

Board Special Meeting

Executive Committee

April 24, 2019 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Board Office Conference Room, John Stanford Center

2445 3rd Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98134



Minutes

Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Director Harris called the meeting to order at 8:01am. Directors Harris, DeWolf, and Burke were in attendance.

Staff present were: Superintendent Juneau, Erinn Bennett, Executive Director of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives; Ronald Boy, Acting Chief Legal Counsel; Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen; Sherri Kokx, Special Assistant to the Superintendent; Diane DeBacker, Chief Academic Officer; Michele Ramirez, Board Office Administrator; Ted Howard, Principal of Garfield and President of Principal's Association of Seattle Schools (PASS); Brent Jones, Chief of Equity, Partnerships, and Engagement; Carri Campbell, Chief of Public Affairs; Spencer Welch, Executive Director of PASS

2. Approval of agenda

Director Burke moved approval of the agenda. Director DeWolf seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of March 20, 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes

Director DeWolf moved approval of the March 20, 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Director Burke seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Review of the May 1 and May 15 legislative session agendas

Erinn Bennett reviewed the May 1 agenda. Directors discussed moving all three action items to consent. Ms. Bennett reviewed the introduction items. Based on a conversation that occurred at the Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee, she suggested moving the Satterberg Foundation Elementary Feeder School Grant item to an earlier spot on introduction since staff would be inviting representatives from Satterberg to the Board meeting to thank them. Directors agreed to move this item to number one on introduction. Directors also agreed to move the Nesholm Family Foundation item to number two on introduction. Directors and Superintendent Juneau discussed the League of Education Voters Foundation introduction item. Directors determined that the League of Education Voters item should be moved to number three on introduction.

Director DeWolf moved approval of the May 1 agenda as amended. Director Burke seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Director Harris requested that Chief Operating Officer, Fred Podesta, give Directors an update before the May 1 meeting regarding the status of construction at Rainier Beach High School.

Ms. Bennett reviewed the May 15 agenda. She noted items 5, 6, and 7 would be removed from action based on the Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee meeting. Directors discussed items to move to consent. Directors determined all items apart from the Highly Capable Program Plan item should be moved to the consent agenda. Directors stated that they would like to place the Science Adoption items as a placeholder for introduction on May 15th.

Director DeWolf moved to approve the May 15 agenda as amended. Director Burke seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Special Attention Items

1. Labor Partner: Principals' Association of Seattle Schools (PASS)

Principal Ted Howard, President of PASS, and Spencer Welch, Executive Director of PASS, joined the Directors at the table. Principal Howard discussed a new program PASS has begun that pairs principals with local CEOs from companies such as Chase, Kaiser Permanente, Amazon, and Starbucks for mentorship and thought sharing. Director Harris asked how closely leadership is working with Central Office staff and how the program is being leveraged to ensure it aligns with the work of the district. Principal Howard explained that this collaborative step is coming.

Director DeWolf and Principal Howard discussed the conversations that happen in these CEO meetings. Principal Howard explained they discuss growth and leadership.

Director Harris asked if he will be presenting a recap of this program at the Summer Leadership Institute (SLI). Principal Howard noted he would be happy to if requested by the Superintendent.

Director Burke expressed his excitement for this program. Principal Howard and Directors discussed the learning being exchanged between the CEOs and Principals.

Director Harris asked for an update on sending school newsletters to the SPS Directors email address. Superintendent Juneau asked that Directors use the app to follow the schools in their district instead.

Principal Howard gave updates on other PASS related news. He noted that PASS has updated their bylaws to maintain the same president for two consecutive years, so he will remain president of PASS for another year.

Director Burke asked if the topic of student electronic devices has been discussed in the schools. Principal Howard explained that some education pieces have taken place around electronic devices including showing the documentary "Screenagers." He explained that conversations are happening around when students should and shouldn't be using technology.

Director Harris noted the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board has been addressing issues related to the dress code. She asked how this is being developed. Mr. Boy explained that he has a draft of the dress code policy ready to be brought to a Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee meeting. Director DeWolf asked if Directors could have access to the draft policy ahead of time. Mr. Boy stated that he could share the draft policy. Principal Howard noted this is an opportunity to have a unified dress code policy for elementary, middle, and high schools. Director Harris asked if bathroom policies would be a part of the Student's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. Principal Howard noted the importance of schools being aligned on these issues.

2. District Equity Issues – Highlighting issues around equity

Superintendent Juneau explained that Science is an equity issue within the district. She noted that the Science Adoption Committee is made up of educational experts and their recommendation should be highly valued. She discussed the fact that there has not been a science adoption since the late 1990s, and the importance of having a common curriculum in Science. Director DeWolf noted the adoption process should be cleaned up. Superintendent Juneau noted that curriculum adoption will always be controversial.

Director Burke expressed his concerns with choosing something that exasperates equity, and potentially making a long-term investment that will go against the district's goals. He explained that he does not want to accept a curriculum that does not align with the Strategic Plan. He stated that he supports a common curriculum, but he has not heard how technology eliminates opportunity gaps. Ms. Sherri Kokx shared that high poverty schools have reported they were slower to start the curriculum, however, now that they have been using it for a year, they are fully engaged. Directors and staff discussed science curriculum.

Director Harris asked if the PTSA is taking its newly signed resolution to each school. Superintendent Juneau noted it is an uphill battle. Directors discussed that a Board policy could be made to restrict PTSAs from funding staff. Director Burke noted the need to be transparent on the way schools are funded.

Ms. Bennett clarified the Committee's ask of what she should communicate to Chair of the Audit & Finance Committee Director Pinkham and Chief Financial Officer, JoLynn Berge, around adding a PTSA Policy BAR to their Audit & Finance Committee work plan. Director Harris asked that the Department of Racial Equity Advancement be involved as well. Directors and staff discussed steps for moving forward. Director Harris requested that this topic be added to the Audit & Finance Committee workplan for 10 minutes of discussion at the next meeting.

3. June 1, 2019 Board Retreat Agenda

Dr. Jones joined the table. He congratulated Directors on their recent Racial Equity Training. He noted that the retreat will be a continuation of this work with more reflection time. Director Harris asked if they will be bringing in an outside speaker. He noted that they could reach out to someone if the Board is interested. He stated that Directors can communicate with him regarding what they are interested in. Director Harris asked that he send out a list of options to Directors.

Director Burke moved approval of the June 1, 2019 Board Retreat Agenda. Director DeWolf seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Board Policies and Procedures

1. Board Policy No. 1620, Board-Superintendent Relationship; Board Procedure No. 1620BP, Board-Superintendent Relationship Procedure

Director Harris noted that another meeting is being scheduled for the Executive Committee Directors and Superintendent Juneau to discuss this topic.

Standing Agenda Items

1. Community Engagement (District 2018-19 SMART Goal #4 Update)

Dr. Jones reviewed the community engagement materials in the Executive Committee meeting packet. He highlighted the four main sections of the community engagement update, including communications,

community engagement model, collaboration and problem-solving, and family engagement. Dr. Jones explained to Directors the engagement used during the Leadership Learning Day (LLD), including allowing school leaders the opportunity to share and discuss their beliefs based upon key family partnership belief statements. Director Harris asked that these questions be added to the principal hiring spreadsheet.

2. Public Affairs Update

Carri Campbell joined the table to give the Public Affairs update. She explained that along with the reorganization of their department, they are focusing on three goals. The goals are: improvement of public perception and satisfaction, supporting aligned messaging, and improved customer service. She has been taking the team through an audit of previous practices and discussing how they align with these goals. She noted that there are now three managers in Public Affairs, including Rachel Nakanishi, Heidi Henderson-Lewis, and Judy Simon. She explained that customer service is piloting a key initiative this year called “Let’s Talk,” a program designed to assist with organizing constituent communications. She reviewed some of the expectations to align the SPS brand and image. She also noted they are developing the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Strategic Plan communications. Ms. Campbell and the Directors discussed the RFP process. Director Burke asked about the visibility of “Let’s Talk.” Ms. Campbell noted that not everyone has the ability to see the comments internally.

3. Government Relations

Ms. Bennett passed out a list of bills that are currently going through the legislature. She highlighted some of the bills including HB 1095, noting that approval of this bill could require policy development at the district level, and HB 1599 regarding graduation requirements.

4. Board Calendar

Ms. Bennett noted the Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee of the Whole meeting date will need to be determined. She noted that Director Mack has also requested a Work Session to be calendared.

5. Executive Committee Work Plan

Ms. Bennett noted the adjustment to the Executive Committee work plan to shift Policy No. 4130 and Policy No. 4129 to discussion at the May Executive Meeting.

6. Board 2019 Goals Update

Ms. Bennett briefly updated Directors on their 2019 Goal progress, highlighting their recent Racial Equity Training.

7. Annual Reports Status List

There were no updates to report.

Adjourn

Director Harris adjourned the meeting at 10am.