



Board Special Meeting

Work Sessions: Meeting with Superintendent Search Firm; Student Assignment Transition Plan; Executive and Closed Sessions: Potential Litigation and Labor Relations

Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 4:30 - 7:45pm

Board Office Conference Room and Board Auditorium, John Stanford Center

2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134

Minutes

Call to Order

Director Harris called the meeting to order at 4:32pm. Directors present were Leslie Harris, Rick Burke, Zachary DeWolf, Betty Patu, Jill Geary, Eden Mack, and Scott Pinkham.

Work Session: Meeting with Superintendent Search Firm

Consultants present from the Ray and Associates firm were Gloria Davis, Tony Apostle, and Ryan Ray.

Mr. Ray introduced the topics for discussion for the evening meeting. He presented a draft timeline, noting potential changes to extend the timeline. Directors and the consultant team discussed the process for refining the timeline and community engagement process. Ms. Davis presented the normal timeframe for when superintendents would start to look for openings. Directors discussed what would be gained from community engagement and the differences between the job description and profile of a candidate.

Mr. Ray discussed the benefits of looking for national candidates.

In response to a question from Mr. Ray, the Board indicated electronic copies of materials were appropriate.

Mr. Ray raised the question of who would be involved in the different rounds of candidate interviews. Director Harris noted this would be a question to discuss later in the process.

Directors and the consultants discussed how to involve different stakeholder groups in the development of a candidate profile. Director Mack suggested having a smaller group of board members and staff in the communications department. Directors and staff discussed having this meeting in the following week. Directors Harris, Patu, Mack and Geary expressed interest in serving on this subcommittee and the Board agreed to have a four-person subcommittee that will meet sometime the following week. Directors requested samples of materials used to advertise engagement opportunities for the community.

Directors concurred with the recommendation that the first round of interviews would be with the Board only.

Erinn Bennett was designated as the staff contact. Director Harris noted the Board contact should be decided after the following week's election of officers.

The consultants noted that the job description was the responsibility of the Board and not something they are involved with. Mr. Apostle noted the job description is focused on duties and that the other documents they provide are different in focus.

Director Harris asked that the job application be sent to staff and the subcommittee.

Mr. Ray presented the suggested areas for advertising the open position, noting which sites were recommended. Directors provided additional suggestions.

Mr. Ray highlighted there are no specific requirements for candidates in Washington State. Directors discussed other potential attributes.

Noel Treat was designated as the contact for invoices.

Mr. Ray reminded the Board that the District will be responsible for reimbursing expenses of candidate travel.

Director Harris called for a 10 minute recess at 5:55pm.

Work Session: Student Assignment Transition Plan

Director Burke called this session to order at 6:05pm. This session was staffed by Superintendent Nyland, Chief of Student Support Services Wyeth Jessee, Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Michael Tolley, Associate Superintendent for Capital, Enrollment and Facilities Flip Herndon, and Director of Enrollment Planning Ashley Davies.

Dr. Nyland provided introductory remarks, noting that this item is scheduled for a vote on December 6. He explained how this item sequenced with upcoming boundary decisions and the benefits to making decisions on December 6.

Director Burke invited feedback from Directors about questions or concerns with the draft student assignment transition plan. Director Geary noted her desire for staff to tie suggestions back to District goals and the community engagement that has been conducted. Director Mack noted questions and concerns about highly capable pathways and the definition for space available. Director Patu expressed her concern about providing opportunities for all students. Director Harris noted a concern about moving from one to five pathways for the highly capable program at the high school level and a question about how to weight feedback from different groups. Director Pinkham noted a desire to discuss the highly capable pathways and clarification about geo-zones versus walk zones. Director DeWolf asked how the pathway recommendation would achieve equity considerations, and cost implications. Director Burke wondered how viable the five pathway recommendation was, noted a concern about the sequence of deciding highly capable pathways before high school boundaries, and noted a concern about the definition of capacity.

Ms. Davies noted that the walk zones and geo-zones depend on the density of the area, noting she could look at the specific concern raised. She noted the district sets the geo-zone, but does not control the walk zone area.

Ms. Davies provided an overview of the conversations about capacity and the definition of space available that started in the spring. Dr. Herndon noted that the definition could also be reflected in the student assignment policy as well. Director Mack noted discomfort with the

current definition and her desire to work together to come up with a good definition and clarify the procedures over the next few months; Director Burke expressed similar concerns.

Mr. Tolley responded to concerns about dual language immersion pathways to Ingraham instead of Lincoln. He noted that the pathway has existed at Ingraham for a number of years and that the District has unfulfilled commitments in other regions of the city. He noted that Lincoln could have dual language immersion programming without being designated a pathway. Director Harris expressed concerns and Director Burke asked for more information.

Mr. Jessee presented information related to highly capable pathways, noting community engagement undertaken by staff and the reasons why the District initiated this conversation. He highlighted that highly capable students are not in a self-contained cohort at the high school level. He discussed disproportionality in the highly capable program. He noted a district vision that highly capable students could be served in all attendance area schools by school year 2021-22, highlighting implementation challenges to doing that all at once. He reviewed heat maps for students who are highly capable eligible and enrolled and enrollment and coursework data for different pathway options.

Director Harris asked about enrollment in international baccalaureate programs, noting a concern that requirements to take IB classes might skew the data. Director Mack noted a need to look at cost data and running start data. Director Geary expressed a hope to place the program around the district and make it welcoming for students from a variety of backgrounds. Director Patu expressed her desire to make these programs open to other students. Director Burke noted his appreciation for the information and expressed his alignment with the vision of putting highly capable in all schools, but expressed a concern that the staff recommendation might not be the most direct route to that goal.

Director Harris recessed the meeting into the executive and closed sessions at 7:15pm.

Executive and Closed Sessions: Potential Litigation and Labor Relations

At 7:15 pm, Director Harris announced that the Board was immediately recessing the special Board meeting into executive and closed sessions regarding potential litigation and labor relations the sessions were scheduled for approximately 45 minutes, with an anticipated end time of 8pm.

Director Harris called the executive and closed sessions to order at 8:20pm.

Directors Harris, Pinkham, Patu, Burke, Geary, DeWolf, and Mack were present.

Staff present included Michael Tolley, Kyle Kinoshita, Peggy McEvoy, Noel Treat, Superintendent Nyland, Clover Codd, JoLynn Berge, Stephen Nielsen, Stan Damas, and Sheryl Anderson-Moore.

At 8pm, Director Harris announced that the executive and closed sessions were now expected to go an additional 15 minutes, with an anticipated end time of 8:15pm.

Adjourn

At 8:15pm, the Board recessed out of the executive and closed sessions and Director Harris adjourned the meeting.