

# Board Special Meeting

## Operations Committee

August 23, 2017, 4:30pm

Board Office Conference Room, John Stanford Center

2445 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134



### Approved Minutes

#### Call to Order

1. This meeting was called to order at 4:35pm by Director Blanford. Director Geary was present; Director Pinkham joined the meeting at 4:40pm. This meeting was staffed by Associate Superintendent Flip Herndon, Assistant Superintendent Pegi McEvoy, and Director of Capital Projects Richard Best.
2. The agenda and minutes from the June 15, 2017 meeting were approved.

#### Board Action Reports (Discussion and/or Action)

**BTA III: Final acceptance of contract K5070 with CDK Construction Services, Inc. for the Eckstein Middle School Phase II fire sprinkler installation project:** Richard Best noted there was a 7% change order adjustment. Committee members moved this item forward to the full board with a recommendation for approval.

#### Board Policies and Procedures (Discussion and/or Action)

**Policy 6810, Natural Resources Conservation:** Bruce Skowrya said there was no change in the policy and that updated superintendent procedures are being included for information. This provided an opportunity to engage the community and school green teams in updating the procedure with best practices, training with green teams at schools and the conservation specialists. He said the policy has been a good policy that has saved the district money; there are issues in procedure that are not popular but they also save the district money.

Director Pinkham questioned by the references to wastewater and water pollution had been removed from the updated procedure when it was in the old board procedure and whether the district is educating students on what should or should not go down drains and impact Puget Sound. Director Geary questioned the removal of the aspirational tone in the procedures and the expression of how the district feels about issues of natural resource conservation. Director Blanford said this is where the community will look to the district on its position and encouraged the old language included in new procedure. Bruce said they would add the language back into procedure on water pollution, and with this assurance, the committee moved this forward to the full board with a recommendation for approval.

**Policy 3116, Students in Foster Care:** Pegi McEvoy reported that this new policy is being required as part of the federal Elementary and Secondary Schools Act (ESSA) and includes language from the recommended WSSDA policy. Now rather than being combined with McKinney-Vento homeless requirements, there will be a specific foster student liaison to manage student and family issues separately. Discussion followed on clarifying language around “tribal agencies” vs. “federally recognized tribes,” and Director Pinkham asked that the procedure language be clarified to guide staff during training. The committee then moved this item forward to the full board for consideration.

## **Special Attention Items**

**2016-17 Title IX annual report:** Tina Meade reviewed the report with the committee, noting that while there is not a standard format for reporting the information yet, the district responded to the committee's request from last year and included more demographic information, information on training and dissemination of information, and a summary of sexual harassment complaints (student to student). Discussion followed about the need to be cautious regarding too much disaggregation of data in order to protect identity of victims. As reporting formats change in the future, data will likely be kept at a regional level. She acknowledged that improvements in the process in the future will include more community engagement and the need to reach out to various populations in the district.

Issues discussed with the committee included:

- How to handle and report elementary and primary grade complaints that may be within developmental norms but not acceptable in a school setting or when Special Education students who do not understand appropriate behaviors are involved.
- When to involve the Seattle Police Department (SPD), Child Protective Services (CPS), and partnering with these agencies to meet obligations involving the district's littlest people and the ripple effect of those calls. At middle and high school ages, these calls are automatically made.
- Building relationships with principals, schools, SPD, and the community so that schools feel safe meeting reporting requirements and calling the district's OCR staff to help guide them through situations, particularly when RCWs specify that under the age of 8 a crime has not been committed. Tina said an ad hoc committee is being formed to help the district with this procedure.
- Expanding FLASH curriculum for younger age students.
- Supporting district obligations to meet FERPA privacy requirements and SPD's public records information
- Educating students about the use of social media and how sharing private pictures can be considered distribution of pornography
- Developing training for the people most likely to encounter challenges, including school counselors, Special Education supervisors and specialists, and expanding the training in buildings and particularly to principals, who are the Title IX coordinators at the building level.
- Disseminating information regarding support to non-English speaking families. All complaint forms are translated into ten languages, and OCR staff connect with translators and interpreters to work with families.
- How to effectively track information and fear of under-reporting.

Committee members encouraged the district to continue development of this cutting-edge work. Tina said the national discourse has been around post-secondary institutions and is now shifting to the K-12 setting. Committee members encouraged the development of information materials that staff and board members can use explaining Seattle's work, as the district is leading the charge and can be a source of information to other districts, community, and legislators. They agreed that protecting student privacy and victims is the most important focus, and intervention and prevention work should come first.

## **Adjourn**

This meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

jd