



Board Special Meeting

Executive Committee

February 8, 2018 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Board Office Conference Room, John Stanford Center

2445 3rd Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98134

Minutes

Call to Order

1. Director Harris called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

Directors Geary, Burke, and Mack were present. The meeting was staffed by Superintendent Larry Nyland, Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielson, Director of Policy and Board Relations Nate Van Duzer, Associate Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Michael Tolley, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Pegi McEvoy, General Counsel Noel Treat, Associate Superintendent of Capital, Facilities & Enrollment Flip Herndon, Executive Director of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives Erinn Bennett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Clover Codd, Director of School and Community Partnerships James Bush, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance JoLynn Berge, Manager of School Operations Sherri Kokx, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kathie Pham, School Board Office Administrator Michele Ramirez.

2. Approval of agenda

Director Burke moved to approve the agenda. Director Geary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of November 9, 2017 meeting minutes

Director Burke moved to approve the November 9 minutes. Director Geary seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of January 11, 2018 meeting minutes

Director Geary moved to approve the January 11 minutes. Director Burke seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

I. Board Action Items

1. Waiving the requirement for four oversight work sessions for school year 2017-18 found within Board Policy No. 1010, Board Oversight of Management

Director of Policy and Board Relations Nate Van Duzer explained the board action to waive the requirement of four oversight work sessions for the school year and instead have two oversight work sessions on the topics of Budget and HR.

Superintendent Nyland noted his support for this BAR, but highlighted that this may cause more work for next year.

Director Burke motioned for this item to be moved forward to the full Board for approval. Director Geary seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

II. Review of the February 13 and March 7 legislative session agendas

Mr. Van Duzer began with an overview of the February 13 agenda. Director Harris suggested that we give CTE a limited amount of time during recognitions for scheduling purposes. Superintendent Nyland and Director Harris determined 10-15 minutes for Superintendent Comments.

Director Harris asked for a quick discussion on incorporating Board Committee Reports. She suggested a new addition to the agenda for committee chair highlights, training reports, and liaison updates from directors. Each director will have two minutes to discuss their committee, and two minutes to update the board on any training or liaison information they have. This section will be titled “Board Committee Reports” on the agendas moving forward.

Directors discussed the order of introduction items and decided to keep the agenda in the original order. Mr. Van Duzer pointed out the scheduled Executive Session.

Director Burke motioned to approve the February 13 agenda as amended. Director Geary seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

March 7th

Mr. Van Duzer reviewed the agenda. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kathie Pham confirmed that African American Male Advisory Committee (AAMA) should go under recognitions. Directors and Dr. Nyland discussed the details of this recognition. Director Harris noted that this portion of the agenda should at least be 10 minutes to give due respect. Director Burke suggested that there could be a supplemental meeting with AAMA at a Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting. Dr. Nyland asked to move this recognition to the Superintendent Comments portion of the agenda.

Board Committee Reports will be added as Roman Numeral IV moving forward. Mr. Van Duzer noted that the March 7th scheduled student performance has cancelled, but suggested that the board office ask the student performers originally scheduled for February 13th to see if they are ready by March 7th. Director Harris suggested the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center recording studio that works with Interagency students as an option for a potential future student presentation.

Mr. Van Duzer reviewed the action items with directors. Directors suggested items 1, 2, 3, and 7 be moved to consent. Items 4 and 5 will stay on action. Directors and Mr. Van Duzer discussed items 4 and 5.

Director Burke motioned to approve the March 7 agenda as amended. Director Geary seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

III. Special Attention Items

1. Labor Partner Discussion – Principals’ Association of Seattle Schools

Paula Montgomery and Spencer Welch from Principal’s Association of Seattle Schools introduced themselves. Ms. Montgomery expressed their concerns with the Superintendent Search in regard to community outreach. They also noted their concern with the bus strike and the tremendous impact this is having on neighborhoods.

Director Harris asked General Counsel Noel Treat how much directors can comment on the bus strike. Mr. Treat advised not to discuss potential disputes with First Student.

Ms. Montgomery noted that the association appreciated some of the language that took place around HCC Pathways. They want to encourage the board to look at the root cause of the problems. They are not happy with the makeup of HCC. Director Eden pointed out the substitute resolution and its intended timeline for diversity. Directors discussed HCC with Ms. Montgomery. Director Mack noted that there was very powerful testimony from a community member that moves her towards seeking equitable strategies.

Director Harris noted that we have no required paid for differential learning for professional development.

Ms. Montgomery encouraged the board to hear from educators who are doing the work. She noted this looks different at each school. She explained that differentiation is a huge umbrella, but she knows that there are teachers and school leaders who are doing this work. Director Harris asked if we can identify what aspects are really working. Ms. Montgomery recognized that Superintendent Nyland is doing a great job of making sure this is getting done in Seattle Public Schools.

Michael Tolley, Associate Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, noted, in regards to implementing the Substitute Resolution, that his department is working on professional development, but they need to look at how to restructure this moving forward.

Director Geary asked that the board identify what exactly Highly Capable means, so that they can define if they are just providing an accelerated track.

Director Harris asked Jolynn Berge, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance, if the Highly Capable bill will come with funding. Ms. Berge clarified that it will not come with funding.

Ms. Montgomery explained that students can easily be identified in class by those that are picking up the standards quickly. She explained that students, who are picking up those concepts faster than the rest of the class are accelerated. She also explained that if students are coming in from a foreign country and mastering ELL in the first year, those students should also be eligible for highly capable. She suggested identifying highly capable students at the elementary level. She shared a story of a student intervention team process that occurred at her school with the board.

Director Burke noted that step one is project planning to determine what that work looks like with deadlines.

Dr. Codd suggested engaging parents, students, and central office voices around what their mutual ideas are. She notes that cocreation and collaboration is the way to make this process successful.

Director Harris asked the board office to put this topic on the Executive Committee agenda in a couple of months to discuss.

2. Staffing and Seats Available Discussion

Director Harris asked that the School Staffing form be attached to the agenda for transparency.

Ms. Berge discussed the school staffing form. She noted that the base is attendance area schools. Ms. Berge explained that the number of students who can fit in a classroom depends on the class size funded. She explained the determination of class sizes to the board, highlighting that for many years, it has been dependent on the space in the school.

Superintendent Nyland asked for clarification about the class sizes. Director Harris would like to note that this is a draft document. Directors discussed the school staffing background.

Director Mack noted everyone wants choice, and allowing it in our system is part of equity. Stephen Nielsen explained the reasons for originally going to choice areas. Director Burke explained that we are building policy guidelines around a symptom. Directors and staff discussed the class size and staffing.

Director Harris asked if a root cause analysis has been done for what is going on at Madrona. She asked if this information is going to be coming back later in the year. Ms. Berge explained that they can determine where every student is going and coming from.

Directors and staff and discussed the school sizes, staffing, and the amount budgeted for those.

Jolynn noted that they can put out more information, but it is going to mirror the information put out last year. She explained that it comes down to elementary schools and the stability needed to keep staff steady.

Dr. Codd explained that this process aligns with the hiring process. Hiring early matters in terms of quality. She noted that teachers have their preferences as well and develop a sense of community that they may not want to leave. Teachers cannot be moved around as easily as the need or lack of need in classrooms appears to be.

Flip Herndon, Associate Superintendent of Capital, Facilities & Enrollment, explained that program placement also changes the ratios of what is seen at schools. He noted that families still get choices in the district.

V. Standing Agenda Items

1. Community Engagement (Superintendent 2016-17 SMART Goal #4 Update)

James Bush, Director of School and Community Partnerships, explained the family engagement around SMART Goal #4. He noted on February 14th they will have a landscaping meeting with Michelle Brookes of The Institute for Educational Leadership. Mr. Bush highlighted they have opened up applications for the family engagement task force. They have received many applications and are working through them.

Mr. Bush noted the Somali alphabet book launch party is happening Friday. Director Harris asked for media to be there. He updated the board that the Racial Equity institute is coming up and explained that this is an opportunity for PTSA to be involved as well.

2. Government Relations

Mr. Nielsen gave an update the budget coming out of Olympia. He briefly talked about the McCleary bill and the levy.

Erinn Bennett, Executive Director of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives, flagged a few things going on in the state. She highlighted bill 2311 referring to reducing barriers to student participation in extracurricular activities. She explained that this will have a negative effect on ASB. Ms. Bennett is tracking this bill and is very concerned. Directors and staff discussed bill 2311.

Director Harris mentioned that the Athletic Hall of Fame is coming up and that highlighting the importance of extracurricular activities would be important there.

Ms. Bennett explained OBMA does not look like it will be past and the highly capable bill has not moved forward.

Pegi McEvoy, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, gave a quick update of the First Student and Teamsters discussions, noting that they are still at the negotiating table.

Adjourn

Director Harris adjourned at the meeting at 5:12pm.