da1_I8vcegyQT2T1bU4iCSvfrJ/edit)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LFGGTzXmDChKq3sfK2LqyNR7VRa8UDvi/edit#heading=h.ehgmztjs76up>

### **Terms and definitions:**

- Latino/a/x plan expansive definition then the AA/BSS plan
- Descent, add of African diaspora, and student

Iris Bell mentioned that the language and definitions need to be very clear.

Q: Kali Thorne Ladd asked how will we incorporate children that identify as "bi-racial" but have a black parent? Shelaswau follow-up **Time 11:02 a.m.**

Dr. Veronica Dujon mentioned that the definition that we have currently have for "student" is more inclusive and that it should stay as is #3. Chari Harris agreed.

- Establishment - LatinX and the AI/AN rules focus on the plan and strategies and objectives are included in the plan. The rules have to follow the rules and legislation. AA/BSS rules follow the indicators that are listed in the legislation.
  - Iris mentioned that she agreed with capitalizing "Community Based Organizations" and is also a defined term
  - The plan is to go through all 6 sections of the AA/BSS plan by February
  - "Education Service districts" add plural
  - Add "and through the" and "grades"
  - Tim Logan we need to be able to give people the option to self identify adding capital "S" to the word "Students". There needs to be a specific language to add clarity and understanding to the term.

Kara Boulahanis shared that black male youth are at the highest rate increasing in suicidality, completed suicide, and attempts. That is why we want to focus on supporting this group specifically. **Time 11:28 a.m.**

Shelaswau highlighted the minimum qualifications and if we want to maintain, minimize, or move to criteria. The recommendation from the subcommittee was to keep all of those pieces in the eligibility section with a few edits and add "youth and families". Also that when ODE is making a decision based on the percentage of black youth that they consult the AA/BSS advisory group. Remove (c) and (d) from 1 out and make them there separate 2 and 3. Section (e) Cynthia made the recommendation to keep. Iris and Kali recommended adding border language to this section. Shelaswau requested the advisory group if anyone be interested in being part of the subcommittee to email [ana.salas@ode.state.or](mailto:ana.salas@ode.state.or).

	<p>Shelaswau asked if it was okay to have other coordinators from LatinX and AI/AN to listen in the AA/BSS advisory meetings? Iris mentioned focusing on this work and maintaining what we are doing until we can get this work done. Kali mentioned them being able to join in the public meeting line. Chair Harris agreed with not formalizing this ask. She also mentioned adding them to the gallery and that they are there only to observe. Use a “G” for guests.</p>
<p><b>Community Announcements and Updates</b> – 11:50 a.m.  <i>Kali Thorne Ladd,</i>  Executive Director/Co-Founder, Kairos PDX</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Center for Black Excellence and Reimagine Oregon Education Framework</li> </ul>	<p>This agenda item will be moved to the next AABSS advisory meeting February 5th, 2021.</p> <p>Chair Harris mentioned that we will be looking for subcommittee dates to meet.</p>
<p><b>Adjourn</b>  <i>Joyce Harris, Chair</i></p>	

Next Meeting: February 5, 2021