

BOARD SPECIAL MEETING OPERATIONS COMMITTEE



2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98124

Thursday, September 15, 2016
Stanford Center, Board Conference Room

Approved Minutes

Director Stephan Blanford called the meeting to order at 4:30pm. Directors Jill Geary and Scott Pinkham were also in attendance. Associate Superintendent Flip Herndon joined the meeting by telephone; Assistant Superintendent Pegi McEvoy staffed the meeting.

The meeting agenda and the minutes from the August 18th Operations Committee were approved.

Monthly capital financial report: Melissa Coan reviewed the June 2016 report with the committee. She noted that in the \$134 million life to date fund balance, BTA IV has been added because the CEP fund gave a bridge loan to BTA IV for some accelerated DoTS projects. She said that the unearmarked total estimated fund balance crept up again due to interest earnings. In response to committee questions, she said that:

- the district does not usually reflect funds as old as BEX II and BTA II but that the remaining BEX II funds will likely be used for capacity issues and BTA II is shown because the still-active Seattle World School is from that source; and
- the board will be making the decision on how to utilize the dollars from each of those fund balances.

Approval of the agreement with King County for purchase of ORCA business passport products for students: The district ordered 8,500 cards for secondary students during the 2016-17 school year. Metro is charging \$31/month this year (based on last year's usage); the Youth Metro rate is \$54, so this is a good deal for SPS. Pegi McEvoy noted that the Rainier Beach exception is City of Seattle use of Prop 1 funds; the City is expanding the City F/R Lunch program separately from the district. Jill Geary wanted more clarification on how Team Read kids are transported. Kathy said students don't get a card specifically for Team Read. Pegi noted that in years past the district has provided transportation, and Kathy said they would check into how the high school students are transported to support the program this year. Scott Pinkham asked about how students with asthma are handled, and Pegi said district 504 accommodations would manage this process.

Committee members had questions about how the use of the ORCA cards is managed by the district and Metro. Kathy said that:

- the individual data is gathered by card per use which will determine the cost for the following year.
- Students and families are notified at the beginning of the year with the consent form that their card could be blocked if it is misused

- Students are sometimes asked to show identification by Metro drivers.
- The card can be used for appropriate events (i.e., school activities, going to the library) as Metro wants to encourage ridership and use in other ways.

Committee members questioned the agencies shown on page 1 of the contract (they are all part of the ORCA system) and whether the use could change with changes in district policy (this would happen during the transportation service standards process). They then moved this item forward to the full board with a recommendation for approval.

Approval of the 2017-18 implementation amendments to the 2013-20 growth boundaries plan for student assignment:

Ashley Davies, Director of Enrollment and Planning, stated that the package represents changes proposed for the 2017-18 school year, noting the commitment to the series of community meetings that have occurred or will occur with the community to review enrollment capacity and get feedback before this comes to the board for approval. The plan is aligned with capital projects for future and include the new boundaries for Cedar Park, Cascadia, and Eagle Staff. Several amendments in the BAR retain certain areas in elementary and middle schools that were supposed to change in order to minimize disruption to families. In addition to the meetings held in the community in the spring, Ashley said there has been extensive discussion with impacted principals who may have heard from families or who are advocating for due to instructional support and building plans. She noted the separate part of BAR showing community engagement for Cedar Park. A race and equity analysis team of community members, staff, and school leaders also provided input into the recommendations.

Ashley then reviewed the specific changes as part of the amendment, noting that when the recommendation says AMEND, it means the areas would stay the same, as the action coming forward is updating the changes approved by the board for change in 2017-18. These are all generally because the school the areas were to move to has capacity issues. These include:

- Elementary areas: Area 11 staying with Bagley as opposed to moving to Green Lake; area 20 staying with Bryant rather than moving to Laurelhurst; area 25 staying with BF Day instead of Green Lake; area 84 staying at Northgate rather than moving to Olympic Hills; 103 and 104 staying with Sand Point. Principals have all supported these recommendations. The blank area will be Loyal Heights.
- Middle school changes: generally, the changes to the plan include the areas that stay with the elementary schools in order to align elementary changes with middle school boundaries. Director Blanford noted that area 64 should be studied and there should be communication with the schools, as it is very close to Washington; the community will be sensitive to staying in that neighborhood instead of being bussed to a different school. Discussion followed about whether Leschi should align with Meany or Washington.

Moving Sanislo back into the Denny feeder pattern (then aligning with Sealth). In 2015 it moved into Madison. Now that Madison has the HCC program, it made sense to move Sanislo back to the community and have those two communities go back to the school with the City Year partnership and school choice fifth graders opting into Denny. Aligning Sanislo to Denny will then align to Sealth.

- The Thornton Creek and Sand Point principals have requested an expansion of the Thornton Creek geo-zone to allow additional choice opportunities for families in

affordable housing. The geo-zone tie-breaker will allow the families in housing to attend Thornton Creek as capacity allows. Director Geary asked to confirm that it includes Mercy.

- Cedar Park amendment: The work on the Cedar Park boundaries literally began right after the motion to review CP boundaries, as school leaders from John Rogers and Olympic Hills had some concerns about the overall impact. Capacity issues had been raised, as Cedar Park is a very small building in densely populated communities; Olympic Hills could not handle the 400 student target due to class size reduction requirements. With a goal of maintaining communities as best as possible and have Cedar Park be a viable school, a small group of community, Research & Evaluation, staff, parents, school leadership, and the Cedar Park planning principal held several community meetings, talking about the vision of the school. They looked at 12 different scenarios, looking at demographic enrollment data, benefits and consequences, and potential mitigations, school leaders recommended that Cedar Park's boundaries as shown, with everything below 125th remaining with John Rogers. Adjusting John Rogers capacity to ensure capacity and diversity will impact Olympic Hills, but there is a cascading effect in the area due to the number of elementary schools.
- Grandfathering recommendation: Ashley said that the list of grandfathering recommendations include just elementary schools; the plan had already designated that comprehensive middle schools would be a geo-split. With issues like capacity, the MCleary decision, and thinking long-term, capacity challenges are growing faster than our current plan. Staff broke out changes by grade and determined that it would be possible to grandfather at least the upper grades to maintain continuity. They sent School Messenger notice to all families in the affected areas, and got feedback; there will be five community meetings before this goes for introduction.

Committee member feedback:

- It is difficult to see the number of students and families in the constituency represented in each of these. Have staff bring a sheet that could be cross-referenced. This sheet could include the anticipated school enrollment and the right size of those schools, maybe the number of portables in those schools. If the community does not have the information, then their input is not relevant. If they don't have the information, they will be upset if they don't get it. Most of these people attending these meetings are stakeholders, and they can digest the information. Figure out a way to find the balance between too much data and share the information that can encourage authentic community feedback without violating some confidentiality issues.
- Re Viewlands taking additional students, is the district putting more students in this high portable school already rather than looking at ways to create play space and anticipating the reaction to this decision? Board members will need the numbers.
- Board members will need clarity on the grandfathering issue about what current vs. proposed boundaries are.
- Looking at the Cedar Park-Olympic Hills area, there is a high (40%) population of ELL students at one school, with 20% at another, 10% at another. To answer the question of how assignments can be addressed here, Ashley noted that the ELL population is very dense in this area and up against the boundary. The concern here how "the slice" was splitting up communities or staying with one school.

- Staff explained how Licton Springs moving to Eagle Staff was designed to be an option school in the southwest portion of the middle school, designed as a K-8.
- Staff and committee members discussed the policy question about staying true to the long-term plan set up by a previous board and perhaps not hearing from the families who are happy about the changes and have made decisions to purchase property based on the decisions and that the amendments could raise significant issues with winners and losers. Staff said the goal is to recommend what is best for the largest number of people, try to do what's best for the largest number of students, and hear and respond to people who stand to lose.
- There was some discussion about tweaking area 117 after listening to community input and who is complaining, recognizing that some of tweaks might divide another group. Ashley said staff tried to involve the principals in looking at several more years and is sending resources to principals about how to talk about capacity and the changes at a high level.
- Committee members asked that community input is synthesized quickly and gotten to board members, as this process is moving very quickly.
- Richard Best expressed the huge sense of urgency from Capital Projects around capacity and boundaries decisions, as CP staff has to literally check off that there we have a seat for each child. Last year the conversation began in December, then included a big discussion around preschool and before-after school care; decisions were made so late that August was a nightmare for staff implementing the plans, going 33 days without a day off to get school open on time (right up to the first day of school). Pegi McEvoy noted that Transportation has the same concern because how we build in flexibility, capacity and not quite as tight of a bid as the RFP is issued.

Committee members acknowledged that this is a complex process and how hard but important it is to get the community engagement in place so it is not right up on the goal line and does not allow for authentic engagement. They also acknowledged the importance of discipline on the part of all school board directors to understand the materials, the decision points, and actions to keep multiple issues from cascading on each other. They then moved this item forward to the full board for consideration.

Director Blanford left the meeting at this point.

Update on the joint use agreement with the City of Seattle: Bruce Skowyras said staff is still negotiating with the City and that Parks Superintendent has signed a two-month extension with district. There are quite a few language updates to this 75-year old document. Changes include bell time flips, changes to times on fields (district access to our own fields changed from 5:30 to 6:45pm; the district has access to Parks fields until 5:45). This is supposed to be a zero value contract for each side and there are things needing change so value to both sides can be demonstrated. Pool times are an issue, going from 90 minutes to 60 minutes, which is not enough time for swim teams. The district will take over field monitoring use of our fields, as Parks was having a hard time providing the monitor even though they are paying for it. This agreement has not come before the board before. It will likely come to the Operations Committee in October, including an updated document with all changes. This is going to be a three-year agreement, as five years is too long.

Discussion followed on pool use. In response to questions, Bruce said that the pool use has switched to 90-minute morning workouts; not all pools get the same use and some can accommodate the change, some cannot. Private schools go to SPU, and the UW and Seattle U

also get consideration. Parks says the city pools are in very bad shape, so this is another reason to go to three-year terms on this agreement.

Bruce and Flip said that lights are not part of the JUA. The district is trying to increase lights on some fields to add time available. The district will need assistance from the City to do that; there is money in BTA IV to improve Lower Woodland that the district wants to redirect to lights.

2017-18 transportation service standards discussion: Pegi McEvoy said that the transportation service standards will be coming forward during the growth boundaries-student assignment work. Staff will try to decouple it from any community engagement underway and likely put language in for a re-opener probably in January after approval of the student assignment plan. In the meantime, the RFP will be going out to bid, and the district like ask for bids that have more options, trying to determine what the costs would be for each of the additions. In response to questions, Pegi said that late arrival days are preferred from a transportation perspective than early release days, as people are not there to meet kids on early release days.

Washington Schools Risk Management Pool grant: Pegi McEvoy reported that this grant originally came out in January asking for districts to apply by school for security equipment at a cost of about \$3,500/school. As WSRMP was not getting response from districts structured this way, the requirements for the grant application evolved over time until it is now a grant that will allow districts to apply for reimbursement under specific guidelines. SPS has determined to use it for AI phones to support access control for schools in need. SPS is eligible for up to \$330,000 for reimbursement of installation expenditures. SPS will use safety audit reports and CPTED analyses to determine which schools will have AI phones installed. The board action report for this grant will go through next month's Audit & Finance Committee and will have a short turnaround, as grant dollars must be spent by the end of August 2017. In response to questions, Pegi said that:

- AI phones are used to allow someone to release locks on entrance doors when visitors buzz to enter. Staff will determine which schools need them for security reasons (i.e., Rainier Beach where they have multiple buildings and kids move between buildings).
- The Eckstein Middle School theft incident this summer occurred because alarms were not in place and contractors were moving in and out; it turned out that the equipment was not stolen but moved to another place for safety reasons.
- Human safety will be the first priority on this grant, not equipment.

Bell times implementation update: Pegi McEvoy reported that transportation issues are the priority in implementation now, looking at on-time delivery rate, kindergarten starting and the related slow-down as bracelets are checked and release to parents. The contractor is struggling to have enough bus drivers. Staff has been able to resolve major childcare requests.

There has been no change in the sports times this year. This has to be a transition year as the joint use agreement was not complete and schools let out later. Flip Herndon noted that transportation to practices is also an issue. Ongoing construction still is impacting transportation as well. Staff is working with Metro to have the right number of buses on routes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

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