

Seattle School District No. 1

Board Resolution

Resolution No. 2019/20-35

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Washington opposing nomination and designation of Rainier Beach High School as a city landmark.

WHEREAS, the existing Rainier Beach High School fails to meet any of the six criteria for designation outlined in the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Ordinance SMC 25.12.350. In addition, the school does not possess integrity or the ability to convey its significance; and

WHEREAS, School Board Policy No. 0030, Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity begins by stating:

“The district shall provide every student with equitable access to a high-quality curriculum, support, facilities and other educational resources, even when this means differentiating resource allocation;” and

“The district shall ensure that each school creates a welcoming culture and inclusive environment that reflects and supports the diversity of the School District’s student population, their families and communities;” and

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools set priorities and goals in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan. The plan declares the District’s intent to ensure racial equity in our educational system with an unapologetic focus on students of color who are furthest from educational justice in order to work to undo the legacies of racism in our educational system; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that school facilities have a profound impact on teaching, learning and student outcomes. School facilities affect health, behavior, engagement in learning, and academic achievement. Without adequate facilities and resources, it is difficult to serve many students with high needs; and

WHEREAS, Rainier Beach is one of the few schools in the District with the highest equity measures. It serves 97% students of color, 71% who qualify for free or reduced-priced meals, 27% enrolled in English Language Learner program, over 17% with special education needs, 6% homeless, and nearly 30% students moving in or out of Rainier Beach during the school year. The existing Rainier Beach building not only fails to help students overcome these equity barriers, rather it works against the students with highest needs and furthest from educational justice; and

WHEREAS, Building Excellence V (BEX V) Capital Levy funds major school construction and renovation projects, classroom additions, and building system improvements as well as technology upgrades throughout the District. As part of the BEX V capital levy, Rainier Beach

High School was proposed to be replaced with a new facility that meets the District's High School Educational Specifications, the latest International Building Code and upcoming City of Seattle seismic requirements. The new school building provides Rainier Beach High School students, staff and community with equitable access to a 21st century learning environment for academic success; and

WHEREAS the voters within the City of Seattle supported passage of the BEX V capital levy in excess of 73% in February 2019.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Seattle School Board of Directors opposes both the nomination and designation of Rainier Beach High School as a city landmark; and therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that Seattle School Board of Directors requests that the City of Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board neither nominate nor designate Rainier Beach High School as a city landmark.

ADOPTED July 8, 2020



Director Zachary DeWolf, President



Director Leslie Harris, Member-at-Large



Director Eden Mack



Director Lisa Rivera-Smith




Director Chandra N. Hampson, Vice President



Director Brandon K. Hersey



Director Liza Rankin

ATTEST: 

Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, Washington