

Board Special Meeting

School Board Retreat

Saturday, December 2, 2017 10:00am-3:00pm

Auditorium, John Stanford Center

2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134



Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 am. Directors Harris, Geary, Pinkham, Mack, Patu, DeWolf and Burke were present.

Staff present were Superintendent Larry Nyland, Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen, Associate Superintendent for Teaching & Learning Michael Tolley, Assistant Superintendent for Operations Pegi McEvoy, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Clover Codd, Chief Engagement Officer Carri Campbell, Chief of Strategy and Partnerships Brent Jones, Chief of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Kyle Kinoshita, Chief of Student Support Services Wyeth Jessee, Chief Information Officer John Krull, Executive Director of Government Relations & Strategic Initiatives Erinn Bennett, Director of School and Community Partnerships James Bush, Special Assistant to the Deputy Superintendent Sheryl Moore, School and Family Partnerships Liaison Mohamed Ali Roble, Director of Facilities Bruce Skowrya, and Director of Policy & Board Relations Nate Van Duzer.

Introductions and Team-Building Activities

Staff and directors participated in introductions. New Directors DeWolf and Mack provided remarks about why they chose to run and join the School Board. Returning Directors Pinkham, Patu, Burke, Geary and Harris shared their hopes and goals for the coming year. Dr. Jones then led staff and directors in a “compass” exercise wherein the group broke into different work styles and discussed the benefits and limitations of each style and how styles could work together. Dr. Nyland then provided high-level remarks about the work of the district and the Board. Ms. Campbell then welcomed community partners and the group recessed for lunch and conversation.

JSCEE Tour

At 12:05pm, Board, staff and community members took a tour of the John Stanford Center led by Ms. McEvoy and Mr. Skowrya. They showed tour participants the warehouse, the central kitchen, and plumbing, wood, metal, glass, and musical instrument repair shops. They also walked through the data center and the transportation logistics center.

At 1:05pm, the tour concluded and the meeting recessed.

Community Focus Group

At 1:15pm, Director Harris reconvened the meeting. Ms. Campbell provided an introduction to the topic of community engagement. She led a discussion about the purpose of engagement and reviewed guiding principles of authentic community engagement. Mr. Bush introduced the community focus group of family members from the Chinese Information and Service Center.

The group discussed improvements a couple elementary schools have implemented to involve families more, noting the importance of language supports and support for English Language Learners programs. Participants expressed a desire for welcome nights for immigrant parents, a better orientation for parents about the American school system, information to the parents about ELL supports, information about resources like family support workers, and Chinese-language signs, posters and videos to provide information and direction within buildings.

They noted the inadequacy of the Google translate service on the website. Staff and directors shared their appreciation for the participants.

Directors and staff then reviewed what they heard from the families, noting what may be working and areas for improvement.

Committee and Liaison Role Preferences

Each director shared preferences for next year's committee and liaison roles for the next Board president to take into account in making assignments.

Director Harris noted that the interrelated initiatives could be reviewed at another time, given that the meeting had moved past the scheduled end time.

The retreat was adjourned at 3:08pm.