



# **SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT**

**DATE:** October 4, 2017  
**FROM:** Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent  
**LEAD STAFF:** Stephen Nielsen, Deputy Superintendent, [sjnielsen@seattleschools.org](mailto:sjnielsen@seattleschools.org);  
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**For Introduction:** October 18, 2017  
**For Action:** November 1, 2017

## **1. TITLE**

2017-18 Legislative Agenda

## **2. PURPOSE**

The annual Legislative Agenda is the formal statement of the District's legislative priorities from the School Board to members of the state and federal legislatures. Because it is the District's official position, the Board must take action to approve the Agenda, per Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative Program & Advocacy.

## **3. RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the School Board adopt the 2017-18 Legislative Agenda, as attached to the Board action report.

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- a. **Background:** The Board traditionally adopts a legislative agenda to share the District's focus and priorities for the upcoming legislative session with the Washington State Legislature. These legislative priorities were developed with consideration to the current budget outlook and the District's strategic objectives for this year. Although the Legislative Agenda is typically focused on a limited number of priorities, the formal Agenda does not limit District input on other topics.

The 2017-18 proposed legislative agenda is focused on three main areas:

1. Provide Ample and Sustainable Funding for K-12
2. Fund Capital Projects and Remove Barriers to Address Needs
3. Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps

Funding is the primary focus of this Legislative Agenda because ample and appropriate funding of General Fund K-12 is the paramount duty of the State of Washington; and the District also needs capital funds to meet needs. The purpose of this Legislative Agenda is to ensure that the Seattle delegation and the full Legislature understand the critical needs of Seattle Public Schools.

- b. **Alternatives:** The alternative is to not approve the Legislative Agenda. This option is not recommended because it is very important that the District take a stance on the important issues that affect Seattle Public Schools.
- c. **Research:** The legislative agenda from the prior year was reviewed in developing this agenda. District staff worked with the Board’s legislative liaison, who solicited feedback from directors, and the district’s lobbyist to ensure the highest priorities of the District were named.

**5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

The fiscal impact of creating the Legislative Agenda is negligible; however, the Legislative Agenda itself has potential to bring revenue to the District if the Legislature implements the priorities.

The revenue source for this motion is N/A.

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

While this item was not formally taken through the community engagement tool, upon discussion with the Communications department, N/A was identified because engagement will occur with districts across the state, as well as other key partners and stakeholders throughout the legislative session.

**7. EQUITY ANALYSIS**

One of the three priorities on the legislative agenda is to support legislation that would bolster the district’s work to Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps.

**8. STUDENT BENEFIT**

The priorities on the legislative agenda include: providing ample and sustainable funding for K-12, funding capital projects, and supporting legislation that helps to eliminate the opportunity gaps. All three of these priorities have the potential for significant student benefit.

**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. 1225, Legislative & Program Advocacy, provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. POLICY IMPLICATION**

Per Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative & Program Advocacy, the Board is responsible for developing annual federal and state legislative agendas for the District that are consistent with the furtherance of the District’s current strategic plan.

**11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

This motion was discussed at the October 12, 2017 Executive Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved it forward to the Full Board with a recommendation for approval.

**12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon approval of this motion, the Legislative Agenda will be sent to the Seattle delegation in the Washington State Legislature and other key partners including the Governor’s Office, Mayor’s Office, and the Seattle Council Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), as well as being used during the legislative session.

**13. ATTACHMENTS**

- 2017-18 Legislative Agenda (clean - for approval)

Our goal is success for Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day.

Seattle has three priorities for this session:

- **Finish funding McCleary by Providing Ample and Sustainable Funding for K-12**
  - **Fund Capital Projects and Remove Barriers to Address Needs**
  - **Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps**
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- **Provide Ample and Sustainable Funding for K-12 by Fixing the McCleary Budget:**
    - Provide for the True Cost of Special Education, which is part of basic education
      - While the passage of HB2242 will increase special education funding, funding for special education still falls far short of the full cost.
      - Fund “Birth to 2 services.” While SPS is still providing the services, the state Department of Early Learning (DEL) receives all of the state funding.
    - Continue to increase salary allocations to provide full funding
      - Basic education salary allocations, while improved, still fall short of full funding.
      - Limitations on Certificated Administrative Staff (CAS) salaries will prevent SPS from attracting and retaining secondary principals.
    - Levy amounts are too restrictive
      - Levies currently support basic education activities; including salaries, special education and unfunded state mandates (truancy, data reporting, etc).
      - Under current levy limitations, there is nothing left for any “enrichment” activities; levies will continue to be needed for basic education operations.
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- **Fund Capital Projects and Remove Barriers to Address Needs**
    - Update the State’s Antiquated School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP), which provides state financial assistance for qualifying major construction projects. The current state school construction formula fails to recognize unique issues for school districts and needs to be adjusted to differentiate between instructional vs. non-instructional space, benefitting those districts that have older facilities.
    - Provide Directed Capital Funding to Upgrade Facilities to address areas the capital levy schedule cannot accommodate, maintain buildings, and prevent loss of current investment in facilities.
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- **Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps**
    - Help Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps, Including Supporting Legislation which Identifies a Source of Funding
      - Fund measures to promote district strategies for equitable outcomes
    - Address Fair and Equitable Assessment
      - Adopt an alternative summative assessment framework to allow use of assessments other than Smarter Balanced Assessments
    - Ensure Quality Teachers in Every Classroom
      - Provide alternative routes for substitute certification
      - Ample fund professional development to implement Washington State Standards

- Provide funding for programs that will assist in recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers who will serve our most vulnerable students.

## **Summation**

Although the Legislature did address the McCleary lawsuit last session, it did not fully fund it, including providing ample funding for: salaries; capital cost of class size reduction; and non-detrimental levy reform. Good teaching, fair salaries, adequate classrooms and class sizes are all needed to eliminate opportunity gaps for our neediest learners and are in the best interests of all of our students.