

Board Special Meeting
Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee
April 21, 2020, 4:30 to 6:30pm
Meeting held remotely



Minutes

1. Call to Order

a. Roll Call

This meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. Directors Rankin, Hersey, River-Smith, Mack, and Hampson participated with Microsoft Teams or by phone.

This meeting was staffed by Chief Academic Officer Dr. Diane DeBacker, College and Career Readiness Executive Director Dr. Caleb Perkins, Science Program Manager MaryMargaret Welch, Chief of Student Support Services Dr. Concie Pedroza, Chief General Counsel Greg Narver, Communications Specialist Braxton Kellogg, Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Executive Director Cashel Toner, Executive Assistant to the CAO Maria Gonzales-Millsap, Board Office Administrator Tina Loeffelmann, Director of Policy and Board Relations Ellie Wilson-Jones, Executive Director of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives Erinn Bennett, Senior General Counsel Ronald Boy, Director of Investigations and Compliance Tina Meade, Director of Special Education Nicole Fitch, Director of Special Education Trish Campbell, Project Manager Continuous Improvement Emily Harrison, and Counselor on Special Assignment Terra McFarlin.

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

b. Approval of agenda

Director Hersey moved to approve the agenda. Director Rivera-Smith seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of meeting minutes

Director Rivera-Smith moved to approve the February 11, 2020 meeting minutes. Director Hersey seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

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

a. High School Chemistry B Instructional Materials Adoption

Dr. Perkins and Ms. Welch provided background of the Board Action Report requesting the Board to approve the recommendation of the High School Science Instructional Materials Adoption Committee for instructional materials for all students taking 11th grade Chemistry B (Chem B). Dr. Perkins reminded the committee that adoption information was shared with Board Directors in December and February. Dr. Perkins explained the urgency in moving forward with approval of the materials by May to prepare the materials and the accompanying training for the start of next school year.

Ms. Welch provided an overview of the work by the cohort to develop instructional materials including field tests, pre and post-assessments of the materials, and engagement with teachers and students.

Discussion ensued. Director Rivera-Smith asked what online tools and resources are available. Ms. Welch responded that instructional materials are on the Seattle Public Schools website platforms including tools, PowerPoint presentations, and assessments. She stated that the resources are housed in the Schoology webpage. Director Rivera-Smith asked if teachers are expected to teach as intended. Ms. Welch replied that they are asking teachers to follow the instructional materials and adjust and make accommodations on behalf of students. Director Rankin expressed her appreciation to the science team for providing robust lessons.

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

3. Special Attention Items

a. Special Education Update

Dr. Pedroza provided an update of Special Education services. The update covered areas of focus related to the Strategic Plan and around Student Support Services' response to COVID-19. Dr. Pedroza highlighted her team's work around the Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS). She also shared updates on the Special Education department's restructuring systems to support schools in working with students and families with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) during remote learning. Discussion ensued.

Director Rankin asked if the IEP guidance is a reference for new IEPs or for re-evaluation of current IEPs due to the closure. Dr. Pedroza responded that the latest guidelines included guidance for new or initial evaluations. Ms. Fitch and Ms. Campbell provided an overview of the initial process for an IEP. Director Mack asked when the guidance documents will be shared with school leaders and educators. Ms. Campbell responded that there are guidance documents already available to school leaders and educators. The documents are being updated based on new information from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Per Ms. Fitch, the update to the guidance documents is planned to be finished by this Friday. Director Rankin asked if face-to-face evaluations can be conducted online. Ms. Fitch responded that they cannot be conducted online because they are normed tests with protocols that must be adhered to. Ms. Fitch commented that there are parts of the assessment that could be done remotely, but not the entirety of the evaluation. Director Rankin asked for confirmation that if a family who currently does not have an IEP can get support even without a complete evaluation. Ms. Fitch confirmed this to be the case.

Director Rankin asked about the timeline for individual plans for families currently receiving services. Ms. Campbell responded that the task force is currently working on the support plan for teachers and families and will be finished this week and implemented next week.

Director Rankin expressed her concern over the disconnect between families and their school community and mentioned the door-to-door service provided by the district's central office as an example. Dr. Pedroza explained that the door-to-door service was a pilot program in collaboration with the Operations Division. Director Hersey acknowledged and expressed his appreciation for the work of the staff in providing services. Director Hersey shared concern from the community about the disconnect between families and school buildings around engagement. He asked where a family can go for assistance in navigating the new guidelines. Dr. Pedroza encourages families to work with their teachers. She further explained that the admissions team is available to help families connect with school leaders.

Director Rivera-Smith asked if behavioral specialists have been hired. Dr. Pedroza confirmed that the hiring occurred over the summer and they have been assigned to certain schools.

Director Rivera-Smith asked how Non-Public Agencies (NPA) families are being supported. Ms. Campbell explained the strategies in place to support families.

Director Mack asked in what ways can a student or family get support at the district level if they are experiencing challenges at the school level. Dr. Pedroza and Ms. Fitch provided examples of resources available to families on the district website including a contact form and a contact directory.

Director Hampson shared her concerns about the lack of technology in support of students. Dr. Pedroza shared examples of how this has been approached including the rollout of laptops to students with disabilities and those in need of assistive technology. Director Hampson also shared concerns over the lack of technology for Instructional Assistants (IA). Dr. Pedroza replied that they are rolling out laptops to IAs similar to the students laptop rollout.

Director Rivera-Smith asked if American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is being provided for the television programs. Ms. Fitch replied no but explained that students are receiving ASL for their instruction.

b. SPS Response to the State Board of Education’s Rules on the House Bill 2965 Waivers of Graduation Requirement

Dr. Perkins provided an overview of the state guidance to providing waivers for graduation requirements for seniors and Seattle Public Schools’ current plans for responding to the guidance. Dr. Perkins offered a summary of House Bill (HB) 2965 and emergency waivers for seniors. Dr. Perkins summarized plans to continue engaging seniors in learning and to support their path to graduation. Discussion ensued.

Director Rankin asked if a student must already have been on track to get the waiver. Dr. Perkins replied that HB 2965 requires that a student must have had a plan in place to meet the credit requirements as of February 29 to be eligible for the waiver. He explained that counselors and school staff are asked to work with individual students to apply for the waiver to the district. He explained that Seattle Public Schools has applied to the state for the authority to waive for the individual students. SPS will be approving the individual waivers for students. Director Hersey asked if this is being communicated to students and families. Dr. Perkins replied that his team has reached out to all seniors, counselors and school-based staff. His team sent out several communications explaining the process. Director Hersey suggested reaching out to community based organizations to help communicate the waiver opportunity to students. Dr. Perkins shared that he has enlisted the help of Drs. Williams and Scarlett and their teams to help with the community outreach. Dr. Perkins also shared that his team is working on a document to help track data for each school and bring in additional support for each school as needed.

Director Mack expressed her appreciation for the work of Dr. Perkins and his team. Director Mack commented on the Washington State School Directors Association’s (WSSDA) model resolution that provides additional support for waivers. She asked if the resolution will be presented along with the Board Action Report for the waivers. Director Perkins commented that he is familiar with the WSSDA resolution and will likely bring some version of that as part of the Board Action Report that will be presented at the Board meeting on April 29.

4. Standing Agenda Items

a. Strategic Plan Goal: 3rd Grade Reading Level (*Written update only*)

Director Rankin noted that a written update on the Strategic Plan Goal: 3rd Grade Reading Level was provided in the Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee packet as a written update. This item was not discussed.

b. Strategic Plan Goals: On Track Graduation and College and Career Ready (*Written update only*)

Director Rankin noted that a written update on the Strategic Plan Goals: On Track Graduation and College and Career Ready was provided in the Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee packet as a written update. This item was not discussed.

c. C&I Policy Committee Work Plan

Dr. DeBacker presented the work plan. Ms. Bennett noted that the policy section of the work plan was developed based on feedback from Directors, staff, and WSSDA model updates. She continued that part of the Board goals is for the Executive Committee to look at all the work plans comprehensively. She also previewed the shift of Board Policy 2190 around Highly Capable to an Advanced Learning update in May, a discussion in June and the presentation of the BAR in August.

Director Rankin asked how long it was necessary to continue to shift the work plan based on the not necessary and routine guidance. Mr. Narver replied that it is dependent on how long the governor extends the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) provisions.

Director Mack asked Mr. Narver if it is possible to consider various policy work from a different perspective for what the committee may deem necessary and routine. Mr. Narver replied that he will continue to review committee agendas and look at every item closely and provide guidance as necessary.

Director Rivera-Smith requested making room on the committee work plan for updates and follow-up regarding the new application of the new high school grading policy. This request was supported by Director Mack. Dr. DeBacker offered the information via Friday Memo. Directors Rivera-Smith and Mack requested the information be presented in committee in May for an opportunity to discuss. Dr. DeBacker referred to Mr. Narver if this may be considered under the governor's guidance. Mr. Narver restated that it is dependent upon the governor's proclamation which is scheduled to end on April 22, unless it is extended beyond that date. He restated that he will review committee agenda items and provide guidance as necessary.

5. Board Policies and Procedures

a. Quarterly Report: Board Policy No. 2200, Equitable Access Quarterly Report (*Written update only*)

Director Rankin noted that a written update on Board Policy No. 2200, Equitable Access Quarterly Report was provided in the Curriculum and Instruction Policy Committee packet as a written update. This item was not discussed.

b. Discussion: Board Policy No. 3211, Gender-Inclusive Schools: Transgender and Gender-Expansive Student Rights and Supports

Mr. Boy explained that this policy is in response to a new law passed by the legislature that requires school districts to develop a policy in support of gender expansive students. Seattle Public Schools currently has a comprehensive policy in place. Mr. Boy continued to explain that the new law gives the District a new opportunity to expand on student rights and to include the WSSDA model policy. Mr. Boy reminded the committee of Director DeWolf's resolution which is a comprehensive approach to the District's plan in moving forward in support of students. Mr. Boy stated that the policy will be presented to the committee at the May meeting.

c. Discussion: Revisions to Board Policy No. 3207 and Superintendent Procedure 3207SP.A, the District's Prohibition Against Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying – Students

Ms. Meade provided an overview of the requirement to revise Board Policy No. 3207 and Superintendent Procedure 3207SP.A, the Districts policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB). The

required revision is due to the recent passing of Senate Bill (SB) 5689 by the legislature which required specific changes to the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) model policy. Ms. Meade corrected the memo she presented to the Board to note that the requirement is for just one mandatory training for the District's HIB Compliance Officer and not an annual training. Ms. Mead stated that the revised policy and procedure will be presented to the committee at the May meeting.

Director Mack requested when a policy comes forward, that all the information including the WSSDA model policy, the redline and clean versions be provided as reference.

Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.