

Board Special Meeting

Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Board Office Conference Room, John Stanford Center

2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134



Minutes

1. Call to Order

a. This meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Director DeWolf. Directors Rankin and Rivera-Smith were present.

This meeting was staffed by Chief Academic Officer Dr. Diane DeBacker, Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction and Early Learning Cashel Toner, Executive Director of Career and College Readiness Dr. Caleb Perkins, Executive Assistant to the Chief Academic Officer Maria Gonzales-Millsap, Communications Specialist Braxton Kellogg, Project Manager Continuous Improvement Antoinette Harrison, Project Manager Continuous Improvement Marcel Hauser, Director of Policy and Board Relations Ellie Wilson-Jones, and community member Lois Brewer.

b. Approval of Agenda

DECISION

Director Rivera-Smith made a motion for approval of the agenda for the December 10, 2019 Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee meeting.

Director Rankin seconded the motion.

This motion was passed unanimously.

c. Approval of November 12, 2019 C&I Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Directors DeWolf, Rankin and Rivera-Smith were not present at the November 12, 2019 C&I Policy Committee meeting. The minutes of the November 12, 2019 Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee meeting were received and reviewed by the current committee members.

2. Board Action Reports (Discussion and/or Action)

a. Approval of courses with new content as defined by Superintendent Procedure 2026

Dr. Perkins presented the Board Action Report to the committee. Discussion followed. Dr. Perkins shared that a question to the course request form was added asking the requestors to state how their request would help meet the strategic plan goals and better serve students furthest from educational justice. Director Rivera-Smith asked to consider including the response to this question in the summary chart attached to the BAR. Director Rivera-Smith asked about cross-crediting with Ethnic Studies. Dr. Perkins replied that he is currently working with Ethnic Studies Program Manager Tracy Gill.

Director Rankin asked where and who will be offering courses once they are approved and how it relates to staffing, specifically in the arts. Dr. Perkins responded that he and Visual and Performing Arts Program Manager Gail Sehlhorst continually have conversations on access to arts. Dr. Perkins described the process of updating the course catalog to make it accessible to every student and continually engaging with staff and counselors. Dr. Perkins explained that ultimately, schools make the decision which courses go in their schools.

Director DeWolf asked if this was the same process for offering of Native language and if it was the same vehicle used as last year. Dr. Perkins confirmed that it was. Dr. Perkins confirmed that it was the same process. Director DeWolf asked if the recent passing by the House and the Senate of the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act has possible alignment with the District's work and possible funding support. Dr. Perkins stated that he would connect with Native Education Program Manager Gail Morris.

DECISION

Director Rivera-Smith made a motion to move this item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval.

Director Rankin seconded the motion.

This motion was passed unanimously.

3. Special Attention Items

a. Advanced Learning Update

Dr. Pedroza provided an Advanced Learning update. Highlights of Dr. Pedroza's update included testing and eligibility, the Advanced Learning Task Force (ALTF) and next steps. Discussion ensued. Dr. Pedroza added that these highlights will be shared with the full Board via Friday Memo.

Dr. Pedroza shared that to this date, the Advanced Learning Department has received 5300 referrals, has proctored over 10,000 assessments (CogAT and IOWA), and has made 4800 eligibility decisions. She reported that the ALTF has been meeting in November and December developing procedural recommendations aligned to the foundational recommendations offered to the Superintendent in September. The ALTF's final meeting is December 10th and a full report will be provided to the Superintendent and the Board by mid-January. Dr. Pedroza shared next steps in which a Highly Capable Racial Equity Services Advisory (HC/RESA) public application process was launched on the District website on December 3rd. The application process will remain open through January 8th. The first meeting of the HC/ESA will be on February 4th.

Director DeWolf commented about advocating for better representation from the community. Dr. Pedroza replied that her team has advertised to different community organizations and agencies. She added that teams from schools are encouraged to apply together to include the principal, teachers, and parents from primary and secondary levels.

Director Rankin asked for clarification around the recommendations from the Advanced Learning Task Force and the determination around the recommendations. Dr. Pedroza replied that the recommendations are provided to the Superintendent. Dr. Pedroza commented that the Advisory Committee's goal is to support the implementation process. Director Rankin asked how the work of the ALTF is going to be validated and how the committee be informed of the procedures. Dr. Pedroza replied that she will be reporting to the committee on a regular basis. Dr. Pedroza added that through her research, she has not been able to find procedures for past task forces. Director DeWolf suggested creating policy and procedure around task forces. Director DeWolf said he will reach out to the School Board Director working with the Operations Committee around this idea.

b. Yearbook Renewal

Mr. Hauser and Dr. Perkins provided a preview of a Board Action Report which will be presented to the committee in January. Mr. Hauser provided highlights of the Request for Proposal (RFP) in which Herff Jones was the recommended vendor for furnishing yearbooks for Seattle Public Schools' (SPS) 17 high schools, 12 middle schools and as an option to K-8 schools. Discussion ensued. Director DeWolf asked why Herff Jones was chosen. Mr. Hauser explained that the vendor was chosen for the quality of their work and experience in servicing bigger school districts. Director Rankin asked if Herff Jones was a

new vendor for SPS. Mr. Hauser replied no. Director DeWolf requested information about Herff Jones' environmental commitment.

4. Standing Agenda Items

a. Instructional Materials Update

I. Since Time Immemorial

Ms. Morris shared highlights of recent Since Time Immemorial (STI) trainings for middle school teachers. She reported that four training opportunities have been provided since the adoption of STI. Discussion ensued. Director Rivera-Smith asked if the training is required. Ms. Morris verified that training is required. Director DeWolf asked if there was a sense of the impact to the District of the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Programs Reauthorization Act. Ms. Morris replied that there are not many Tribal leaders that could teach native language. Ms. Morris commented how challenging it is to have a teacher in each school to teach native language. Director DeWolf asked if training is provided for substitutes. Ms. Morris replied that it may be a possibility. Director DeWolf suggested training the Board Directors as part of their goal. Ms. Morris agreed that it may be possible at the March Board Retreat. Director DeWolf asked how the Native Education program looks like outside of the region. Ms. Morris replied that the program is leading in terms of having classrooms not being funded by Tribes. She commented that she is not aware of any other school district in the nation that has adopted a similar curriculum that is mandated with training provided. Ms. Morris added that she has been invited to speak at a number of national conferences as a subject matter expert. She added that there is an editorial piece soon to be published in the Smithsonian magazine around the District's Native Education program. Director Dewolf expressed his appreciation for Ms. Morris' work.

II. Science and Instructional Materials Committee

Ms. Toner provided an update on the implementation of the science instructional materials. Dr. Perkins provided an update on the Instructional Materials Committee (IMC). Discussion ensued. Dr. Perkins shared that a Board Action Report will be presented at the February C&I meeting with the names of IMC members for the Board to approve. Director Rankin asked for the positions of the IMC. Dr. Perkins replied that there were two standing positions, the Library Instructional Materials Program Services Manager and the Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction. The additional positions are: two principals, two parents/guardians and one instructional specialist. Director Rankin asked why there were no teachers included. Dr. DeBacker replied that the IMC oversees the process of instructional materials adoption and that the adoption committee can include teachers who have content knowledge. Director Rankin asked if the adoption committee currently exists. Ms. Toner replied that this process will allow membership to be formally approve. Dr. DeBacker added that the members of the adoption committee for science are expiring.

Director DeWolf inquired if any of the science curriculum addresses climate crisis. Ms. Toner replied that there is and will provide this information in a Friday Memo. Director DeWolf asked to address Director Pinkham's comment at the November C&I on how Amplify Science was developed in California and does not provide much modules that is reflected in Washington State. Ms. Toner will provide this information in a Friday Memo.

b. Strategic Plan

I. Goal: 3rd Grade Reading Level

Ms. Toner provided background and an update of Seattle Public Schools' Strategic Plan goal of 100% African American males will be able to read at or above grade level by 3rd grade.

Ms. Toner provided updates for each initiative. Discussion ensued. Director Rivera-Smith asked if the list of schools included any Schools of Promise. Ms. Toner replied that some are not Schools of Promise and that the schools were chosen by numbers. Director Rankin noted that there was no mention of special education and early identification of dyslexia. Ms. Toner replied that it is embedded in all of the initiatives. Director DeWolf inquired about the status of the dyslexia work group. Ms. Toner noted that it is in the internal stage with many conversations with Center for the Collaborative Classroom (CCC) partners.

Director Rankin asked which schools are using Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words (SIPPS). Ms. Toner stated that SIPPS have been purchased and offered to all schools. Ms. Toner will provide this information to the Board.

c. C&I Policy Committee Work Plan

For the benefit of new committee members, Dr. DeBacker and Ms. Gonzales-Millsap provided an overview and background of the work plan.

5. Board Policies and Procedures

a. Discussion of Revisions to School Board Policy No. 2415, High School Graduation Requirements, and School Board Policy No. 2420, High School Grade and Credit Marking Policy, in Response to House Bill 1599 (HB 1599), Multiple Pathways to Graduation

Dr. Perkins provided a preview of the Board Action Report (BAR) to be presented at the January C&I meeting. Dr. Perkins highlighted the revisions to Board policies 2415 and 2420 in response to House Bill 1599. Discussion ensued. Director Rankin asked if the two-credit graduation waiver is ongoing. Dr. Perkins confirmed that it is ongoing beyond the 2021 year. Director Rankin asked if the concern is about students not having enough credits or the District not having enough classes to offer students. Dr. Perkins replied that they are both a concern.

Director DeWolf asked what the plans are to raise the number of African American males that are on track to graduate. Director Rankin inquired as to the possible reasons for not being on track. She asked if it could be attendance. Dr. Perkins replied that starting in the 2019-20 school year, there was budget explicitly focused on Students of Color Furthest From Education Justice (SOCFFEJ). Dr. Perkins noted that the budget for this year was reduced but the focus remains.

Director Rankin expressed concern about the military pathway and funneling students of color to that pathway. Director Rivera-Smith noted that if a student chooses the military pathway, they do not have to enlist. Director Rankin asked how the different pathways are being communicated to families. Dr. Perkins replied that he is currently working with the Public Affairs Department on communications around the pathways.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Approved by: _____ **Date:** _____