

Board Special Meeting
Student Services, Curriculum, & Instruction Committee
April 6, 2021
Meeting held remotely



Minutes

1. Call to Order

- a. **This meeting was called to order at 4:31pm by Director Rankin. Directors Harris, DeWolf, and Rivera-Smith participated with Microsoft Teams or by phone.**

This meeting was staffed by Chief Academic Officer Dr. Keisha Scarlett, College and Career Readiness Executive Director Dr. Caleb Perkins, Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Executive Director Cashel Toner, Executive Assistant to the Chief Academic Officer Maria Gonzales-Millsap, Director of Policy and Board Relations Ellie Wilson-Jones, Chief Legal Counsel Greg Narver, Director of Board Relations and Strategic Initiatives Julia Warth, Student Support Services Supervisor Erin Romanuk, Chief of Student Support Services Dr. Concie Pedroza, Senior Legal Counsel Ronald Boy, Executive Director Special Education Trish Campbell, Program Manager Advanced Learning Deenie Berry, and Senior Administrative Assistant ELL and International Programs Jodie Fickett.

Director Rankin announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Director Rankin noted that the meeting was being held remotely consistent with the Governor's proclamations prohibiting the meeting from being held in person due to COVID-19. Director Rankin noted that the public had been provided remote access through Microsoft Teams and teleconference.

b. **Approval of agenda**

Director DeWolf moved to approve the agenda. Director Harris seconded.

Director Harris renewed her motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion on summer school.

There was no second to the amendment.

This motion to approve the agenda as presented passed unanimously. (Directors DeWolf, Harris and Rankin voted yes).

c. **Approval of meeting minutes**

Director Harris moved to approve the March 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Director DeWolf seconded. This motion passed unanimously. (Directors Harris, DeWolf, and Rankin voted yes).

2. Board Action Reports

a. **School Board Policy No. 2190, Highly Capable services**

Dr. Pedroza and Ms. Berry presented and provided an overview of the Board Action Report. Discussion ensued between Directors and staff where questions were asked and answered.

Director Harris asked how much had been expended for professional development at Thurgood Marshall Elementary. Ms. Berry will obtain the information and will provide it to the Directors.

Director Harris inquired about the possibility of adding a Highly Capable specialist to the School Directors team. Dr. Pedroza responded that this requires a bigger conversation.

Director Harris expressed concern for school leaders' workload with the loss of assistant principals next school year. She recommended revising the C-SIPs template to address this specifically.

Director Rankin left the meeting at 5:00pm and returned at 5:14pm

The Directors asked to clarify examples of community engagement, the phases of the work and the timeline of the transitions. Director Harris recommended adding the timeline on the front pages of the BAR and to note that the timeline was discussed at length.

Director DeWolf made a motion to move this item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for consideration. Director Harris seconded. This motion passed unanimously (Directors DeWolf, Harris, and Rankin voted yes).

b. Approval of Contract Amendment for Sign Language Interpreter Vendor TERP Sign Language Services (RFQ 11641)

Ms. Campbell provided a summary of the Board Action Report to approve the increase for sign language interpreting services. Discussion ensued between Directors and Ms. Campbell where questions were asked and answered. The service is provided to students based on their individual education plan.

Director Harris inquired about ASL service for Board meetings and other community engagement events. Ms. Campbell responded that this may be a discussion with a different department as this particular BAR is for student needs. Ms. Warth will follow-up with the appropriate department and report back to the Board.

Director DeWolf made a motion to move this item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval. Director Harris seconded. This motion passed unanimously (Directors DeWolf, Harris, and Rankin voted yes).

3. Special Attention Items:

a. English Language Proficiency Assessments (ELPA)

Dr. Perkins provided an overview of the current requirements for the ELPA assessments. Ms. Fickett shared the testing window of March 22 through June 4 and noted that there are no remote testing options. Students who test must test in-person. EL students are not required to come to school to take the test, but the District must offer them the opportunity. To fulfill this obligation, the District is planning to provide testing opportunities on Saturdays in May at the JSCEE auditorium. Discussion ensued between Directors and staff where questions were asked and answered.

Director Harris asked to address SBAC in a Friday Memo. Director Perkins will provide a memo as requested.

4. Standing Agenda Items

a. Ethnic Studies

Ms. Al-ansi provided an update on the current work of building Integrated Curriculum within the Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Department to support Ethnic Studies. Ms. Al-ansi announced the hiring of William Jones as the new Ethnic Studies Manager. The two Ethnic Studies

Curriculum Specialist positions are still open. She also shared that we have contracted with Dr. Gholdy Muhammad to analyze our Ethnic Studies curriculum as well as the plan for professional development around Ethnic Studies.

Ms. Al-ansi announced that Anita Koyier-Mwamba joined the department as the new Black Studies Manager and Alekzandr Wray as the Black Studies Curriculum Specialist. Discussion ensued between Directors and Ms. Al-ansi where questions were asked and answered.

The Directors requested for Ms. Al-ansi to provide a more comprehensive memo to the committee moving forward. The Directors also requested all the information shared at tonight's meeting in a Friday Memo. Director Rankin requested a map with goals, benchmarks, and timeline of the different pieces of the department's work. Director DeWolf seconded this request for a bigger picture of the work.

b. Since Time Immemorial

Ms. Morris shared an update on the professional development provided to teachers in the last couple of months. Discussion ensued between Director Harris and staff regarding elevating the current Program Manager position to Executive Director level. Dr. Scarlett responded there has not been a decision made at the Superintendent level, but the classification of the position had been regraded. Director Harris noted to have another discussion with the Superintendent on this topic.

c. Special Education

Dr. Pedroza shared updates from the Special Education Department. She highlighted her team's work on community engagement and provided data for in-person services. Discussion ensued between Directors and Dr. Pedroza where questions were asked and answered.

Director Harris asked which NPA (Non-Public Agency) did the District discontinue relationship with. Dr. Pedroza will confirm with Ms. Campbell and will respond to the Directors accordingly.

Director Rankin requested updated data i.e., numbers and demographics for students receiving special education services who opted to return in-person and who opted to stay remote. Dr. Pedroza will provide the requested information.

d. Science Instructional Materials

Ms. Toner provided an update on the department's work to ensure schools have their full complement of science materials. Discussion ensued between Directors and staff where questions were asked and answered.

e. Strategic Plan Goal 3: 3rd Grade Reading Level

Ms. Toner provided an update on Early Literacy and highlighted progress of current initiatives. Discussion ensued between Directors and Ms. Toner where questions were asked and answered.

Director Harris asked for a more comprehensive update around what is required and what is optional professional development in a Friday Memo.

Director Rankin requested a comprehensive list of lessons learned from the 13 schools and how to quantify those outcomes.

f. SSC&I Committee Work Plan

Director Rankin presented the current work plan. A brief discussion ensued between Directors and staff. Director Harris requested the addition of fall 2021 and summer planning update. Director DeWolf requested the addition of Policy 3246, Restraint, Isolation, and Other Uses of Physical Intervention BAR in August.

Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 6:43p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

The Office of Chief Academic Officer Dr. Keisha Scarlett