

METROPOLITAN



Dr. Matthew Prophet in his first School Board meeting as superintendent of the Portland Public Schools, addressed the board and public. He said his priorities for the district will include ensuring the management and utilization of resources

focus on the classroom, ensuring that administrators visit and are familiar with programs, developing a long-range comprehensive plan for the district, and establishing a legislative agenda.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

School Board seeks seclusion

The Portland School Board sought the protection of a closed room and police guard in the face of a Black United Front protest Monday night.

Front supporters sat quietly in the Board meeting while new superintendent Matthew Prophet gave his opening remarks. Approximately one-half hour into the meeting they stood and chanted "Eliot, Eliot" in unison. Board chairman Bill Scott, using a pre-designed plan, asked for quiet, suspended the meeting, then moved the meeting to a small upstairs room.

The public was left to watch the meeting on close-circuit television, which could not be heard over the chants. The stairs were roped off and guarded by uniformed school police officers. Persons who wished to speak on the issues under discussion were escorted to the upstairs room.

The arrangement was criticized by Board members and the public. Board member Steve Buel, who refused to move upstairs, watched the meeting on the television monitor. "We are very possibly breaking the open meeting law and I'm not going upstairs," he told the *Observer*. He had a prepared statement but was not allowed to speak on the issue. "I have suggested how to deal with the situation many times—we have to deal with it, sit down with Black representatives, and hold meetings and come up with a plan that is satisfactory to them and that meets their needs and ours."

Watching the television, he added, "The people can't hear the meeting. You can't comment on what you can't hear. This certainly is not proper procedure." Buel also

objected to the fact that the decision to move was made by the chairman without a Board resolution or vote.

One citizen from the Madison district told the Board that security was too tight; she had to go through three police barriers, which would prevent some people from participating. Another said she had difficulty testifying when she had no idea what had been said before her.

Board member Joe Rieke also opposed the move, explaining that the decision had been made prior to the meeting by the new "Gang of Four." "I'm extremely uncomfortable with this Board meeting. An elected Board must be able to meet in a way that the public feels is open and accessible. It can't cloister itself in a room.

"If this is not illegal, it is at least not the way to carry on business."

Board member Herb Cawthorne called the attempt to conduct a meeting via closed-circuit television "George Orwell's 1984 personified." There are three ways to handle the demonstrations, he said: recognize the inequities in the middle school decision and decide to reconsider; carry the demonstrators out using brute force; continue to meet in seclusion in what is, if not a violation of the letter of the law, a violation of the spirit of the open meeting law.

Cawthorne explained why he attended the meeting. "I am a member of the Board and as long as I am a member, even if I don't agree, I will participate. At the point at which I can no longer participate, it will be my responsibility to resign."

He believes the meeting was completely inappropriate and that such serious questions as the recognition

of the Madison cluster should not have been decided under those conditions. The decision to move the meeting during a demonstration was made at a Saturday budget meeting. Rieke and Buel opposed the decision but there was no vote. Cawthorne was not at the meeting. "I was at work Saturday. They didn't say they were going to discuss this issue. I believe it was a violation of the meeting notice requirement."

"They cannot avoid this issue," he said. "Their big mistake is to focus on the Black United Front and Ron Herndon like they are the only ones who are frustrated and angry. The ministers I've talked to are outraged. Black professionals are outraged. The parents and young people are very upset. It is a blatant display of lack of consideration of Black people."

"In these times a little spark can lead to a forest fire in the Black community because of high unemployment, the significance of the Reagan administration. I hope the board will keep in mind what is best for the city."

Dr. James Fenwick, who, along with Superintendent Prophet, recommended the move, said he considers the process to be legal. Refusing to take credit for the idea, he called it a "group decision." "It is not the best arrangement; it is highly unusual," he said.

"The law says we must ensure public safety and we must allow for public participation." The process failed to provide true participation but "the law requires that we put forth a 'good faith effort.'"

The District's legal counsel considered the procedure legal, and State Attorney General Dave Frohnmeyer called in "unusual but legal."



Mayor Frank Ivancie visits J&S Grocery during tour of new developments on Williams Avenue. These include the food market, redevelopment of the Eder Block, the Scanner newspaper expansion, and new low-cost housing development of

the Housing Authority of Portland. Steve Peterson of PDC said the projects—which will bring jobs, services, and housing to the area—is only just the beginning of new development in the inner North-east area.

Street Beat

Do you think that students should boycott the schools on April 19th to show their support of educational issues?



Henry Barabin, paper company employee—"No. I don't think that's the way to solve the problem. I think kids need as much time in school as they can get. We need to have more meetings with the community leaders and figure out things without taking the kids out of school."



Horace Green, unemployed—"Yes, I think they should. Kids should have a chance to go to school in their own community instead of being bused around. Education of our children is of the utmost importance."



Terry Londos, community health nurse—"Yeah, I think it could be helpful although I hate to see kids miss a day of school. Write letters, make phone calls."



Brett Tobler, dental student—"Yes. Anytime the public voices its opinion in a way the media will pick up on it, the more people are exposed to it."



Shirley McDonald, student—"Yes. I think it's a good idea to boycott if it is going to get us the school."



Mrs. J.H. Girvan, retired—"Yes, if the community thinks it is justifiable."

by Harris Levon McRae and Richard Brown

YOUR COMMENTS, PLEASE.

We want to know what you think about our proposed policy for granting billing credits to Bonneville Power Administration customers. We invite you to comment orally at a public meeting or to submit written comments.

Just how billing credits affect you, your region and your electric bill will depend largely on the policy under which they are granted. That's why we urge you to take part in the public review and comment process.

Attend one of the four public meetings listed below. These meetings have been scheduled for the express purpose of receiving public comments. Information meetings, during which we outlined our plans for billing credits and answered questions, were held earlier in various parts of the Northwest.

Written comments can be submitted at the meetings or sent to our Public Involvement Coordinator at the address below. Written comments must be received by April 23, 1982.

Billing credits are payments to Bonneville customers — either electric utilities or industries — for independent actions that reduce Bonneville's obligation to acquire power resources. Examples of such actions include energy conservation programs, construction of generating facilities, and adoption of retail rate structures that cause consumers to conserve or install their own renewable resources.

Billing credits are required by the Northwest Power Act, the same law that obligates Bonneville to acquire resources as necessary to meet customers' needs.

For more information, contact:

Public Involvement Coordinator, BPA
Post Office Box 12999
Portland, Oregon 97212

Telephone (503) 230-4261. Toll-free numbers for persons outside the Portland calling area are: in Oregon, 1-800-452-8429; in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, California, Nevada and Utah, 1-800-547-6048.

Remember, what you say counts.

Bonneville Power Administration



MEETING SCHEDULES

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Registration begins at 7 p.m.

Boise — Monday, April 19
The Hall of Mirrors, East Conference Room
700 W. State Street

Portland — Tuesday, April 20
Federal Building, Room 223
1220 S.W. Third Avenue
Madison Street (north) entrance

Seattle — Tuesday, April 20
Seattle Center, Blakely Room
First Avenue North and Republican Street

Missoula — Tuesday, April 20
Missoula County Courthouse Annex, Room 201
200 W. Pine Street