



Board Work Session

BEX V Planning

March 28, 2018, 4:30 pm

Auditorium, John Stanford Center for educational Excellence

2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134

Minutes

Call to Order

1. Director Lesley Harris called the meeting to order at 4:31pm. Directors Richard Burke, Zachary DeWolf, Jill Geary, Eden Mack, Betty Patu (absent due to illness) and Scott Pinkham were present. Eden Mack, as chairman of the Operations Committee, chaired the meeting.
2. Staff present: Associate Superintendent Flip Herndon, Capital Projects & Planning Director Richard Best, K-12 Planning Coordinator Becky Asencio, Enrollment Planning Director Ashley Davies, Chief Information Officer John Krull, Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen, Capital Communications Officer Tom Redman
3. City of Seattle Representatives: Samuel Assefa, Director of Seattle's Office of Planning and Community Development; Jackie Kirn and Tom Hauger, City of Seattle Strategic Advisors, Office of Planning and community Development

Welcome/Introductions – Eden Mack

1. After the roll call, Director Mack made introductory remarks and thanked the City of Seattle representatives for coming out and supporting Seattle Public Schools planning efforts.

Agenda Review – Flip Herndon

1. Dr. Flip Herndon provided an overview of the meeting topics for the meeting and introduced SPS and City of Seattle staff.

Policy 6901 Capital Levy Planning – Richard Best

1. Richard Best reviewed the key elements of Policy 6901 which provides guidance surrounding the planning for BEX V.
2. In response to Director Burke's request for additional insight regarding modernization of existing buildings in lieu of their replacement, Mr. Best noted that Capital Projects is currently in the process of developing cost comparisons of modernizations versus new construction. He also noted that other considerations include remaining life of the building after the modernization and whether the facility would be landmarked by the City of Seattle.
3. Director Mack commented that as part of the policy, the Board will need to adopt guiding principles for BEX V.

- a. Board members reviewed and discussed a draft handout on guiding principles.
- b. It was determined that the comments brought forth would be included in a Board Action Report to be routed and presented at the April Board meeting for introduction and action.

Population and Enrollment Growth–Jackie Kirn, Tom Hauger (City of Seattle); Ashley Davies

1. The PowerPoint *Planning for the Future: The City and Public Schools* was presented.
2. Concern was expressed by Directors Geary and Burke that the multi-family housing currently being proposed and constructed is too small to accommodate a place for children resulting in families leaving Seattle. Mr. Hauger responded that the City is aware of the issue and is currently performing a study. He noted that they would like to encourage developers to create larger units but ultimately the market determines the solution.
3. Director Harris commented on her deep disappointment that Seattle Public Schools did not have a seat at the table when the variance went forth for the Green Dot charter school. She noted that that in January 2018, SPS School Board passed a resolution opposing any changes to the City of Seattle Municipal Code allowing charter schools to seek departures from building development standards. In response to her query as to why this happened, Ms. Kirn stated none of the City of Seattle representatives present had direct experience with this matter and that she will review and get back to the Board.
4. Director Mack expressed her appreciation that a city council and SPS board meeting is being planned.
5. Enrollment Planning Director, Ashley Davies provided additional information around enrollment growth projections and answered questions by work session participants.
6. Director Burke expressed his appreciation for the information/data provided, stating that it is important to note that the City of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools data differ and are not comparable with each other.
7. Director Harris asked if the data is tracked for K-12 students who do not attend Seattle Public Schools. Mr. Nielsen stated that OSPI does track this data and it is worth noting that overall percentages have varied between 10% and 20% for the last 30 years.

Capacity Analysis for Elementary, Middle and High Schools (Becky Asencio)

1. K12 Planning Coordinator, Becky Asencio presented capacity analysis information as it relates to the capital levy process and preparations.
2. Director Burke mentioned that he has tried to strike the phrase, K-3 class size reduction, from his lexicon. He noted that as a board they must determine whether the district should focus its resources on building, remodeling and putting fiscal resources into the reduction of K-3 class sizes. He noted that this endeavor will cost millions of dollars and that the data does not support beneficial educational outcomes. Deputy Superintendent Nielsen reminded board members that the public had supported K-3 class size reduction by referendum in a state-wide vote.
3. Director Harris expressed concern surrounding the condition of the Roxhill School building and noted her desire that it be dealt with in a way that respects the community.
4. Using options schools as a solution to capacity issues was proposed by Director Harris. Dr. Herndon stated that the district has not and cannot expand the capacity of most of the options schools to help alleviate overcrowding conditions at attendance area elementary

schools. He noted that most of the options schools are also at capacity. He indicated that for the most part school enrollment is driven by a tight geographical ring.

5. Director Mack proposed addressing overcrowding conditions at Mercer Middle School by a boundary change rather than a new building. Dr. Herndon commented that after extensive community input five years ago it was clear that no school desired to leave the Mercer Middle School feeder pathway.
6. Director Burke stated that Robert Eagle Staff and Licton Springs K-8 will be over capacity in another year if the current trend continues. He stated also that the aspirational intent is not being met as neither school has a place to grow. He noted that work needs to be done immediately to resolve this issue.
7. There was additional conversation around high schools and their right-size capacity. Dr. Herndon stated to address high school right-size capacity, an additional high school will need to be added beyond Lincoln High School and the additions to Ingraham High School.
8. Director Mack questioned whether SPS should be requesting levy funds or pursue impact fees from the City of Seattle. She also noted that perhaps the City should help SPS by providing grants.
9. Director Pinkham asked that staff capture the reusing of space, e.g., cutting a library in half for classroom use. Mr. Best stated that the information is available and he will request staff review and prepare an analysis.

Facilities Condition Assessments of Existing Schools and Support Facilities (Richard Best)

1. The slides on Facilities Condition Assessments were reviewed by Mr. Best.

Technology (John Krull)

1. Chief Information Officer John Krull, reviewed district technology initiatives.
2. Mr. Krull noted that eighty-five percent of the funding for the Department of Technology Services (DoTS) comes from capital levy. He noted that DoTS current revenue is from BTA IV and will run for two more years, hopefully to be replaced by BEX V. If BEX V is not successful, DoTS will not be funded.
3. Concern was expressed by Director Harris that the voters will be experiencing levy fatigue and confusion. It was agreed by Stephen Nielsen that the messaging for the Operations Levy and the Capital Levy does matter; that general and capital funds not be co-mingled and that the District is honest with the voters concerning outcomes if the levies are not successful.
4. Director DeWolf questioned what the Board's role is in establishing priorities tonight and what is most important for the public. He stated that he would like more information and feedback from the community concerning DoTS proposed capital levy measures.
5. Director Mack concurred that it is important for the Board to be clear on what their priority is for the levy. She stated that she does not support one-on-one computing; she noted that she wants to be careful of technology in school where there can be overuse, allowing too much screen time for the students. Director Mack stated that she would be interested in feedback from the technical advisory committee that will be formed soon to provide guidance concerning this matter.

7. Director Burke stated that this initiative is one that started on previous levies. He noted that technology is much more than a laptop and a projector and that for him prioritization and sustainability are a big deal. The more hardware purchased the more support staff required to provide needed support and often the length of life for the hardware is a short duration. He stated that he considered technology a targeted smaller piece of the levy pie.
8. Director Geary expressed her belief that community input is very important and noted that interfacing with the community does happen through the use of technology. The district should do a very careful equity assessment of technology in our schools as communities can view technology very differently.

Levy Funding – Flip Herndon

1. Dr. Herndon reviewed the slides on the historical BEX IV levy funding and what a similar levy tax rate as in 2018 would generate.
2. The Board made recommendations that the levy be looked at as a continuation of our existing levy program, publicize all the good work that has been done to date, simplify how the levy works, and have community meeting in our new schools (showing pictures of the schools needing improvements) to demonstrate what levy funds have accomplished.

Community Engagement/Communication Plan – Tom Redman

1. Melissa Pailthorp, President of Schools First, expressed to the Board the importance of their personal commitment will be to help the campaign for the levy.
2. Sherri Kokx spoke about the communications plan put in place to outreach to our communities. Families and students will be invited to attend community meetings across the District. The Board stressed their desire that students have a voice in the process.

Next Steps/Way Forward – Flip Herndon

1. Dr. Herndon summarized the next steps forward; community meeting will occur in May and the next work session will occur in May.

Adjourn

2. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.