

Board Special Meeting

Work Session: High school boundaries

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018-4:30-6 p.m.

Auditorium, John Stanford Center

2445 3rd Avenue S, Seattle, WA 98134

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. All Directors were present.

The meeting was staffed by Associate Superintendent Flip Herndon, Director of Enrollment Planning Ashley Davies and Chief of Student Supports Wyeth Jessee.

Work Session

Superintendent Nyland said that changing boundaries is always difficult, and the goal is to do the best work that can be done with the knowledge that not everyone will be pleased with the outcome. He reminded the Board that the deadline was set in order to have decisions made by Open Enrollment.

Associate Superintendent Herndon explained that the goal was to get to a solution, so families can know the 2019-20 high school boundaries that will be implemented in 2019-20 when Lincoln opens. He said it is important to take care of impacted families now in order to balance capacity and get ahead of capacity issues.

Ashley Davies, Director of Enrollment Planning explained the agenda and what the scenarios being discussed were based on, including indications as to the possible highly capable pathways decisions from the School Board Directors at their Jan. 3 meeting. Two scenarios were shared with the high school boundary task force on Jan. 5 and included three highly capable pathways in 2019-20: Lincoln as the north pathway, Garfield as the southeast pathway, West Seattle as the southwest pathway, and an optional pathway at Ingraham with guaranteed seats.

Director Harris asked three questions about plans for highly capable services being added to every high school by 2022.

- Will it be a 9th grade rollup? Ms. Davies answered yes.
- If there isn't enough funding in the future for a robust offering is there a sunset? Director Mack answered that there are only projections out to 2021 so it's difficult to plan for growth in the future.
- Is there a commitment to funding mitigation and robust programming? Director Mack replied that it is part of the resolution conversation. Director Geary said that it's part of the resolution but asked that there be a conversation about robust education for all students. Director Burke said that the resolution being discussed in a board resolution that will be introduced on Jan. 17 and voted on at the Jan. 31 meeting.

Director Pinkham referenced the density map and asked what low density and high density were as numbers.

Director Patu asked about the south pathway being to Garfield when Garfield has been referred to as a central district school. Director Mack clarified that the designation is related to students south of the Ship Canal having a pathway to Garfield.

Ms. Davies then explained the two maps, F version 4.2 (Fv4.2) and F version 6 (Fv6), being discussed. She provided data comparing the two maps and feedback received from families including areas of particular concern or support for both maps.

Director Mack asked if Garfield's projected enrollment remains the same in both scenarios. Ms. Davies said there are no changes to the projections for Garfield because there is no change to the number of resident students in the attendance area.

Ms. Davies then turned the presentation over to Director Burke.

Director Burke said that there are two things that must come out of the high school boundary work: creating a viable attendance area for the opening of Lincoln and balancing enrollment with buildings at right size capacity.

Director Burke showed the four sets of guiding principles that have been used for developing boundaries. He pointed out that they don't match, creating an inconsistent direction for staff and families, and that some are not in priority order and some may conflict in some situations. One set is from the 2009 New Student Assignment Plan; one set was developed by the School Board for the 2013 Growth Boundaries for Student Assignment project; a prioritized set was developed by the high school boundary task force; and another prioritized list was based on family priorities from the community survey.

Director Harris asked about community involved in the survey.

Ms. Davies explained that a link to the survey was emailed to all families and included translated versions for the top four languages. Paper surveys were also available at all schools. More than 5,000 responses were received.

Director Burke said one question is whether high school boundaries should align with elementary and middle school boundaries, and that there is no policy requiring such alignment.

Director Burke then began to share a subset of challenge areas that arise when you combine the two maps so the Directors could focus on specific areas.

Consensus was reached on the Maple Leaf challenge area with direction to keep the Nathan Hale boundary as is without the changes shown in either Fv4.2 or Fv6.

Consensus was not reached on challenge areas in east Green Lake and the University District, Ballard/Phinney Ridge or north Green Lake. There were discussions about how changing each area would change the number of students assigned to each school, and whether areas could be swapped from one school to another.

Director Mack said that it's important to look at the polygon map showing who lives closest to each school and that unfortunately the Ballard polygon has more students than can fit at Ballard.

Director Harris said that she was uncomfortable talking about swapping when we don't know who lives in those areas and would be springing the change on them without engagement.

Director Burke said that the reason for getting to a single scenario to discuss at introduction is to provide families with information on what is being considered. He also said the driving factor is balancing capacity.

The Board asked Ms. Davies to create a map for the Jan. 17 Board Meeting that included the change agreed on for Maple Leaf/Hale, and showing the four remaining areas that need determinations, and to provide information on how each change impacts the Lincoln attendance area and capacity at other high schools, as well as demographics for each area.

Director Burke said the goal is that by Feb. 5, families will know that based on home address and current assignment, this is where you will attend high school in 2019-20.

Ms. Davies clarified that for introduction on Jan. 17, the Board wanted one map with options related to the areas still under discussion.

Director Harris asked how there would be communication with those whose addresses fall into the areas of discussion. Director Mack said she is deeply uncomfortable without robust community engagement with those families.

Carri Campbell, Director of Community Engagement and Communications, said that emails and robo-calls would be made to families with information and directing them to the maps.

Director Mack moved the discussion to highly capable and dual language immersion (DLI) pathways. The dual language task force recommended that Lincoln be the DLI pathway for the north end.

Dr. Nyland said that the recommendation from the task force also said that the pathway in the southeast needs to be addressed, so putting just the north into the discussion is ignoring the southeast focus.

Director Mack said there hasn't been enough discussion and analysis to vote about a southeast pathway.

Director Patu said she would be uncomfortable discussing at this time.

Director Harris said that with the new high school opening at Lincoln, we're trying to take advantage of that. Stanford and McDonald have been reaching out and want a Lincoln pathway. Discussing the north pathway doesn't mean not discussing southeast separately.

Director Geary said she doesn't think the Board is ready to move forward to set a pathway. Maybe this is one area where they don't provide an answer right now. Maybe DLI is one area where we don't give them two years notice of the change.

Director Mack said that with Ingraham as the current pathway so students could be moved and it's part of the big picture.

Director Pinkham brought up waitlists and waitlist moves, asking how we can better serve families. He asked about "fuzzy boundaries" on the dividing lines to allow students on the border to attend either school.

Ms. Davies talked about grandfathering and the geo-split for Lincoln. Staff is recommending grandfathering 11th and 12th graders, opening Lincoln with just two grades. That will lead to a need for mitigation and has an impact on those entering 10th grade in 2019. A plan will be built to engage those students who will be in 9th grade next year in preparation for the move.

Director Geary said that “fuzzy boundaries” could be incorporated into a waitlist priority, but that it would make waitlists more complicated.

Director Burke thanked the Board for allowing him to use time to share his presentation. He reminded the Board that Lincoln is the center of these discussions and this work is to balance enrollment. He then mentioned that Rainier Beach remains at 60 percent enrollment and we need to invest in that school.

Director Mack said they didn’t get to discussing grandfathering and the geo-split. She repeated Dr. Nyland’s point that nothing will make everyone happy.

Next steps were identified as narrowing down to one scenario option with focus areas to be introduced at the Jan. 17 Board meeting.

Director Harris reminded community members that they can sign up to speak at the meeting beginning Monday morning, and that they can email schoolboard@seattleschools.org to reach all directors and senior staff, or directors@seattleschools.org to reach just the directors. They can also email growthboundaries@seattleschools.org but that doesn’t go to the Directors.

This portion of the meeting concluded at 6:12 p.m.

Budget

This portion of the meeting was called to order at 6:29 pm Directors Burke, DeWolf, Pinkham, Harris, Patu, Geary and Mack were present.

This meeting was staffed by Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance JoLynn Berge.

Assistant Superintendent JoLynn Berge summarized the agenda and spoke about the possible outcomes of the work session. She reviewed the fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 budget development calendar. She explained the areas that are changing in the FY18-19 projected budget. She spoke about in 18-19 the District will receive \$86.7M in state salary allocations but added the levy will decline due to the new law in January 2019 and immediately the District will have a loss of \$60M.

Director Mack asked for the if instructional materials adoption are built into BTA. Ms. Berge explained they cannot be included in the capital dollars.

Ms. Berge spoke about the FY18-19 potential solution. She explained the projected underspent is from vacant positions.

Jane Adams Middle School Principal and PASS president Paula Montgomery spoke about the current work being done on the Weighted Staffing Standard (WSS) committee. She explained the recommendations process within the committee. Ms. Montgomery spoke about the Principal’s recommendations for all levels of schools. She explained how this additional assistant principals to low income schools were beneficial.

Director Mack asked what is the differential on slide 12. Ms. Berge explained it is an increase of 1.6% increase.

Ms. Montgomery spoke about the feedback received from all school principals. At the high school level they wanted class size being lowered for grades 9-12. The consensus with high school Principals is they wanted the dollars to be able to create a strong foundation for students in grades 9 and 10. She spoke about the Middle schools they reduced class size from 30:1 to 29:1 or lower. She added a lower class does include k-8 schools. Elementary schools requested smaller class sizes and fewer splits via a K-3 staffing survey as a top priority. Ms. Berge explained equity tier funds model will still be used for the year, and spoke about the concept to expand equity tiering vs. poverty. The committee came back with the recommendation to still have the K-3 additional staffing be based on poverty levels.

Director Harris asked if the equity and poverty tiering can be shown next to each other. Ms. Berge explained we can and she explained the benefits of why Eric Anderson works the numbers in the method they do. Harris asked where are family support workers and shortage of funds for nurses. Ms. Berge explained the recommendations by school level was directly from the principals. The items on the list on slide 13 are what principals found to be priority. Nurses could be allowed if the legislature opens up flexibility. She explained the District needs to remain focused on closing the GAP. Ms. Montgomery spoke about the benefits of the recommendations at the school level.

Dr. Nyland spoke about his testimony yesterday about special education with legislature. He explained the state funds 9 nurses for our district. He added the counselor is for a social emotional need. Ms. Berge explained social emotional support needs at an elementary level.

Ms. Montgomery spoke about the recommendations for K-3 class size reduction. Ms. Berge explained how the staff looked at possible scenarios of the recommendations. Ms. Berge spoke about the WSS recommendations for K-3 class size. She explained the three tiers based on poverty level.

Director Burke asked for clarification on the K-3 class size. Ms. Berge explained how the lower class size equates in percent. Every school will be impacted as it generates 118 more teachers for the district.

Director Harris asked if we give extra points for English language learners (ELL). Ms. Berge explained ELL has its own funding stream.

Ms. Berge explained the SMART goal 3 background on title change that was introduced to the board at the last board meeting. She explained why we had a BAR coming through to update one word from "Program Review" to "Program Summary". She reminded the Directors this was based on the request of Director Burke at an Audit and Finance Committee meeting.

Director Harris explained her question was if the policy was unclear should we be changing the policy, not just the goal language. Ms. Berge explained changing the program review policy was outside of the scope of this change. Ms. Berge explained the policy change could be on a committee workplan.

Director Pinkham requested a possible vote for consensus out the outcomes of recommendations. Ms. Berge reviewed all items that need a decision.

WSS: DeWolf, Mack, Pinkham, Burke and Geary all agreed and Harris abstained from consensus.

Adjured at 7:31pm