

Board Special Meeting  
Work Session  
October 22, 2018, 4:30pm  
Auditorium, John Stanford Center  
2445 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134



## Minutes

**Call to order:** Director Harris called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Also in attendance were: Director Burke, Director DeWolf, Director Geary, Director Mack, Director Patu, and Superintendent Denise Juneau. Director Pinkham arrived 20 minutes into the meeting. The meeting was staffed by Chief Academic Officer, Michael Tolley and Director of Enrollment Planning, Ashley Davies.

Mack introduced the topic of the meeting as the Student Assignment Transition Plan (SATP) for 2019-20. She explained that this document details adjustments to the Student Assignment Plan, which was last passed in 2009.

Director of Enrollment Planning, Ashley Davies, introduced herself. She reiterated that she would be presenting proposed updates for the 2019-20 school year. Director Mack reminded the directors that a SATP was not passed for 2018-19.

### Background on 2019-20 Changes

Ashley Davies reiterated that SATP changes were not approved for the 2018-19 school year. Therefore, the current proposal would affect the 2017-18 SATP. She reminded the Board that some of the change presented this evening were already approved with the Boundary Plan and that this discussion would formally incorporate them into the SATP. Additional proposals were based on feedback from the public and requests for clarification.

### Overview of Proposed Changes

Ashley Davies referred to a one-pager that had been distributed to the Board “Potential Student Assignment Transition Plan Changes for 2019-20. The document outlined seven proposed changes. She proceeded to present each proposal and respond to Board questions.

#### *1) Changing “Service Schools” to “Option Schools with Continuous Enrollment”*

The purpose of this change is to support increased awareness of these schools. The school allow enrollment year-round and thus that would be added to the name. There are no geo-zones or priority areas for this school during Open Enrollment.

Director DeWolf asked if this change would alleviate the problem of enrolling online. Ms. Davies replied yes. She continued that these service schools are on the district website and students receive information about them in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The district is working on getting more information out about these schools.

Director Mack asked if these schools are part of open enrollment. Ms. Davies clarified that they are, and they are open to enrollment at other times. She explained that they do require intake process. Additionally, with this change the schools would be added to the list of options at Open Enrollment.

Director Mack expressed support for the name change and highlighted that greater clarity is needed for how to access and enroll in the schools. She had similar concerns for other options, such as Middle

College, NOVA, Interagency, and Seattle World School. Director Burke added that clarity about intake processes also needs to be more accessible.

Director Harris also expressed support for the change. She added that she would like to see the FAQs utilized by enrollment services staff in response to families' questions. She cited urban legend that the alternative schools aren't highlighted and that when they are discussed it is in deficit language. Given that students have different styles of learning, Director Harris asserted that the district ought to celebrate these good options. Further, she wanted to see how we are doing professional development for enrollment staff.

Director Mack inquired into how the programs are presented for the public. She asked about one location where all the programs are listed and defined according to pedagogy, the scope and sequence of the courses, and the intended audience. Mr. Tolley explained that there is a brief description on the website for each school. Director Burke referred to a document drafted by Special Assistant, Sherri Kokx, a couple years ago, which provided a visual guide of all SPS schools. Director Mack stated that it would be helpful to see a document like that to provide more clarity into the programs and their intents.

### *2) International/Dual Language Pathway Updates*

Ms. Davies reminded the Board of an earlier recommendation to establish the Southeast pathway at Cleveland. At that time, the Board asked to move the pathway to Rainier Beach. That change was made, and the new recommendation is Rainier Beach. She reported that the district is in discussions with the principal at Rainier Beach about what this recommendation would mean for the school.

Director Geary expressed concern that the North end of the district, where there's poverty and students of color, does not have an International/Dual Language pathway. Director Mack asked about the impact of not having Dual Language available at Ingraham; could students still take the International program there? Mr. Tolley explained that if the numbers generate the language classes, then students will be able to take the courses. Director Mack continued, asking how many North end students were enrolled in Dual Language. Ms. Davies indicated that it was not a large number and that she would follow up with the precise number later.

Director Burke highlighted that another aspect of Language Immersion is the way it varies by grade level. At the higher grade levels it is an elective versus full immersion in content at the younger grades. He cited this as a source of attrition from the programs and presenting a master schedule challenge. Director Mack tied this comment back to her request for program definitions, including the scope and sequence of courses available by grade.

### *3) Highly Capable (HC) Updates*

Ms. Davies reminded the Board of change to the HC pathway, which were approved by the Board with the boundary changes in the 2017-18 SATP. They are:

- Lincoln High School is an HC pathway for grades 9 and 10 only
- Grandfathering for students already at Garfield
- Student entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade can go to Garfield or Lincoln
- Students may enter HC in 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Addition of the West Seattle pathway
- Advanced learning (AL), formerly Spectrum, is available at all schools, which eliminates Spectrum tiebreakers

These changes will be formally incorporated into the new SATP.

Director Burke highlighted the request for grandfathering younger siblings, on the part of families who currently have student at Garfield and live in the Lincoln attendance area. The district cannot offer that at this time, so families will need to send their students to different high schools

Director Burke inquired into how the district is ensuring high quality education and model fidelity to Advanced Learning (AL), in light of Spectrum's end. Chief of Student Support Services, Wyeth Jesse, joined the conversation to address concerns about AL. Director Mack expanded on Director Burke's question. She described Spectrum as one grade level ahead in all subjects in a self-contained classroom. When that ended, she said it became acceleration in Math. She requested definitions of Spectrum and AL. Director Harris cited a memo from two weeks prior, indicating that the AL committee was on hold until the AL Task Force made a report. She requested that information be issued to the full Board and uploaded to the AL website. Mr. Tolley agreed to include it in the Friday Memo to the Board.

Mr. Jesse began to answer the Board's questions about AL. He highlighted that the district is committed to have AL in the CSIPS. He confirmed that the district is moving away from site-based and self-contained services. He explained that AL is often but not always one grade level ahead, rather it is more individualized to the skills of each student. He agreed that it is inconsistently applied across the district. He noted that students also receive transportation to what were Spectrum sites at particular schools, at this time.

Director Mack sought additional clarification about the letters currently sent to families. She wanted to know what services or supports the students could expect to receive. Mr. Jesse replied that, based on the input of the task force, the district asserted the notion that all students should be advanced to their potential. He explained that the challenges the district faces are related to the labels assigned to students based on their testing. Mr. Jesse reflected that students develop differently across their lives - students might start at a one level at one grade and shift to a different level, later. He highlighted the question of whether it is more important to maintain the Spectrum label or the practice of AL at each school for each student.

Director Mack conclude that, in the short term, families might need clarification on specifically what the CSIP states and how to access services. If the district won't standardize, then families need to know what happens at each school.

Director Patu inquired into the testing process. Mr. Jesse explained that students can apply for testing. If they pass 87% then they are invited in for more testing. Students can be recommended for testing by a teacher or families can request it. Families are made aware of the testing through "Kid-Mail" at the Elementary Schools and the message is translated.

Director Geary inquired into the transportation that is provided as part of Spectrum. She asked if it was going to end, what that meant for students, and how it was being communicated to families. Ms. Davies explained that while there isn't a recommendation to remove transportation, if the changes to Spectrum and AL go into effect, then it transportation would no longer be provided. Director Mack noted that this is a discussion about the closing of a program and the first step hasn't been completed, yet.

Director Geary sought additional clarity about transportation for a student to the school they had been attending, as well as younger siblings. Superintendent Juneau reiterated that the change wasn't approved yet, and families couldn't be notified until after Board approval of a change.

Director Harris spoke to the matter of district communication. She appreciated the acknowledgment of Spectrum's conclusion. She asserted the need for minimum baselines of expectations for families at every

school. She noted that the matter of transportation required clear explanation or families. She highlighted that a number of schools didn't get their testing information distributed to families.

Director DeWolf highlighted that the district is approaching a budget deficit, and it is legally required to transport Special Education students. He asked about the transportation of other students.

Director Mack returned the discussion to Spectrum and AL. She inquired into moving the HC path out of Robert Eagle Staff MS, due to the overcrowding at that site. Ms. Davies reported that staff met to review assess the many issues that stemmed from this change. A meeting with principals was scheduled for Wednesday to discuss additional considerations for the district.

Director Burke raised concern for promises that past Boards had made to various school communities and that some of could not be fulfilled. He highlighted importance of honesty, transparency, and ownership. He asserted that he had promised his communities a more sustainable SATP 2019-20 and would keep that promise.

Superintendent Juneau reminded the Board that when the portables went up at Robert Eagle Staff it was for one year only. She stated that she wanted a menu of three or four options to vet with the Board and community to ensure that it is sustainable and workable. Then proceed with implementation. She did not want an extended process of changing the options.

Director Mack requested a commitment from staff on when the relevant analyses and options would be available. Ms. Davies explained that she had been performing analysis and narrowing the options, concurrently. She confirmed that she would have the options and some of the analysis for the November 1 Operations Committee meeting.

Director Harris had additional questions regarding boundary changes. She wanted to know the consequences of leaving Maple as it is for 2019-20. She also recommended enhanced community engagement for 2020-21. Ms. Davies confirmed that an analysis of holding the boundary change until 2020 would be included in her report to the Operations Committee. Director Harris requested disaggregated data, to call out unintended consequences, for the move from Mercer to Washington Middle School. She also wanted to see analysis of Gatewood, related to its enrollment numbers.

Director Pinkham revisited the question about students allocated seats at two different schools, K-8 and Middle School. He asked how many Broadview Thomson students overflowed Robert Eagle Staff.

#### *4) Middle College*

Davies explained that this change would extend Middle College to start at grade 9 in 2019-20. This would align the program to the national model. The principal at MC is clear about how to inform families of this change and recruit students. She confirmed that this would be a continuous enrollment program.

Director Burke inquired into the cost ramifications, in terms of additional staff for additional students. Mr. Tolley explained that the district cannot anticipate additional funding for these schools that aren't driven by enrollment. He continued, in this case the district is aligning MC to Early College model to establish a pathway to a high school diploma and an AA degree. He noted that South Lake is interested in partnering with MC around that to provide multiple locations on that pathway to the Early College model.

Director Geary asked about the impact on a vulnerable school, like Rainier Beach, of building the populations at smaller schools, like NOVA and Center School South Lake. Superintendent Juneau replied that as the district prepares the budget, everything will be on the table. She noted that a more robust

conversation about the high cost of educating students in these high costs areas was required. Mr. Tolley added that the district has been paying close attention to Rainer Beach. He explained that the Southeast initiative was to ensure viable options for education in that region of the district. He noted the growth a Rainier Beach in the last 10 years and the plan to give the school another year to stabilize and continue to evaluate it.

#### *5) Graham Hill Montessori*

Ms. Davies reported that Graham Hill was engaged with the school community about segregation within the school's two programs: Montessori and Contemporary. School leaders assert that they can offer the benefits of Montessori to all the students in the building. The proposed change is to eliminate the Montessori tiebreaker. Families would simply apply to Graham Hill. Ms. Davies continued that this would be the first step in a process of the school working with their community to make sure that they are serving the needs of the whole school. The 2019-20 school year would be a visionary year with the community. The intention is to employ all the elements in the school, now, and establishing them building-wide.

Superintendent Juneau reported on her recent visit to Graham Hill. She praised the school as an example of the on-the-ground work around equity in our schools. She described the principal's efforts to engage the families around the issue of segregation in the school and identified the principal as an exemplar of what needs to happen in the district and in all the schools.

Director Burke raised the idea of extracting success factors or best practices for other schools to emulate. He noted that the district has longitudinal data which could be analyzed by the district's research and evaluation department to inform decisions based on budget, equity, and effective results. Mr. Tolley replied that staff have looked at Leschi and are compiling a summary report.

#### *6) SPED Updates*

This change would allow a student who was assigned to an elementary school that is not their attendance area school to continue in the feeder pattern for that school's middle school service area and high school.

Director Patu asked if the district is responsible for transportation in these cases. Ms. Davies confirmed that it is.

Director Geary expressed her appreciation for this change. She cited that it allows students with IEPs to remain with their peer group. She described Special Education students are typically moved around due to enrollment numbers. She added that all students with IEPs should be allowed to follow their school's feeder pattern due the vulnerabilities of this population.

#### *7) Space Available*

Ms. Davies reported that the Operations Committee has noted the significant discussion required to make an appropriate change to the term "Space Available." The matter is being addressed with a formal group of staff representing the relevant departments. It will not be changed for 2019-20, but the year will be focused on identifying and outlining clarification of the term.

Director Pinkham highlighted that many families don't understand the full impact of enrollment on a school, such as staffing. He asserted the need to be more clear about that with families and the reasons why requests to transfer a student to another building are denied. Ms. Davies explained that the information is given to families and that families choose to pursue the matter with the Board, as well.

Director Burke inquired into the timeline and next steps for the SATP. He requested that the next SATP become the Student Assignment Plan. Ms. Davies referred that matter to the Board's decision. She affirmed the need for one clear document to support communication with families.

Director Mack adjourned the meeting at 6:08