



Board Special Meeting

**Work Session: Resolution 2017/18-17 Supporting Sensible Gun Safety Legislation;
Budget; 24 Credits Briefing**

Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 4:30 – 6:45pm

Board Auditorium, John Stanford Center

2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134

Minutes

Call to Order

Director Harris called the meeting to order at 4:32pm. Directors Harris, Mack, Pinkham, Burke, Geary, and DeWolf were in attendance.

Work Session: Resolution 2017/18-17 Supporting Sensible Gun Safety Legislation

Director Harris began the meeting by addressing the media with a stand of action against gun violence. She introduced Director Mack.

Director Mack began by giving a brief history of the gun shootings around the nation. She requested a moment of silence for those lost in the recent Parkland, Florida gun shooting. She announced the resolution that will be passed tonight and stated that the position of the board is not to arm teachers with guns. She also stated the board's stance to support the March for Our Lives event. She then introduced Ballard High School student and local March for Our Lives leader Emelia Allard.

Ms. Allard explained the March for Our Lives mission and the students' motives for demanding action from adults and congress. She read a list of the March for our Lives call to actions and overall goals.

President Harris introduced Superintendent Dr. Larry Nyland.

Superintendent Nyland addressed the many concerns that they have received from parents. He reviewed the SPS efforts around safety and security.

Directors took a seat at their spots at the table.

Director Harris moved that the board approve Resolution 2017/18-17. Director DeWolf seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Directors took a moment to thank the students and each other for bringing forth the resolution.

Work Session: Budget

This meeting was called to order at 4:56 pm. Directors present were Pinkham, Burke, Geary, DeWolf, Geary. Director Harris and Mack arrived shortly afterwards after conducting further media interviews. This meeting was staffed by Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance JoLynn Berge.

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance JoLynn Berge summarized the agenda. Ms. Berge spoke about the budget development calendar and has asked the directors to be prepared to make final decisions by July. She gave an update on the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

Director Pinkham asked about the time needed for IB classes. Director of College & Career Readiness Caleb Perkins explained the recommended guidelines around IB classes and gave examples of other districts that have IB courses with a similar class time.

Ms. Berge reviewed the current House and Senate budget proposal. Director Mack asked when and how is the levy set. Ms. Berge spoke about what the staff will recommend will be coordinated around BEX. She expected this will be given to the Board members this summer for review and potential approval. And it will need to go to OSPI by October.

Ms. Berge spoke about the current levy rate is approximately \$1.10 per thousand and she explained how the State has an offsetting amount from that. She will include slides on this topic at the May 14th work session. Ms. Berge spoke about how school staffing went out to schools last night. She explained while most schools will see an increase, a few schools do have decreases.

Director Mack asked if the Directors have received the enrollment projections. Director Enrollment & Planning Services Ashley Davies explained all projections were provided in the Gold book and are available. Ms. Davies will have additional information to the Directors on Friday. Ms. Berge gave the projected headcount for 2018-19 and explained how FTE is slightly reduced based on that projection. Ms. Berge explained fall enrollment and recommending equity funds are increase from \$2M to \$6M. These are items she is requesting the Directors reach a consensus on this evening.

Director Burke asked what the budget that was set aside for SMART goals in 2017-2018. Ms. Berge believes it is approximately \$3M.

Director Mack asked if this is Free Reduced Lunch FRL dollars and is the district considering grant dollars. Ms. Berge explained these are not FRL dollars. Ms. Berge explained how a grant is for specific purposes and does not typically cover funding lost. Dr. Nyland spoke about how PTA does provide for many significant needs. The schools are consulted on what is in the best interest for the students.

Ms. Berge spoke about the potential of increasing the economic stabilization fund above the minimum of 3%. She gave a detailed explanation of the non-capital infrastructure system request. She explained the need for upgrades of Human Resources and Payroll systems. Ms. Berge spoke about the benefits of upgrading both of these department systems.

Director DeWolf asked how to do we compare to other districts. Ms. Berge explained we are currently behind, she spoke to the examples of this.

Director Geary asked what is the efficiency offset with these upgrades. Ms. Berge spoke about her earlier example of mailing pay warrants, and the time saved benefits for not mailing and distributing pay warrants how it will save a few thousand dollars and that is not including the staff time spent.

Director Pinkham asked how equitable will this new online system be for everyone that doesn't have access to a computer. Dr. Codd explained currently all applications are completed online. This will be for new hires and current employees. This system will connect our onboarding and SAP system. Ms. Berge explained we can do initial estimates of time saving with new automated systems. She reviewed the non-capital infrastructure systems request. She reviewed the need for accounting changes that are state mandated.

Director Mack asked for an estimate of additional cost. And she added the State of Washington has made the mandated changes and did not offer any additional funding. Ms. Berge confirmed they did not offer any additional funding, and the 2019-20 budget will have to include the cost for these mandated updates.

Director Mack asked how much of these dollars are human costs and how much is systems costs. Ms. Berge explained we will have to hire a Project Manager and DOTs staff specifically for this project. Director Harris asked if this will come from BTA funds. Ms. Berge explained no these will be coming from general funds.

Ms. Berge spoke about the need of replacement of some fleet vehicles. Many of the vehicles are over 20 years old.

Director Mack asked how does this connect into a budget. Ms. Berge referred to the January 24th work session presentation to show where the funds are coming from and areas we have budgeted resources and available dollars. Slide 30 shows how the District would get to a balanced budget. Ms. Berge explained we had left over money from 2016-17, half was budgeted to be spent this year and the remaining to be spent in 2019-20.

Ms. Berge explained she is requesting consensus on SMART goals, fall enrollment, increase economic stabilization fund and non-capital infrastructure.

Director Mack asked if this is an additional amount or what was left from mitigation. Ms. Berge explained we cannot mitigate everything, but we are confident based on previous years \$6M is a reasonable amount.

Director Geary asked what did we have last year in mitigation and if SMART goals had \$2M on SMART goals last year and \$3M this year. Ms. Berge explained it's an amount we should hold and will have be further discussed once the SMART goals for next year are decided.

Director Geary asked if we have enough flexibility for future years. Ms. Berge explained they are going to fully fund salary allocation next year which is approximately an additional \$40M. This budget was built with a 3-year outlook in mind. It has been made with some strategic planning in mind.

Director Harris explained why she is uncomfortable giving an increase of \$.5 million. She is saying no. Ms. Berge explained she is asking for a placeholder for SMART goals and more detail would needed to be detailed on SMART goals.

Director Burke asked if 2018-19 SMART goals are decided on in May can we increase it to \$4M. Ms. Berge explained yes, more and less can be decided and changes as the action is made.

Director Pinkham has asked for slide 7 to have the completed subtotal from the prior page be included. For SMART goals Burke, DeWolf, Geary, Pinkham reached consensus, while Director Harris did not and Director Mack passed.

For Fall enrollment/ equity funds, economic stabilization and the non-capital infrastructure requests, unanimous concurrence was reached.

This portion of the meeting finished at 6:01pm and the Board took a recess.

Work Session: 24 Credits Briefing

Director Harris called the work session to order at 6:15pm.

Directors Harris, DeWolf, Burke, Pinkham, Geary, and Mack were in attendance. Director Patu was absent.

Director Burke was asked to preside over the work session.

Caleb Perkins, Director of College and Career Readiness, began the meeting by stating the objectives for this work session: to review takeaways from the February 7, 2018 work session, to engage in a deeper review of key schedule elements and develop a common understanding regarding the 2019-20 high school schedule, and to discuss the next steps.

Dr. Perkins introduced George Breland, Principal and Catherine Brown, Assistant Principal of Cleveland High School. They were in attendance to present information about the adoption and implementation of block rotation schedule at Cleveland High School.

2019-20 High School Schedule

Dr. Perkins returned to two key elements of high school schedules, more credit earning opportunities, and longer instructional blocks. He described two broad schedule scenarios. The first offers more credit earning opportunities but not longer blocks. The second offers both.

- 7 Periods; ‘Straight’ Schedule (45-minute periods)
- 8 Periods; AB Rotation (could be modified to include “skinny” periods that meet every day)

Director Mack was concerned about added costs associated with each scenario. Dr. Perkins said the costs would be determined by the bargaining process—overall student load per teacher, prep time, number of preps per teacher, and plan for advisory. He stated the anticipated costs of expanding credit-earning opportunities range from approximately \$5 million to \$16 million more than the current model.

Jolynn Berge, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, stated that \$9 million is sitting as a placeholder to support all aspects of secondary re-visioning for 2018-19, including professional development and support for 9th and 10th graders.

Dr. Perkins reassured that we could still support the AP, IB, and Baccalaureate courses now offered at the high schools. He added that the schedule would be based on a semester calendar with set start and end times, and the full number of hours required by the State. The schedule will need to fit within budget and bargaining constraints.

He offered the advantages for the longer block schedule:

- meets the College & Career Readiness requirements, particularly with respect to standards for Science and Math;
- provides time for Multi-Tiered System of Supports;
- provides introduction to college course scheduling;
- reduces transitions during the school day.

Director Harris asked about differentiation and professional development in the scenarios. She noted the schedule is working at Cleveland High School, and asked about what the other high schools are doing. She would like to see a Board decision, not a collective bargaining decision be made regarding policy related to schedules.

Michael Tolley, Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, stated that professional development is an investment resulting in effective teaching practices. Dr. Perkins agreed as to the importance for professional development for differentiated instruction.

Director Mack was concerned about total hours of instruction per course being reduced and expecting the same outcome. She was also concerned about teacher caseloads, noting that Initiative I-1351 to lower class sizes in all grades has yet to be funded.

Mr. Tolley stated that curriculum adoption would be presented to the Board later to review instructional materials. Professional development is planned for teachers to prepare for block teaching. He noted the Nathan Hale High School Project-based Instructional Model as an example. He added that the maximum student caseload will need to be discussed with the Board and labor partners.

Director Geary was concerned about the Block schedule for students with disabilities. She said that Special Ed staffing must be inclusive, and asked that more data be provided to support the proposed schedules regarding special ed. Dr. Perkins said he would provide additional information.

Director Burke expressed interest in some schedule flexibility for high schools.

Dr. Perkins stated there are both advantages and shortfalls for the specific schedule scenarios being addressed in this work session, but each offer more credit-earning opportunities, and the 8 Period scenarios provide longer instructional blocks. All scenarios provide for Advisory.

Ms. Brown spoke about Cleveland High School's 8 Period AB rotation schedule. She noted that central admin. had worked with the teaching staff in the development of the new schedule. She noted the instructors are provided an 85-minute prep period every day.

Mr. Breland said the model is full inclusion SPED, and added that co-planning is key to co-teaching. He is in favor of collaboration time and professional development for staff.

Director Pinkham asked if the block schedule had caused more problems for students who missed a day of school, and if there were problems obtaining substitutes. Ms. Brown said that some teachers like to see their students every day. She also said there were no substitute concerns.

Director Burke asked what was the motivation for adopting the block rotation schedule. Ms. Brown said the reasons were the educational drive for students with school-wide exposure to STEM, and that the block offered more slots in the students' schedules.

Director DeWolf asked about executive functioning and social-emotional learning time in the AB rotation schedule.

Ms. Brown said there have been no problems for the Running Start students managing their schedules.

Director Mack asked about IEP students and how they are managing those different needs at Cleveland, and how the school manages courses that don't benefit from longer blocks. Ms. Brown said that skills like typing, which would not benefit from longer blocks, can be taught as part of a lesson in a blocked period.

Director DeWolf was interested in feedback from students about the new schedule. Ms. Brown said the schedule is liked, adding the students say, "It's like we are in college".

Director Burke stated that the high schools are viewed by many as “broken.” He said there is an element of grit in everything in life, and one must excel in all types of environments. He added that high school should not be all be Project-based Learning or all straight courses, but must have both.

Ms. Brown feels that it is also important for the students to gain experience at job sites, and schedule at Cleveland leaves time for that.

Mr. Breland said that Cleveland’s studies prepare students to become problem-solvers and critical thinkers.

Dr. Perkins asked the Board for their concluding questions and additional input for proposed the schedules, particularly their feedback on the proposed key schedule elements.

Director Harris asked that a FAQ press release be prepared about the proposed schedules, and to state “that no decisions have been made yet”.

Director Mack wanted clarity on how decisions are to be made, cautioning that the adoption of new instructional materials and curriculum is a long process, and reiterated the need to follow the Superintendent’s 2026 Procedure for content that has never been taught before.

Director Pinkham said he was in favor of the AB rotation block schedule with some skinnies.

Director Geary expressed support for the proposed key schedule elements but also asked that a key element in the planning must include culture shift around special education. She asked Cleveland staff to provide PD on teaching in block schedule.

Director Burke also expressed support for the proposed key schedule elements but also asked about advisories and if they will be credit-bearing. He requested a detailed AB rotation schedule be developed showing classes for long periods and for short periods broken down by content areas. He noted that staff student load is a bargaining parameter, emphasizing the Board also cares about the educators.

Director Harris warned that it is not okay to add curriculum without Board approval, and asked where curriculum adoption is noted on the workplan.

Director Mack was concerned about the requirement for all high schools to adopt the AB block rotation. She noted that Seattle Public Schools’ high schools are all different, and that some may benefit from a 7 Period day.

Dr. Perkins said there are variations of the 8 Period AB rotation schedule, including 3 skinnies every day. He said the urgency for implementation is to find ways to expand credit-earning opportunities given that our current 9th graders need to earn 24 credits.

Director Harris asked that the Curriculum and Instruction Department share all information from CAI Committee meetings with all Directors. Dr. Perkins agreed.

Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.