



**Meeting Scribe:** Meghan Rogers-Czarnecki

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p><b>Gavel-in, Welcome, &amp; Roll Call</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m.</b></p> <p><i>AABSS Advisory Group Interim Chair</i></p>	<p>The Advisory Group Chair began the meeting with a group welcome then moved on to roll call.</p> <p>Members Present: Renee Anderson, Damien Pitts, Chemika Bolden, Cynthia Richardson, Domie Newton, Earlean Wilson, Kali Thorne Ladd, Kellen Akimaya, Nkenge Harmon Johnson, Jade Nguyen, Dr. Veronica Dujon, Whitney O’Collen, Iris Bell, Marsha Williams, Brian Detman.</p> <p>Members Absent: Marcus LaGrand, Shira Long-Strand, Princess Osita-Oleribe, Lavert Robertson, Lawrence White, Kent Wilson,</p> <p>ODE Staff Present: Bryce Coefield, Torrey Sims, Nichole Watson, Miriam Neidhardt McPhee, Meghan Rogers-Czarnecki.</p> <p><b>Meeting Agenda</b>  <a href="#"><u>1.15.2025 AABSS Advisory Public Agenda.pdf</u></a></p>
<p><b>Icebreaker/ Community Building</b></p> <p><b>9:10 a.m.</b></p> <p><i>AABSS Advisory Group Vice-Chair</i></p>	<p>The Vice-Chair opened the icebreaker and community builder question: What would you bring to the cookout?</p>
<p><b>Community Building - OEDI Assistant Superintendent</b></p> <p><b>9:15 a.m.</b></p> <p><i>Torrey Sims, OEDI Assistant Superintendent</i></p> <p><i>Nichole Watson, OEDI Director</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introductions and backgrounds from Torrey Sims, OEDI Interim Assistant Superintendent and Nichole Watson, OEDI Interim Director.</li> <li>● Torrey and Nichole do not have a historical knowledge of this group or the former OEDI office leadership, and have had a steep learning curve in many ways.</li> <li>● Acknowledgement that this group needs care and time spent on the important work, not rushing into decisions and wasting time by having to undo things later.</li> <li>● They do not have a timeline on the hiring of a permanent AABSS coordinator but have worked to find some help for this group in that area.</li> </ul>

**Community Building -  
Group Review of  
Concerns & Updates**

**9:45 a.m.**

*Torrey Sims, OEDI  
Assistant  
Superintendent*

*Nichole Watson, OEDI  
Director*

- Members able to drop thoughts, feelings or concerns
- Concerns about ODE and AABSS Relationship:
  - The group is here because they want to center Black students. We're at a critical point, a crisis point and we all need to be moving in the same direction with the same energy. Every other SSP has a coordinator, has leadership, but not Black students. ODE needs to do something.
  - This group needs information about its programs before it reaches the general public. Sense of being kept in the dark.
  - Significant concern about the lack of traction, every time the group begins to move forward ODE seems to put up another hurdle that moves them backward. The group did not start in ODE, maybe it needs to move somewhere else.
  - Need to figure out what the issues are with leadership, what training do they need to be able to do the job? Other companies provide months of training when folks come on so why can't ODE.
- Folks have mixed feelings about the charter - several feel that it is not being followed and needs revisions, but there are concerns that constantly talking about the charter bogs down other work.
- Request for ODE to send out information on dealing with racial intimidation, religious intimidation, etc. Last sent something out several years ago. Hotline for folks to call, rules, etc. should go out twice a year so give families the information. Also training on how to handle aggression/intimidation.
- Request for follow up on the things we've asked about like Regional Civil Rights Coordinators/Title 6 positions. Title 6 positions have been absorbed by districts into other positions, rather than creating a new position with those funds. Important to know the FTE associated with that – delineate how much FTE of someone's position is appointed to the civil rights coordinator position.
- AABSS/DOJ:
  - Group has asked for memos from DOJ on the advice that's been given to ODE leadership regarding this group over the years. Torrey and Nichole have asked DOJ to come to the next meeting and provide those memos, but they need to work off of specific questions that the group has which should be submitted via email.
  - Concerns about grantees who do not center Black students after reviewing the list of grantees. We want to be focused on Black student achievement and learning and we requested that to be in the RFA - unsure why this is an issue now when it seemed like we decided the issue already.
  - We also want the scoring done by Black people with lived experience. The first round there were no Black scorers, this round there were some.
  - The legislation is explicit, but DOJ says it goes against the equal protection clauses. These seem contradictory and we need DOJ to provide an explanation.
  - There were recommendations made to mitigate this issue - site visits, etc. These recommendations were ignored and the process proceeded in a status quo way.
  - Torrey and Nichole will be doing site visits to current grantees.
- Discussion about RFA Process:
  - Timeline was challenging, especially for smaller organizations.
  - Scoring weaknesses or challenges – can we provide technical assistance to ensure a path of continuous improvement.
  - Torrey is working on an inter-agency agreement to address some of these issues. Smaller programs in particular need more time and assistance in the application process – webinars to help (funding available for this through DELC).

<p><b>Training - Advisory Group Retreat Debrief</b></p> <p><i>Damien Pitts, Vice Chair</i></p>	<p>This discussion will happen at a later meeting, as well as a discussion about the AABSS-specific retreat that was postponed last fall.</p>
<p><b>Meeting Opens to Public</b></p> <p><b>Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p><b>10:40 a.m.</b></p> <p><i>AABSS Advisory Group Interim Chair</i></p>	<p>The group reviewed the November 2024 Meeting Minutes. Brief discussion on changing the Interim Chair’s title to “Chair” which was postponed as more background information was needed. The November minutes need to be edited to include the term “House Bill 2016”.</p> <p>Dr. Richardson made a motion to approve the November minutes with the requested edit, seconded by Dr. Dujon, and the motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>November 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes</b>  <a href="#">AABSS Advisory Group Meeting Minutes 11.20.24.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Community Announcements and Updates</b></p> <p><b>10:50 a.m.</b></p> <p><i>Damien Pitts, Vice Chair</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Torrey introduced Bryce Coefield as the interim AABSS coordinator. Bryce gave his background. He has been the ODE Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Steward for four years. Has a higher education background at GFU and Pepperdine. His hope is that in this time he can help things move forward. He will be reaching out individually to group members. His focus will be on building trust. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No specific timeline given to Bryce, but putting him in immediately will enable us to do the work the group has asked OEDI leadership to do.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Kairos PDX’s Annual Spread the Love event February 7th, 2025</li> <li>● Black Parent Initiative Gala coming up in April</li> <li>● Request that minutes sent as attachments rather than a link</li> <li>● Urban League doing an MLK event Monday by invitation only – only time MLK came to Portland was by invitation of UL.</li> <li>● Dr. Iving Brown was sworn in as the second African American city councilperson in Salem history. 15 students gave a tribute to MLK last night at the Salem-Keizer school board meeting. Freedom Peace Walk in Salem tomorrow evening.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b></p>	

**Next Meeting:** February 19, 2025, 9:00 - 12:00 in person at Public Service Building for Executive Session. Hybrid option available for general meeting following Executive Session.