



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: December 31, 2020
FROM: Director Zachary DeWolf

For Introduction: February 24, 2021
For Action: March 10, 2021

1. TITLE

Approval of Guiding Principles for the Buildings, Technology, and Academics/Athletics (BTA) V Capital Levy

2. PURPOSE

This board action would approve the Board's guiding principles for the BTA V Capital Levy. These principles will help inform the selection of projects to be funded by the proposed levy.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the Board approve the guiding principles for the BTA V Capital Levy as attached to this Board action report.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. **Background** Seattle Public Schools has two capital levies on alternating six-year cycles, the Building Excellence (BEX) and the Buildings, Technology, and Academics/Athletics (BTA) levies. The next proposed levy is the BTA V capital levy, which is slated to go before the voters in February 2022. As part of the capital levy planning process outlined in Policy 6901, Capital Levy Planning, the Board must adopt guiding principles specific to each levy "to direct staff in presenting proposals for levy projects." These principles, together with the priorities listed in Policy 6901, are used to inform a scoring method and relative ranking of proposed projects. Policy 6901 states "The scoring and relative ranking of proposed projects shall be presented to the School Board for approval as part of the levy planning process."

The Board's adoption of the guiding principles will provide clear guidance to staff in development of the BTA V proposed levy, and will support the development of a scoring and ranking method that will ultimately help to inform the Board's decision on projects to be included the BTA V levy.

- b. **Alternatives** The Board could choose not to adopt guiding principles, which would not provide staff with clear guidance on the Board's levy-specific principles and would be in conflict with Board Policy 6901. Alternatively, the Board could choose to amend or change the proposed principles.

- c. **Research** Board policy requirements for levy planning, previous capital levy guiding principles, and new draft proposed levy guiding principles were reviewed and discussed at a Board work session on December 9, 2020.

5. **FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

There is no direct expenditure associated with this action. The principles adopted will guide the direction of the selection of proposed projects and associated spending of capital funds for the BTA V capital levy.

Expenditure: ☐ One-time ☐ Annual ☐ Multi-Year ☒ N/A

Revenue: ☐ One-time ☐ Annual ☐ Multi-Year ☒ N/A

6. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

☐ Not applicable

☐ Tier 1: Inform

☒ Tier 2: Consult/Involve

☐ Tier 3: Collaborate

Board directors discussed the BTA V guiding principles at a public Board Work Session held on December 9, 2020. Beginning in early January 2021, Operations Committee Chairperson Director Zachary DeWolf connected with stakeholders from Seattle Education Association (SEA), Principal Association of Seattle Schools (PASS), Seattle Council PTSA (SCPTSA), and the NAACP Youth Coalition (N-YC). Revised guiding principles, as of January 31, 2021 are presented to Operations Committee with the goal of adopting the guiding principles through Board action in a regular Board meeting where the public is invited to offer public comment.

7. **EQUITY ANALYSIS**

No formal equity analysis was completed for the guiding principles. However, this action ensures that the Board's principles for equity will be included in the development of the levy and the scoring and ranking of proposed levy projects.

8. **STUDENT BENEFIT**

Safe, healthy, and inspiring educational facilities are important for student success and clarifying the principles and vision for the levy will ensure that levy projects are selected in alignment with that vision.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

- ☐ Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- ☐ Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- ☐ Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- ☐ Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- ☐ Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- ☒ Board Policy No. 6901, Capital Levy Planning, provides the Board shall approve this item
- ☐ Other: _____

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

Board Policy 6901, Capital Levy Planning, states “As part of the levy planning process, the Board shall also adopt guiding principles specific to each levy, to direct staff in presenting proposals for levy projects.”

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the Operations Committee meeting on February 4, 2021. The Committee reviewed the item and moved it forward to the full Board with a recommendation for consideration.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, staff will use the guidance to develop and refine the proposed BTA V capital levy. This includes recommending levy projects and developing the scoring and ranking method that will be presented to the Board for approval. The scoring and ranking method will assist the Board in determining the projects to be included in the BTA V capital levy. Final Board action on the levy package is anticipated to take place in October 2021.

13. ATTACHMENTS

- Guiding Principles for the Buildings, Technology, and Academics/Athletics (BTA) V Capital Levy (for approval)

Buildings Technology Academics/Athletics (BTA) V

Guiding Principles

With Board Policy Number 0030, “Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity” serving as the foundational framework for BTA V where “This means differentiating resource allocation, within budgetary limitations, to meet the needs of students who need more supports and opportunities to succeed academically...;” a commitment to centering Black, Native, and students, educators, and families of color; and, a direction to focus on the priorities identified in the district’s Strategic Plan, the Board adopts the following guiding principles for the Buildings, Technology, Academics/Athletics (BTA) V Capital Levy:

- **Building Safety, Security, and Accessibility**

Focus on healthy, safe and accessible facilities, inclusive of Black, Native, Latinx, Asian and all students of color, LGBTQIA+ students, and students with disabilities; prioritize access to health centers and clinics for district students of color furthest from educational justice; upgrade heating and ventilation systems, critical seismic systems, security systems, emergency response systems and playgrounds; and, prioritize compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Result: Students, educators, and families of color will feel safe, welcomed, and included in their school buildings and facilities.

- **Capacity Management and Flexibility**

Put the District in a position to easily and efficiently meet capacity and community needs while supporting school community history and continuity—with a focus on meeting the needs of students furthest from educational justice. When placing portables, evaluate the need for plumbed portables to allow students and staff access to water and restrooms. Ensure that changes are reflective of, representative of, and supportive of school community needs, history and culture, and that programs follow student needs (not the other way around).

Result: Students will drive capacity management and learn in schools that are reflective of community needs, history, and culture.

- **Building Conditions and Educational Adequacy**

Ensure the preservation of assets by emphasizing those projects that effectively and efficiently maintain critical systems (i.e., roof, mechanical, HVAC) and preserve building exteriors and sites. Include improvements that prioritize investments to educationally inspiring environments that are also healthy and inclusive and support increasing access to outdoor education spaces and school gardens for students furthest from educational justice. Actively invest in systems and spaces as part of the long-term preventative maintenance plan.

Result: Students will learn- and educators will teach in schools that honor and respect them by being well-maintained

- **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience**

As identified in Board-adopted climate crisis resolutions, focus on reducing the district’s energy usage, greenhouse gas emissions, and the District’s carbon footprint without limiting efforts to

reduce to just buildings; prioritize and utilize green building methods that center environmental justice principles, including planning for solar options and geothermal, when replacing or expanding buildings, or repairing/updating existing buildings or building systems.

Result: Students, their families, and educators will work and learn in school facilities that support their health, their environment, and their futures.

- **Support Ongoing, Effective, Innovative Use of Technology to Further Students' Educational Needs and Operational Goals**

Seek racially-equitable solutions and opportunities that center students' education and educators' teaching needs and ensure access to inclusive digital academic resources, including devices, hotspots, and tech support. Prioritize investments closest to the students and families, with clear actions for inclusivity of Black, Native, Latinx, Asian and all students of color, LGBTQIA+ students and students with disabilities by enhancing educator instruction infrastructure including central office supporting staff, additionally maintaining student and employee data security and privacy, and updating classroom hardware and software with a focus on tools that center student learning.

Result: Students and educators and the district have the resources they need for the highest quality public education experience