

# Board Special Meeting



2445 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134

Executive Committee  
Thursday, February 4, 2016, 8:30-10:30am  
Board Office Conference Room, John Stanford Center

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am.

Directors Harris, Peters and Patu were present. The meeting was staffed by Superintendent Larry Nyland, Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen, General Counsel Noel Treat, Erinn Bennett and Lauren Fode.

### Approval of agenda

Director Peters made a motion to approve the agenda. Dir. Harris seconded. The motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.

### Approval of meeting minutes – January 7, 2016

Director Peters made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dir. Harris seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

### Discussion and/or Action:

#### I. Review of the March 2 legislative session agenda

Directors and staff discussed potential items to be moved to consent. They discussed the minutes for February 24 Work Session and it was noted that there is a potential that those minutes would not be ready for posting on February 26 and may need to move to the next Board meeting. Directors discussed attachments that are brought to meetings that were not included in the posted packet, and Erinn Bennett noted that staff is working on a process for that in the future. Directors and staff discussed adding the recognition of outstanding staff for March 2, as it needed to be rescheduled from yesterday's Board meeting. Directors and staff discussed a request from the Young Artist Academy as a secondary performance at a Board meeting, as the list is currently full. Directors noted the upcoming meetings are looking to be long, and noted that to make an exception for one, would open up other exceptions, and discussed having them on a waiting list for any potential cancellations. Directors suggested other potentials for student presentations, for example displaying art at Board meetings. Erinn Bennett noted that many of the items on this agenda will be going to their respective committees after this committee meeting, and there is a potential that those committees wouldn't move an item forward, in which case it would come off of the agenda.

Dir. Peters made a motion to approve the March 2 agenda, as amended, and pending

the recommendations to move forward by the other committees. Dir. Harris seconded. The amended agenda, with provisions, was approved unanimously.

## **II. Board Action Items**

### **1. Seattle Preschool Program**

Supt. Nyland provided an overview of this item, and noted the work with the city and the timelines coming up. He noted a meeting with the Mayor in December on this topic. Supt. Nyland noted the work toward closing the opportunity gaps, and that Seattle Public Schools (SPS) still struggles with space at many schools. Cashel Toner and Dwayne Chapelle, new Director of Education and Early learning for the City of Seattle, were present to discuss the partnership. Ms. Toner provided an overview of the current 3 preschool programs. She discussed the slides in the handout which breaks down the different programming and the students that are being served. Directors asked for the numbers instead of percentages. The numbers were then discussed. Ms. Toner noted family satisfaction and feedback responses have been reporting as positive feedback. She noted some upcoming and past school visits. Ms. Toner made note of the enrollment at each location.

Directors asked about special education students enrolled. Ms. Toner noted that two students are currently identified as qualifying for special education services at this time. Ms. Toner noted in the area of the performance pay matrices, SPS has met 5/5 performance targets so far. Ms. Toner noted the Board action report that has been presented today, regarding limited availability for expansion, and noted an upcoming work session regarding this. She made note of the potential for introduction on March 2, and action on March 16. Ms. Toner noted the timing is aligned with other enrollment cycles, and is an advantage for families and staff to prepare. Ms. Toner noted that the 3 current facilities are available to continue for next school year. She noted the process to look at potential sites to expand and have predictable services. Directors noted page 4, item C, and asked about the Arbor Heights before and after school care. Ms. Toner confirmed that it will be there. Directors asked about Schmitz Park construction, and noted some discussion of it being overcapacity at the time of opening. Ms. Toner noted it's italicized on the document, as they are just at a point of conversation right now to see if it's a sound option. Directors asked about transparency with the upcoming changes listed in the action report. Flip Herndon noted that the use of Schmitz Park has not been decided and that Pre-K and after care infrastructure isn't set as the school has not yet opened, there are challenges with not yet knowing the upkeep, maintenance and other operations at the schools.

Directors asked about communicating with the YMCAs and bringing them to the table early on. Dr. Herndon noted that he would look into that. Supt. Nyland noted that there will be more details available at the upcoming work session. Directors noted disappointment in lack of full enrollment at these sites to maximize the potential of these classrooms. They noted a challenge with the timing of this action report with just getting away from the before/after school care being changed. Directors asked about the recent white paper that went out in a Friday Memo, and that they feel that it should be discussed further. Charles Wright noted that the draft white paper document was presented at a work session in October and noted that it was a disrupted meeting. Mr.

Wright noted this document was also presented to the new Board Directors during their orientation as well. Directors asked for the timeline with the City and asked for clarification as to why this is coming to the Board right now. Mr. Chappelle noted that the City wanted Board approval prior to beginning enrollment. He noted that the late approval last year made an impact on not reaching full capacity. Ms. Toner noted that if the action report moved forward for consideration now, then staff and Directors could continue the three that SPS currently operates, and can continue the conversation of the expansion. Directors requested from Mr. Chappelle that communication go both ways, and to be involved in planning of the Mayor's Education Summit. Mr. Chappelle noted he will relay the message and noted that Dir. Patu and Supt. Nyland have been invited to be on the Advisory Committee for the Summit.

Mr. Wright noted that the action report was written to start the discussion and noted that further discussion can happen at the upcoming work session. He noted that in the 2x2's with the Directors, they had received positive support for this program. He noted the action report was intentionally written with an option to consider continuing the current three, and also to consider expansion. Directors noted the announcement last year in the newspaper, and that Directors didn't have the knowledge prior to the public being notified. Mr. Chappelle noted his goal in his new role is to make sure that conversations happen ahead of time. Ms. Toner noted that the communication has come through for potential sites and the capacity management portion has been announced. Supt. Nyland noted that it is a difficult position to put the city in, if they notify SPS of the names of the sites in advance, then SPS could make the information public before they do. He noted that the City will be announcing on Friday which sites will be open next year. Directors asked about the new sites throughout the city. Mr. Chappelle noted that it depends on capacity and that the city is working with SPS to figure out how many can be accommodated.

Supt. Nyland noted the options for moving this forward. Directors asked about amending the action report to focus on the continuation of the three current classrooms and then to have another action report to address expansion after the work session. They discussed moving it forward without a recommendation. Ms. Bennett noted that the key step now is whether the committee is moving it forward. Noel Treat noted that he doesn't see any reason they couldn't move it forward without a recommendation. Ms. Bennett suggested adding in some verbiage options to be clear and transparent. Directors asked about Madrona K-8 pulling out a childcare site when the school is not full, and asked for clarity on the site and number of students. Dr. Herndon noted the middle school component has been a challenge, and the elementary portion meets the capacity portion. In order to serve the middle school component, they are at a bare minimum on staffing teachers due to a smaller number of students. Supt. Nyland noted that the elementary portion is tight on space, and that the middle school portion is hard to get to in the building and the configuration is odd.

Dir. Harris made a motion to move the item forward to the full Board for introduction without a recommendation, pending the February 24 work session. Dir. Peters seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **2. Seattle Teacher Residency (STR)/Alliance for Education**

Clover Codd provided an overview of this item and discussed the timeline and the communications that have been distributed. She discussed the handouts provided. Dr. Codd noted the new addendum to the original Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), and noted this is to codify the financial commitment to the 2016/17 school year, and outlined the STR alignment and the financial portion of this program. Dr. Codd noted that last spring Supt. Nyland notified the Alliance of the SPS contributions to the program, and made note of many articles that have been in the news surrounding this. She noted the commitment from SPS as outlined in the amendment. Dr. Codd noted that this doesn't require consideration of the full Board, as it is well below the threshold of the financial component, but in the efforts of transparency it is being presented today to discuss next steps. Directors asked about Page 2, sections A4 and B3, regarding fundraising. They asked how SPS is monitoring the fundraising and the use of SPS logos since the severance of the prior agreement with the Alliance. Dr. Codd noted that the Alliance has taken SPS logos off their fundraising efforts and their website. John Cerqui noted that SPS could add in a pre-approval clause or request to be copied on all fundraising efforts. Supt. Nyland noted the video trailer still has information on it. Dr. Codd noted she will look into these concerns that have been raised. Directors noted that in a recent Audit & Finance meeting, diversity within STR was discussed in terms of hiring. Dr. Codd noted that additional outreach has been done to SPS classified employees and diversity has been increasing. She noted a handout displaying quick facts of the program. Directors asked about the recruitment of instructional assistants (IA's). Dr. Codd noted that in the Collective Bargaining Agreement funds are set aside for this specific portion, and SPS is working with STR to recruit SPS IA's. Directors asked if there is an accompanying action report for this item. Dr. Codd noted that it is well below the \$250k threshold requirement, and this is more informational and for transparency efforts.

### **3. Resolution 2015/16-13 - A Resolution Opposing Charter Schools and Charter School Legislation**

John Cerqui provided an overview of this item. He noted the action report and attachments, reviewed the materials included, and noted the feedback from the Directors regarding this topic. Mr. Cerqui noted that due to many bills still being brought before the legislature, the resolution presented today is a broad based resolution. He pointed out this is set for introduction March 2 and action March 16. Mr. Cerqui noted that March 10 is the last day for the legislative session, and that the Directors may consider introduction and action at the March 2 Board meeting. Dir. Harris made a motion to move this forward to the full Board for approval as both introduction and action on March 2. Dir. Patu seconded. This motion passed unanimously. Directors asked if there was an issue with sending this out to constituents. Mr. Cerqui noted that this is a public document. Mr. Treat noted there is no objection to disseminating the document.

### **4. Board Code of Conduct**

Ms. Bennett provided an overview of this item. She noted the original plan was that the Code of Conduct from last year be sent out to Directors requesting feedback, and to bring that feedback to the next Executive Committee where they would either make a recommendation to move to the full Board for action, or to continue to discuss at a later time with the full Board. Because of the lack of feedback received, Ms. Bennett noted

that perhaps Directors have further discussion at a retreat or work session. She provided the feedback that was received. Directors noted this should be a conversation to have at the retreat with the full Board, and would like to have benchmarks from other districts.

### **III. Special Attention items**

#### **1. Experimental Education Unit (EEU)**

Supt. Nyland noted the work of Wyeth Jessee and the EEU and the many meetings to confront some potential legal issues. Mr. Jessee provided an overview and noted the handouts. He noted the fundamental shift in the service contract, and the funding attached to the various programs. Mr. Jessee noted the potential opportunities for expansion and what can be learned with the relationship with the EEU. He noted the restructure of the agreement and the unique program that other institutions and organizations don't offer, and that SPS can borrow from their experience. Mr. Jessee noted the tentative interagency agreement for moving forward. He noted the other options that were brought to the table by both parties. Mr. Jessee noted expansion, inclusiveness, and replication in select schools in the district. Supt. Nyland noted the three legal issues with regards to the funding source and how to allocate the funds, the oversight needed for the program in regards to Individual Education Plans (IEPs), and the issue of equity and access to the program.

Directors asked if therapists and other providers that recommend the program will be made aware of potential expansion. Mr. Jessee noted that SPS doesn't make recommendations on programs due to equity, but will look towards awareness of the programs. Mr. Jessee noted that SPS is changing how needs of each student are being assessed. Directors asked for clarification on the expansion. Mr. Jessee noted the model of EEU is experimental, and there are certain things SPS cannot replicate as the University of Washington has resources and PhD professors at their disposal. He noted that SPS is looking at taking the strategies and research to replicate, and use the shift in mindset for inclusiveness. Directors asked that if there is expansion, are those students going to be SPS district students. Mr. Jessee noted staff is still working with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to ensure oversight with regards to the specific ratios of special education and general education students.

#### **2. March 12 Board Retreat Agenda Approval**

Ms. Bennett provided an overview of the agenda for the March 12 retreat. She noted reaching out to some potential facilitators, and that Pam Posey is available. She noted that it would be about \$4600 depending on the number of hours for the event. Ms. Bennett noted adding in the Code of Conduct conversation, per earlier discussion. Directors discussed perhaps looking at a work session instead of the retreat for that topic. Ms. Bennett suggested a committee of the whole instead of a work session due to the tight schedule of work sessions, which will be discussed later in today's meeting. Supt. Nyland noted that he thinks the retreat is a good direction to move forward with, including the work of community engagement and strategies. Directors asked if there is an expert on community engagement that can bring their expertise. Jacque Coe noted that to prepare, she will do some research with the Council of Great City Schools, and

other associations and colleagues that have done a great job in community engagement. Supt. Nyland noted an upcoming work session around SMART Goal #6 to start the discussion as well. Ms. Bennett noted that if the Directors agree to work with Ms. Posey, then Ms. Coe and Ms. Posey can collaborate on this section. Ms. Bennett discussed past work with Ms. Posey in 2014 on governance. Directors discussed the topics as listed on the agenda, and the themes of the facilitated discussions that can happen in each section. Directors provided feedback as to what they would like to work on moving forward, and to continue the discussion collectively as emerging topics to do work on new SMART goals. Directors suggested adding in the word "Director" before Goal Areas to be more specific. Stephen Nielsen suggested discussing Director goals prior to community engagement, to help align the engagement process. Ms. Coe noted that with regards to the discussion on community engagement, Penny Mabie, with EnviroIssues, an expert and international trainer in community engagement may be a possible resource. Pegi McEvoy noted that when bell times was discussed, a community engagement piece was put together ahead of time to provide context. Directors and staff discussed changing the order of topics. Mr. Nielsen further discussed the context to make the topics flow with alignment for the goals and community engagement. The topics moved around to SMART goals in the morning, then after lunch to discuss Director Goals, then engagement later in the afternoon.

### **3. Board Meeting Timing/Agenda Template**

Ms. Bennett noted that there was some feedback to consider changing public testimony to begin at 5:30pm, instead of 5:00pm. Directors discussed the various portions of the agenda template and the shift in times. Ms. Bennett noted to make notice at the next couple of Board meetings before making the change to allow constituents to have notice. Director Peters asked Melissa Westbrook for her opinion, and Ms. Westbrook noted in the past public testimony started at 6:00pm, and she felt it was worth the experiment to move it back closer to that timeframe. Directors noted that the lights in the auditorium turn off at 11:45pm and the shift a few years ago was to prevent meetings from going so late. Directors decided to shift the public testimony start time and will make notice at the next two Board meetings in March, with the change starting in April for public testimony to begin at 5:30pm.

### **4. Superintendent/Board Evaluation Timeline**

Ms. Bennett noted a request for discussion on the timing of the evaluation process. She noted the process for making a change would require a Board action, and she provided options regarding the timelines. Directors asked for clarification as to why the change was made by the previous Board. Ms. Bennett noted the reasoning for the change in time of year for the evaluation was to have data available at the time of the annual review. Directors discussed the issues with timing at the beginning of the school year and that this becomes an issue with elections and new directors coming to the Board every two years. Directors asked Ms. Bennett to bring an action report to the next Executive committee. Ms. Bennett discussed the timing of the different options and made note of the other committee meetings coming up to further explore.

### **5. Board 2015-16 Self-Evaluation**

Ms. Bennett noted questions being sent to Directors in the Fall regarding options of tools that the Directors could use for their evaluation. She provided themes of the feedback that was received from Directors. Directors asked if there was still feedback to be given. Ms. Bennett noted that further conversation will be had at the February 17 work session. Directors asked if there was a Director that was particularly passionate about this. Ms. Bennett noted a Director that had worked with Washington School Directors' Association on this topic in the past, and she noted it would be helpful to have Director leads to help with the project.

## **6. National School Board Association (NSBA) Membership**

Lauren Fode provided options of the NSBA membership, including the three different types of membership for districts. Ms. Bennett noted reaching out to previous Board Director Harium Martin-Morris, as he was involved in the NSBA, and she has not yet received his feedback. Directors discussed the different memberships that SPS is a part of and discussed the budget. Directors discussed priorities that are closer to home and bigger needs at this time, and discussed travel budgets and expenses. They discussed cost-benefit ratio for traveling to attend these conference and events. Dir. Patu noted that she has attended 3 of these events and felt that there wasn't as much benefit taken away as in others. Directors discussed utilizing the resources to bring a speaker to Seattle for both the Directors and the community to attend. Directors discussed having a more solid expectation on the budget, which needs further discussion. Mr. Nielsen noted to add it to the retreat regarding expectations on community engagement and professional development. Ms. Bennett noted to add a sub bullet under community engagement, and also defining the expectation for professional development. Mr. Treat noted perhaps a discussion on Board budget 101 as a topic to discuss.

Director Harris made a motion to discontinue the NSBA membership. Dir. Peters seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Executive Committee 2016 Work Plan**

Ms. Bennett noted the work plan and upcoming dates, and the standing items on the committee agenda. She flagged policy updates, as well as possibly additions of policies around strategic planning and innovation, as recommended by Charles Wright. These policies could include language on continuous school improvement plans, annual budget and central office budget planning, and how they are connected. Ms. Bennett noted this work plan is continually being updated, and asked that the committee agree to use this as a working document. Directors asked where the action items that come to the committee are listed. Ms. Bennett noted adding a "review of legislative meeting" next to the Standing Items column. She noted the background of the special attention items and the action items coming to the Board, and noted that the Executive Committee is typically a process committee, and many of the items are on the work plans of other committees. Directors would like to hear more about Mr. Wright's suggestion of item topics.

## **IV. Board Policies and/or Procedures**

### **1. Discussion of Policy No. H01.00, School Closures**

Dir. Peters noted her reasoning behind bringing this to the committee, and reviewed the current policy as it stands. She noted the proposal would be to add another step to the process regarding program closures coming to the Board, just as School closures currently do, to be done in a transparent nature, and for the Board to have final approval of any closure. Dir. Peters noted previous issues with the EEU, Middle College, and Interagency in Queen Anne. She discussed other policies and her desire to bring an action report to the next Executive Committee meeting. Supt. Nyland noted a need for an inventory of programs that outlines what is a school, a program or other service. He noted that legal would need to look over this, and that perhaps this isn't the policy that would need to change, as this policy is under State Law. Supt. Nyland noted some other considerations and the process. Directors noted that there have been historical issues with not knowing ahead of time when programs are closed, and noted the need for transparency and due diligence. Directors asked for next steps in figuring out the process. Noel Treat noted certain laws and mandates that need to be considered, and he will look at some to research. Directors and staff noted the nomenclature issues of various schools, programs and services, and the need to streamline the definitions of them. Ms. Bennett noted that in terms of process, Policy No. 2200 is already on the work plan for the Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) Policy committee. Directors discussed working with the C&I Committee as to not duplicate efforts.

## **V. Routine Items**

### **1. Superintendent 2015-16 SMART Goal #6 Update**

Jacque Coe, Heidi Henderson-Lewis and Eric Anderson provided an update to this item. Ms. Coe noted the components of customer service, community engagement and communications. Ms. Coe noted that Ms. Henderson-Lewis has had a meeting to dig in to the customer service function and look at elements in Goal #6, regarding the paradigm shift to see what structures need to be in place to be more sustainable. Ms. Harrison-Lewis noted a think tank meeting to drill down to identify what is making customers dissatisfied and how SPS can address those. Ms. Coe gave some examples of community engagement and feedback from parents, and discussed defining and measuring customer service. Mr. Anderson noted the family survey and results. He noted the launch of the survey in April and discussed the core of the survey, and the addition of improvement areas. Mr. Anderson noted two significant changes are to have some open comment feedback areas, and also some design changes. Mr. Anderson noted that there will be an analysis of the feedback and the open ended section to present at future meetings. Ms. Coe noted the current response rate is 24% district wide, and that they have designed this survey with the consideration of length to keep a strong response rate. She noted the subjective nature of the phrases "timely" and "customer service."

Mr. Anderson noted the timeline for taking suggestions and feedback. He noted that at the February 24 work session there will be further discussion on this item. Ms. Coe noted that in community engagement, there are three staff in training this week on this area. She also noted a start of conversation with several community groups to understand a better way to address community engagement and working with the community to facilitate positive engagement. Directors discussed nontraditional

community groups and engaging their feedback. Ms. Coe noted reaching out on a broad spectrum. Directors appreciate the work that is being done around this.

## **2. Government Relations**

Supt. Nyland noted the meeting with the delegation on Monday that he announced at last night's Board meeting. He noted that SPS has been asked to provide capital requests, which have been provided by Flip Herndon. He also noted that there were requests made by SPS to the legislature regarding the levies, the loss of funds, and the request to restore lost funds. Supt. Nyland noted the discussion around the levy cliff, and the impacts for next year if this is not addressed. Supt. Nyland noted a meeting with the review board. He noted an opinion piece that was run recently that calls out the legislature and the school districts to step up to request necessary funding. Directors asked about the restoration of the levy equalization. Mr. Nielsen made note of the revenue forecast and noted that there is money left on the table that voters have already approved. He noted that there is very strong traction from the delegation, and the pressure comes from other parts of the state in regards to funding education.

## **3. Community Engagement**

Bernardo Ruiz provided an overview of community engagement and SMART Goal #2. He noted the upcoming "My Brother's Keeper" Symposium event here at the John Stanford Center auditorium, and noted a speaker from the White House and another national speaker regarding support of African American males and other students of color. He noted the National African American Parent Involvement Day at South Shore on February 10, where over 250 professional African American males will be attending to give high fives and cheer on the students. Mr. Ruiz noted work with El Centro de la Raza and a panel that discussed working with the district and other educational institutions to change the disproportionality of discipline. He noted the partnership with the Office of Civil Rights with the City of Seattle. Mr. Ruiz noted that the Equity Race and Relations committee met to discuss the annual report to give to the district at the end of the year. He noted the enrollment fair last weekend was a total success. Mr. Ruiz noted the recruitment for the African American Males Initiative Advisory Committee, and that they have already received many inquiries on the work regarding targeted universalism. Directors asked for this type of group and community work to be put on the website for the community to see. Mr. Ruiz noted staff is working on putting some information with meeting minutes and documents on a page on the website.

## **4. Board Calendar/Work Plan**

- 2016 Work Session Calendar

Ms. Bennett noted the handout regarding the work session calendar and upcoming meetings. She noted requests for additional work sessions, and noted the schedule is tight. Directors noted a work session on assessments last February and there was a request to make it an annual meeting. Directors asked what determines if there is two or three topics listed on a given Wednesday. Ms. Bennett noted that it is determined by the amount of time that each topic requires, and the overall meeting time is limited to three hours when at all possible. Ms. Bennett suggested discussing with Michael Tolley

regarding what is coming up in the C&I department to allow for staff planning around an additional work session. Supt. Nyland suggested perhaps a written report and rational instead of a full meeting. Directors noted that this is an important discussion and a topic that merits Board discussion, as testing begins in the district soon. Ms. Bennett noted looking at Tuesdays and Thursdays, and reaching out to staff, or to reach out to Rick Burke, as chair of the C&I Committee. Ms. Bennett suggested starting the discussion at the C&I committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25am.