



Board Work Session

Work Session: City of Seattle Partnership Efforts

February 27, 2018, 4:30 pm

Conference Room 2750, John Stanford Center

2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134

Minutes

Call to Order

Director Lesley Harris called the meeting to order at 4:37pm. Present were Directors Richard Burke, Zachary DeWolf, Jill Geary, Lesley Harris, Eden Mack and Scott Pinkham (Director Pinkham arrived at 4:44 pm; departed at 5:26 pm). Director Betty Patu was not present.

Staff present: Associate Superintendent Flip Herndon, Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen, Superintendent Larry Nyland

Introduction

Dr. Herndon introduced Jackie Kirn, Office of Planning and Community Development of the City of Seattle; Betsy Daniels and Mishu Pham-Whipple, part of the Triangle Associates team, were also introduced. Triangle Associates has been hired by the City and SPS to act as the neutral facilitator for the partnership negotiations.

Dr. Herndon provided an overview of the topics to be covered in the work session: 1) SPS/City of Seattle Partnership Agreement; 2) Timelines/Decision Points; 3) CTE – Career Connected Learning and 4) Board guidance where feedback will be provided. He stated that much of what is being presented is in preparation for the BEX V March 28 board work session.

SPS/City of Seattle MOU

The document, *Seattle Public Schools and City of Seattle Public Process Partnership Agreement: School District Facilities, Fort Lawton, Memorial Stadium and Seattle Center 11/20/17* was reviewed.

Engendered comments from this overview are summarized below:

Jackie Kirn stated that goals for Seattle Center are outlined in their master plan adopted in 2008. One of these goals is to better integrate the campus with the surrounding community. Decisions made in the partnership will culminate and become part of the master plan.

Dr. Herndon stated that working with the City on these issues will make the partnership stronger and make it a success for both parties. He highlighted that no matter what happens, the Memorial Stadium Wall will be a part of the plan and that currently steps are being taken to do something nice for the wall right now.

In response to Director Mack's question about the possible location for the Sound Transit station site, Ms. Kirn stated that options will be identified by late this year or early next year. The city has been looking at Republican Street as an entrance for a possible transportation site.

Director DeWolf asked for the meaning of the City's statement, "Equitable, inclusive planning process" referenced on page 6 under Equity. Ms. Kirn replied that the City wants to think of how to be inclusive in the planning process; Seattle Center should be a welcoming place which is comfortable for everyone. On the school side, Dr. Nyland stated that the district looks at what options are available, and that though it is way out in the future, that Sound Transit 3 will provide access for the whole city.

Director DeWolf expressed a concern about what the public engagement process will look like; that it needs to be thoughtful in its execution. Jackie Kirn responded that the public engagement team will take that on. As it develops, they will report back. Dr. Herndon pointed out that on the *Seattle Public Schools & City of Seattle Public Process Partnership Agreement Status Report* document, the back pages lists the committees and who will be serving on them. The minutes of meetings will be available to the Board. Director Mack asked that they be informed of who the committee members are and be provided specific information; that the public should know who they are and what they are doing. Ms. Kirn affirmed that this communication will take place. Dr. Herndon added that in executing the *Public Process* referenced on Page 3 of 8, a notebook will be made available to the Board with all the information and documents attached. The communications team will put the information together in a consistent manner.

Betsy Daniels stated that Triangle Associates, from the beginning as a neutral service, believes one of the key aspects of the process is to make sure there is clarity at the elected level so that counterparts have an understanding. There is the expectation that there will be great contributions and that the City of Seattle and the Seattle Public Schools can move ahead together. This is early in the process. The intent of this meeting is to provide a status report to the school board as the process is getting started. The elected officials process is one aspect of the project (outlined on page 3 of 8 under *Elected Officials Process*). Norms will be set as a joint planning effort.

Timeline/Decision Points

Fort Lawton: Dr. Herndon referenced the document *Discussion Draft: SPS-City Public Process Partnership Agreement Timeline, 2/27/18*. He spoke about Fort Lawton first, pointing out the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) release on March 31. Dr. Herndon and General Counsel Noel Treat are following the legalities of what we are doing in respect to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process with the City. The district wants to follow right timing to avoid entanglements. The land is being appraised right now and hopefully at the end of the month, the district will know where the City stands on it.

Director Harris asked that if Fort Lawton is appealed, would the district consider buying it outright? Dr. Herndon stated that the City is the lead agency. It is still in the process of the appeal and nothing will be done until the appeal process is over. Ms. Kirn stated that the City is unable to do anything until the appeal process has run its course. They will continue to talk to the Office of Housing and know the time; keeping in play.

Director Mack stated she had attended the community meeting on this and there was heavy support for housing on the site. The presentation said the district might have property there as well.

Ms. Kirn stated there are City wide meeting around this development. High level information including background and major planning issues will be provided at the March 28 work session.

In response to Director Burke's question about how this fits into the district master plan, Dr. Herndon stated that they are looking to add it in a June timeframe as part of a school planning piece to present to the SPS Board.

Downtown elementary school: In response to Director DeWolf's question around the status of the downtown elementary school, Dr. Herndon stated that in the BEX IV budget there was a line item of five million dollars to explore a downtown school. The money was set aside knowing there might be a need to plan for it. Some of this money, approximately \$500,000, was used in exploring the Federal Reserve

Building as a possibility. There have been some conversations with developers, but there is nothing firm yet. Conversations with the Downtown Association and the South Lake Community Council have taken place. There is interest in having a school somewhere in the downtown area.

Dr. Herndon stated there is the possibility of the developer might work with SPS. If land is set aside for a public school in an area, they can build a little higher. It can work for them; they like to support the communities they are building in and give back.

Director Harris stated that nothing specific can be shared in a public forum since it is dealing with real estate.

Facilities master plan: Director Mack Eden expressed the expectation that facilities master plan will be available at the March 28 Board work session. She stated that the district has a capacity need and a need for class size reduction. The grand need is not clearly defined. The master plan will help. She continued that she did not believe BEX V was intended to buy down the class size reduction because it would make the levy ask to huge. The master plan will help the district know where to focus.

Time line concern: Director Geary expressed her concern that the January electives meeting scheduled to discuss strategy and public involvement did not take place. If the meeting does not occur and decisions are made, the public will ask why they have not been involved. The time line will be messed up. The meeting needs to happen; key issues, the scope of work and the joint planning efforts need to take place. This is the back mapping so that things happen in a right and timely manner. If it doesn't happen, it results in everyone being frustrated. She concluded that it feels like the first step has been skipped and she almost can't hear anything until that first step happens.

Ms. Kirn stated that the intent is to schedule the meeting in mid-March. She explained the City had a slow start and will be playing catch-up. One of the key questions is what needs to be thought through and decided between the electives before it is decided what goes in on the levy package. The process needs to be mapped out by the elective meeting. It would allow a third partnership meeting to be put together.

Director Harris reminded staff that August is a poor choice for meetings since many are on vacation and actions taken during that time frame are considered non-transparent by the community.

Dr. Nyland stressed the importance on being fully prepared and ready in a timely manner. It will be important to have a public board meeting highlighting the decisions.

Director Mack stated that it is important for a draft design of a new high school to be in place before any kind of consideration can be made about its place on a levy; financing is needed and the City has not yet implemented impact fees. Ms. Kirn stated that impact fees will be discussed at the March 28 board work session.

Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen asked Betsy Daniels to comment: She stated that Director Geary had presented a key point. Norms will be established by using an iterative approach to craft new ground with the City. There will be an iterative nature in the relationship. Her first advice is to understand the iterative nature. The process will be back-and-forth and new norms will be created of an iterative nature. The group will figure out how to make decisions together. Each party has deadlines. On the public side, the key aspect is that the public feels it should be brought in right away. The public engagement will work so that each elective party and the public will be informed in a timely manner. The public should not be informed until the electives come together and talk. Planning can happen as far as can be organized but the elective team must come together and create the norms. Staff members can only go so far. They can make recommendation, but it is important to not wait until end to involve the key stakeholders.

Director Geary agreed with the statements. She expressed her concern that the framework has not yet been agreed upon; and could therefore be perceived as not being transparent and sincere since the parties

are engaging separately. The district is compelled to make levy decisions by November. It must be done and it needs to be done in a way so that the public, who is close to the district because of their children, feel regarded. Allegations can easily follow.

Director Mack concurred with Director Geary, stating that there are a lot of players. The entire re-visioning around Seattle Center is big. The MOU deals with capacity planning includes a discreet process in financing. There is a lot of community in the areas that are being affected and who should be engaged in the process early and potentially gain their support. The framework on how they are engaged needs to be built.

Director Burke addressed his belief that it is not good to buy additional schools for K3 classroom reduction; universalism strategy is one of the worst strategies. These projects fall under school planning. The district should not invest in it if there is not a need for it. All the projects are discreet. The district should not get caught up in all the projects together, but deal with each project, focusing on the right level of intensity for each one.

CTE

Dr. Nyland referred to and highlighted key points from the *CTE-Career Connected Learning* document. The district's intent is to have a CTE plan which builds toward coherence with opportunities for students. Another high school is needed and should be on the levy. Ideally new boundaries will not need to be drawn again, but it can be a flagship school for new pathways with internship opportunities around Seattle Center. The CTE presence needs to grow. CTE students cost a lot of money. Plans need to be in place. Currently there are nine sites around the downtown area being considered with more of a focus on the two near Seattle Center. The public will be engaged when it makes the most sense for the district and for the city. The joint meetings will be scheduled.

Director Mack expressed her enthusiasm in identifying an option high school; it could be a focus in getting the community excited about the programmatic offering. The programmatic opportunity of a downtown school is exciting.

Appreciation for the CTE discussions around the Seattle Center was stated by Director Geary. She commented that the availability of the arts and the type of CTE in that area are the future for SPS students with the exciting job opportunities.

The skill center concept, according to Director Burke, is underutilized. There are expenses that come with it in capital. Having the added high school be part of a skill center hub would be invaluable.

Dr. Herndon voiced his appreciation for the conversation which occurred in the work session. He articulated it as a prelude of what will come during the March 28 work session.

Executive Sessions: Potential Litigation

At 6:50pm Director Harris announced that the Board was immediately recessing the special Board meeting into **executive session for potential litigation** and the session was scheduled for approximately 10 minutes.

Director Harris called the executive session to order at 6:56pm.

Directors Harris, Burke, Mack, Geary were present. Staff present included John Cerqui.

At 7:06pm, the Board recessed out of the executive session and Director Harris adjourned the meeting.