

# Board Special Meeting

**Oversight Work Sessions: Coordinated Health, Safety, and Security;**

**Work Session: Budget**

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 4:30-7:30pm

Auditorium, John Stanford Center

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



## Minutes

### Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Director Peters at 4:34pm.

Directors Blanford, Burke, Geary, Harris, and Patu were also present. Director Pinkham was absent.

### Oversight Work Session: Coordinated Health, Safety, and Security

#### Safety and Security Oversight

Director Peters turned the meeting over to Director Geary for the Safety and Security portion of the meeting. She introduced Pegi McEvoy, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, who introduced Larry Dorsey, Manager of Safety & Security.

Ms. McEvoy reviewed the three emergency management priorities: violence, pandemic (flu), and earthquakes. She outlined the four phases that support these priorities: prevent/mitigate, prepare, respond (in a coordinated way), and recovery. Security has the same four phases, with school security specialists in schools and management coordination with precincts.

Mr. Dorsey reviewed the SWOT analysis, highlighting technology and partnerships as strengths and inequitable distribution of emergency supplies and two systems of intrusion alarms as weaknesses. He said standardization of monitoring and replacement of equipment in BEX V as opportunities. Security coverage in walkouts and social media issues as risks rounded out the presentation. He said the City is taking out the 800 Mhz radio system, and the district will need to figure out replacement.

Director Harris questioned both the student walkout and social media issues. Mr. Dorsey said the single biggest concern on walkouts is at the middle school level, as there is not the same level of security and there is no history on where middle school students go. Pegi McEvoy said when social media events happen off school hours, they migrate to school during the week and are disruptive. With technology like Snapchat, there is no evidence to track, but schools want to provide a supportive environment.

Director Peters questioned where cameras are in schools and how long the district has had them. Mr. McEvoy said cameras have been outside, in the attendance areas, and hallways since the late 80's to early 90's. When Director Patu asked if situations have occurred in the community or at home and students may be afraid to come to school, Mr. Dorsey said staff works with the police department as follow-through.

On the KPIs, Ms. McEvoy said there has been an increase in Special Education students making threats, so the department is a little below target on case management. In response to benchmarking questions on

staff/budget percent, Ms. McEvoy said staff would doublecheck the percentages and send information to board members via the Friday Update.

An ongoing issue for the department is the allocation of funds for emergency supplies. One equity issue is that schools with PTAs buy emergency supplies for their schools, but not all have access to this source. Ms. McEvoy said that staff's current recommendation is to access BTA and BEX funds when opening new schools and in the next levy start asking for money for all schools. This is important since in the recent Cascadia Statewide drill on a significant earthquake, the district learned that national, state, and local support may take a lot longer than originally anticipated, and the district will need to make sure schools are self-reliant. Director Harris asked for information on the number of schools that have the outdoor portable containers, and Ms. McEvoy said that information would be provided to the board.

### Coordinated School Health:

This section was staffed by Executive Director of Coordinated School Health Pat Sander and the Program Manager for Attendance and Discipline, Erin Romanuk.

Ms. Sander introduced staff and said that all of her staff that have children are in Seattle Public Schools, along with her grandchildren, so their work is real for all of them each day. She described the department's theory of action and functions and went through the SWOT analysis. A particular strength she talked about was the addition of the use of family and student voice as a decision-making influence. Weaknesses included integrated data systems and attracting staff for Student Health Services. Director Peters questioned the maintenance of student privacy as a threat, and Ms. Sanders said that the gaps in student identification and family information requires constant vigilance in district data sharing agreements; if vendors do not agree to protect data, the district will not share it with them.

Department accomplishments included developing a regional support service model for transitional/homeless families and aligning and expanding professional development opportunities for staff. In response to Director Harris' question on staffing levels, Ms. Sander said that four additional staff have been added to provide direct services and work with the increasing number of homeless students.

Ms. Sander responded to Director Patu's question about family support workers by noting they are in a social service mode as well as doing much more with the academic piece. They are doing case management with families, direct service providers, and community resources. They are also serving homeless students more. All family support workers are contacts in their own buildings, and the district has some regional positions as well.

Accomplishments were reviewed, including the professional development on Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training, Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) in 45 schools, and RULER training in 61 schools. Director Burke questioned how professional development was delivered, and Ms. Sander described the regional trainings provided this year, where over 1600 staff attended the four half-day sessions in four regions; staff will be adding a fifth region. Mr. Burke encouraged leveraging programs as part of recruiting for prospective teachers so they can get the high demand training onto their resumes. In response to Director Harris' question around how closely staff works with SEA to plan professional development, she said that part of this plan has come through the Partnership Committee, which planned together based on teacher input. Teachers are also asked directly on a continual basis by staff who are out in the buildings.

Another accomplishment is in data systems, where staff has added a PowerSchool log entry to correlate missed instructional time and behavioral issues that will give teachers more immediate feedback data. She noted that the school culture and climate goal has been added into Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIP). Director Geary and staff discussed how data in the school climate surveys is used; Pat Sander said the surveys have not been used in this way before, so staff needs to look at the volatility of data over time.

After a review of the KPIs, Ms. Sander led a discussion on attendance and discipline data, noting that staff does not really know the accuracy of attendance and discipline as the systems have been refined in recent past. Discipline data for elementary schools is down, due in part to the change in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and alternatives to suspension practices. She responded to Director Harris' question on working with ed directors saying that they have offered her staff time in their meetings every other week to review data. She and Erin Romanuk reviewed several slides presenting data regarding the decrease in disproportionality, students with multiple incidents, and average total days lost of students suspended or expelled. In benchmarking discipline data, Ms. Sander said that Montgomery County and Portland have done extensive work in this area, and staff is reaching out to districts across the country for best practices.

Board member comments:

- Director Burke was struggling with the chronic absenteeism and overlay of discipline. He felt the district was right in their first attempts to connect the two. Staff noted that district data is looking at absenteeism differently than OSPI, as Seattle looks at data by period, not counting the whole day absent if a student misses first period.
- Director Geary questioned whether this practice provides opportunities to re-evaluate policy, encouraging aspirational disciplinary practices.
- Director Patu asked whether staff was working with the Eliminating the Opportunity Gap (EOG) staff to come up with a solution about the high number of days and choice. Ms. Sander said her team's belief is supporting EOG and the whole child (part of the superintendent smart goal #2) and has a firm belief about shifting the system from punishment to discipline, teaching students about behavior as part of discipline. Ms. Romanuk said the shift to not using exclusionary practices anecdotally is gaining a lot of traction in the schools.
- Director Peters noted that looking at data differs by school and wondered how you change the conditions and sense of belonging, creating a climate where students feel they belong and a belief that the system is one where they can find success. Deputy Superintendent Nielsen described the successes at Chief Sealth over the past two years with their Native American program as an example of this work.
- Director Harris expressed frustration at the differences in data reporting and how difficult it is to make sense of what data is being captured. Staff noted that OSPI acknowledges their data is not as accurate as it could be.

Associate Superintendent Stephen Nielsen closed this session acknowledging the incredible support this staff offers to buildings throughout the district. Pat Sander noted that the resources the board has provided over the last two years has been rewarding on both a personal and professional level as this new area of support is implemented in the district.

This session recessed at 6:05pm

**Work Session: Budget**

This session began at 6:19

This session was staffed by Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, JoLynn Berge

Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance JoLynn Berge summarized the purpose of the meeting and the agenda with an outcome to move forward on Kindergarten to fifth grade (K-5) English Language Arts (ELA) adoption. Ms. Berge summarized the previous work sessions that have discussed the K-5 ELA adoption.

Director Harris asked which positions at central office were eliminated and if any of the reductions are vacant positions. Central office had 4.7% in reduction after Restoration 2.0. Ms. Berge spoke about slide 11 which shows the exact positions reduced at Central Office. Ms. Berge confirmed some were vacant, however, some positions were not and layoff notices were given.

Chief Engagement Officer Carri Campbell explained the results from the family engagement outcomes from October and November. Ms. Campbell summarized the additional time engagement results.

Assistant Superintendent for Operations Pegi McEvoy spoke about the transportation update. She explained how the Board members had previously approved the two tier system.

Director Patu asked about secondary schools ending at 3:50 and how this would affect athletic practices and events. Ms. McEvoy explained we will be working with the parks department to the extent possible. She will have additional information after a meeting with them tomorrow.

Director Peters asked if the 20 minutes would be added at the end of the day. Ms. McEvoy confirmed that was correct.

Director Harris asked is we have enough buses for athletes with this change, and does it allow athletes to stay in school longer. Ms. McEvoy thinks it will if we no longer have three tiers. Students will still have to leave early but it should not be as early. Director Harris would like an update later on what times and how many student athletes will be in need of a bus.

Director Burke asked how many secondary schools are in tier 3. Ms. Campbell explained those are K-8. Ms. McEvoy explained at those schools because middle schools have longer days the buses for K-8 only service schools once. Director Burke asked with the 2 tier every Wednesday will schedules be one hour shorter and is that final. Ms. McEvoy confirmed that was correct. Director Harris asked about a community survey requesting feedback for early release and how it seemed that parent opinions were not taken into consideration. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Clover Codd explained Human Resources (HR) did receive different opinions from educators than the families for early release. Ms. Codd explained it was determined Wednesday to be the best day based on the professional growth of our teachers and education of our students. Ms. Codd summarized next steps for how early release will be implemented. Director Burke asked for the theory around an early release day. Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Michael Tolley explained the teaching and learning opportunity for our students. Mr. Tolley explained how teacher collaboration is critical for growth to increase teacher effectiveness. Director Harris asked any others districts in the county have early release day on Friday.

Ms. Berge spoke about the work currently being done on 2018-19 budget. She explained the transportation cost increase for going to a different tier system, and that it will be an ongoing cost. She explained the additional transportation cost information was not known until March 29th. We are the only district of this size to have a reimbursement as we do for transportation.

Director Geary asked if the City of Seattle is aware of the March 29th date. Ms. Berge explained they are aware. Ms. Berge's recommendation is if the board makes that recommendation they need to stick with it because returning to three tiers would be very difficult for our families.

Director Harris asked since we had this updated since March 29th when did we expect to tell the families. Ms. Berge explained when SPS received the information on March 29th, a meeting was requested with our regional transportation coordinator at Puget Sound Educational Service District (ESD) as soon as possible to review what was causing the increase and decrease and get a projection. Budget Director Linda Sebring spoke about how Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) have a projected report and it did not match what we had calculated. Part of the delay was communication going back and forth between SPS and the ESD and that it was important to confirm that the information we had was correct going forward.

Ms. Berge explained based on preliminary House and Senate budgets we anticipate at least \$6m in additional funding available for Restoration 3.0. Ms. Berge explained what needs to happen in order for the K-5 ELA adoption to proceed. Ms. Berge gave two options; she summarized what each option included and referred to slide 19. Staff is recommending full K-5 adoption and spoke about the factors for this choice. Mr. Tolley explained he realizes the challenge the board members have in front of them but the rationale behind the recommendation had been thoroughly looked at and it will allow for instructional materials that are desperately needed.

Director Peters asked if principals are in support of this. Mr. Tolley explained we received feedback that some, not all principals are in support of this.

Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen spoke about how we want to be good stewards of public funding and thanked the board for framing it in that manner. If we do not receive additional funds from the legislature we will take down our fund balance, and there is a risk that additional funding from the legislature may not materialize and it would lower our remaining fund balance.

Consensus was reached by all Directors present, and they each expressed the importance of adopting curriculum for the students of our District.

### **Adjourn**

This meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.