

School Board Briefing/Proposed Action Report

Informational (no action required by Board) **Action Report** (Board will be required to take action)



DATE: January 20, 2016
FROM: Board Vice President Peters, Board President Patu and
Board Director Geary

I. TITLE

Amendment to Capacity Management: 2016 - 17 School Year **For Action:** January 20, 2016

II. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

This action will authorize allocation of up to \$2,500,000 from the BTA III and BEX IV Capital Funds and \$4,000,000 in OSPI Class Size Reduction capital grant monies to implement Annual Capacity Management actions supporting projected homeroom/capacity needs for the 2016-17 school year.

The revenue sources for this motion are: BTA III and BEX IV Capital Funds and OSPI Class Size Reduction capital grant monies.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Other Source

III. POLICY IMPLICATION

This motion supports Policy H13.00, Capacity Management, by authorizing funding to implement Annual Capacity Management actions for the 2016-17 school year. This action will accommodate projected District homeroom/capacity needs for 2016-17.

Policy 4110 and Superintendent Procedure 4110SP, Family & Community Advisory and Oversight Committees are also implicated by this motion.

IV. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the motion language for the Capacity Management: 2016 - 17 School Year action item be amended to include the following provisions: (1) the District may reclaim Seattle Public Schools classrooms for dedicated K-5 instructional use, and shall identify these classrooms as soon as possible, but no later than Feb. 3, 2016; (2) the District shall create and act on a timeline for engagement with communities affected by the reclaiming of any SPS classrooms currently occupied by Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or other childcare providers, to help find creative solutions, if possible, that will preserve the service provided for Seattle Public School families within the school building or located nearby; and (3) to direct the Superintendent to bring forward for Board review, collaborative community input options for future capacity management decisions, including the option of establishing a community advisory committee or task force.

V. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was not reviewed by a committee.

VI. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For a number of years the Seattle School District has provided school building space to private childcare providers (Community Based Organizations) free of rental fees. District families have availed themselves of and relied upon these convenient and often less expensive services. In recent years, District enrollment has steadily increased (growing at a rate of nearly 1,000 students per year) and the District is now facing many capacity challenges, resulting in crowded schools and large class sizes in some buildings. The District is also required by state law to reduce class sizes in kindergarten through 3rd grade. In October 2015, a letter was sent by the Facilities and Enrollment Department to all before and after-school child care providers located in Seattle School buildings, notifying them of the possibility that the District may need to reclaim classroom space for K-5 homeroom use in the 2016-17 school year. The District has and continues to engage with the school buildings and CBOs to transition these programs out of designated classrooms needed for K-5 instruction. However, Seattle Public School families also should be granted an opportunity to understand and participate in the transition process.

VII. STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Directors supporting this amendment recognize that the arrangement of on-site childcare in Seattle Public School buildings has benefited both families and Community Based Organization (CBO) providers for many years. Directors supporting this amendment also recognize that serving the academic needs of K-12 students during school hours is the district's primary mandate. Directors are interested in seeking creative, community-engaged solutions that will allow the District to fulfill its responsibility to provide necessary dedicated classroom space for its K-5 students, while making reasonable efforts to support childcare options for families affected by the proposed reclaiming of classrooms, in a timely and transparent manner. Directors are making this amendment to better ensure transparency and public participation in long and short term capacity planning for the District.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES

1. The Board may adopt the current proposal, or it may take no action on either proposal or amendment, and leave current Capacity Management: 2016 - 17 School Year Board Action Report as written.

IX. RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES / BENCHMARKS

N/A

X. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upon approval of this motion, the motion for the Capacity Management: 2016 - 17 School Year action item will be amended as indicated in the motion above. The amended Capacity Management: 2016 - 17 School Year action item will then be before the Board for a vote.

XI. ATTACHMENTS

N/A