

Board Special Meeting



2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134

Executive Committee
Thursday, March 3, 2016, 8:30-10:30am
Board Office Conference Room, John Stanford Center

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:40am. Directors Geary and Patu were present. Dir. Peters arrived at 8:48am. The meeting was staffed by Superintendent Nyland, Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen, General Counsel Noel Treat, Director of Policy, Board Relations & Special Projects Erinn Bennett and Board Office Manager Lauren Fode.

Approval of agenda

Directors discussed moving the approval of the minutes until another Director arrived.

Dir. Geary moved to approve the amended agenda. Dir. Patu seconded. The motion to approve the amended agenda passed unanimously.

Discussion and/or Action:

Review of the March 16 and April 6 legislative sessions agendas

The Directors and staff reviewed the March 16 Legislative agenda. Staff discussed the student presentation portion, as there was a cancellation. Staff discussed adding in the minutes that were pulled off of the consent agenda last night to the consent agenda for March 16. Erinn Bennett noted the introduction/action item for Amending Board Procedure 3250BP, due to no longer having fees for all day kindergarten, and noted that the Audit & Finance (A&F) Committee will review this item at their next meeting. Staff and Directors discussed the potential for moving items #4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14 to consent. Ms. Bennett noted introduction item #1 is on the agenda for discussion today and noted that introduction item #3 was added since Friday and will be discussed at today's meeting. Director Peters arrived at 8:48am.

Stephen Nielsen noted an addition of one more item that will be going to A&F, for non-represented staff compensation. He noted that it may potentially be introduction/action, depending if the committee moves it forward as such. Directors discussed their discomfort with introduction/action items, and noted to avoid that when at all possible.

Dir. Peters moved to approve the March 16 legislative agenda as amended. Dir. Patu seconded. The motion to approve the agenda as amended passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from February 4 Executive Committee Meeting

Directors reviewed the minutes from the February 4 Executive Committee meeting.

Dir. Peters moved to approve the minutes. Dir. Patu seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Review of the April 6 legislative sessions agenda

Directors and staff reviewed the April 6 Legislative agenda. Directors discussed the student presentation portion and the possibility of adding a second presentation in one meeting due to the Martin Luther King Elementary Choir's bus not showing up to bring them to last night's performance. The Directors agreed to ask the choir for their schedule and add them where appropriate at a future meeting. Directors and staff discussed the action items, and discussed moving action item #3 to consent. They also discussed potentially moving item #2, Policy No. 1440, regarding minutes to consent depending on the discussion later today.

Ms. Bennett noted that many items are placeholders, as they have not gone to a committee meeting yet. She also noted the upcoming Curriculum & Instruction (C&I) Policy Committee of the Whole meeting later in March. She noted that introduction items #3 and 4 are tentative, as staff is still looking for a date to have the Committee of the Whole to look at the Board Self Evaluation and Code of Conduct discussions, so they may move to a date in the future. Directors and staff discussed the capital items coming to the Board at this meeting. Directors asked about why there are so many capital projects. Dr. Herndon noted that many are final acceptances on projects that have already been completed, and this is to finalize the acceptance. Dr. Herndon noted the process of crossing all of the T's and dotting all of the I's to close out the projects. Directors asked the difference between warranties and final acceptance. Dr. Herndon noted the differences, and clarified that sometimes they coincide and others do not. Dir. Peters noted that her item on school closures is not on the agenda. Ms. Bennett discussed the conversation will be happening on that item later in this meeting.

Dir. Geary made a motion to delay approval of the April 6 agenda until the discussion on Policy H01.00 has occurred. Dir. Peters seconded. The motion to table approval of the April 6 legislative agenda until later in the meeting passed unanimously.

II. Board Action Items

Superintendent/Board Evaluation Timeline

Erinn Bennett provided an overview of this item. Ms. Bennett noted the action report is written to move to a June 2016 annual evaluation, and noted the alternatives are listed on pages 2 and 3. She discussed the three alternate options and the timing of each. Supt. Nyland noted that November is a busy time of year, and June tends to be a more traditional time frame. Directors noted that June is the end of the school year and the start of many operations projects. Supt. Nyland noted November is challenging with the State of the District presentation and that every other year the leadership of the Board may change, and he noted that there is no perfect timing. Directors asked for the implications of any of the changes on the Superintendent contract. Noel Treat noted that it would not affect the duration of the contract, but the salary negotiation portion timeline may change. Directors and staff discussed the history behind the date change in the past. Supt. Nyland noted that setting goals in June is helpful for school leaders to have the summer to plan and to have advanced notice. He noted, however, that the data doesn't come until November. Mr. Treat made note on the question of salary, noted the current contract is through the end of August, and noted the terms in the contract. Directors discussed all three options, and noted that this Board is mostly new members, so would not have been working with the Superintendent for very long by

June. Directors asked Ms. Bennett to change the action report to be written for option 3, however, to keep the other options in the action report for the other Directors to see. Supt. Nyland noted this could be discussed with the Board Self Evaluation process as well. Ms. Bennett noted that was the original intent, and noted that the meeting was delayed. She noted the tight schedule in March for the potential to have a meeting of the whole, and discussed the timeline if this was delayed. Mr. Treat discussed the options for receiving Director input, and noted Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) requirements. Directors discussed flagging this for other Directors to have the opportunity to ask questions and give their opinions.

Dir. Peters made a motion to amend the action report to be focused on option 3, and to move it forward to the full Board with a recommendation for consideration. Dir. Patu seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy No. 1440, Minutes

Erinn Bennett provided an overview of this item. She noted the way the current policy reads doesn't distinguish between regular and special meetings, and often times there is too tight of a turnaround time with getting minutes drafted prior to posting. She reviewed the proposed language change. Directors suggested an end timeline, perhaps "no later than the second Board meeting" following the special meeting. Staff discussed the flexibility and constraints of those options. Ms. Bennett noted that she would work on the wording. Mr. Treat noted that Supt. Nyland has a legal obligation to keep the minutes as Board Secretary, and this change suggested wouldn't prevent the minutes from being approved in a timely manner.

Dir. Peters asked about the guidelines as to what should be included in the minutes. Ms. Bennett noted that Noel Treat could speak to the minimal the legal requirements, and that this policy is modeled after the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) model policy. Mr. Treat noted the minimum requirements by OPMA and RCW. He noted that there isn't a need for taking verbatim transcripts, and that level of detail is a challenge. Directors discussed adding in the expectations of the level of detail for the minutes. Ms. Bennett noted the differences in the minute takers and discussed the intent to capture an accurate depiction of the discussion. Directors asked for the level of detail versus risk. Mr. Treat noted there is minimum risk as these are open meetings, and the risk would be with taking a vote at the meetings and ensuring that is recorded. Mr. Nielsen noted the difference between work sessions and Board special meetings. Mr. Treat gave clarification regarding taking action, and noted what would be legally sufficient. Ken Gotsch noted having more detail in Audit & Finance committee meetings due to contracts and financials, and would be against making the policy too standardized, or too lean. Directors and staff discussed the multiple options for changing the language. Dir. Peters noted the first sentence on the policy, and asked for an explanation. Ms. Bennett noted it was a legal statement in an RCW. Mr. Treat noted it came out of a statute where the Superintendent is required to keep the minutes.

Dir. Peters made a motion to move this item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval on March 16, as amended. Dir. Patu seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Special Attention items

March 12 Board Retreat

Erinn Bennett noted that the retreat agenda was reordered at the last Executive Committee meeting, and the title changes were suggested by the committee. Ms. Bennett noted that Pam Posey was contracted to facilitate the topics and noted that Directors have meetings scheduled with her to prepare. Dir. Peters noted she thought that Ms. Posey would only be facilitating one portion, not the other two items. Dir. Patu noted that her understanding was for Ms. Posey to facilitate the entire retreat. Directors and staff discussed prior retreat facilitators. Supt. Nyland noted the many options that had been discussed at the past several meetings and noted that the facilitator will help direct the discussion and provide guidance. Directors noted their desire to have more room to have discussion, and not just hear a presentation. Ms. Bennett noted that she has spoken with Ms. Posey and that a large presentation is not expected of her and that a discussion is requested. Ms. Bennett noted a retreat planning meeting with Dirs. Peters and Patu with Ms. Posey next week. Directors discussed the Board goals and starting the conversation on what Directors would like to focus on for their goals moving forward. Supt. Nyland noted that at the retreat they will look to determine a direction that the Directors would like to move forward with on their goals. He noted the district principals are meeting in June, and their request is to be given an idea of what the goals will be so that they have the summer to plan and get their staff off to a good start prior to the school year beginning. Director Patu noted that she would like the Directors to attend staff meetings at schools and work with them to find out what the schools are working on and how Directors can support the schools and have everyone working together. Supt. Nyland noted the summer institute and the regional meetings as possibilities and noted working out the logistics of making that happen.

Board Policies and/or Procedures

Policies H01.00, School Closures; F21.00, Specific Areas of Involvement Reserved for the District; and 2200, Equitable Access to Programs and Services

Director Peters provided an overview of this item. She noted the desire to have program closures come under Board purview, to give the Board a chance to weigh in, and for transparency sake. She noted this would be an additional step for public accountability and oversight. Dir. Peters noted the different policies where the closures are referenced. She noted conversations with Mr. Treat, Ms. Bennett, and Supt. Nyland regarding her explanation, and noted that other Directors have brought this up. She also noted feedback from constituents regarding the lack of Board involvement in these decisions.

Supt. Nyland noted historical challenges with this and is open to looking at a policy change. He noted he has been adding information on these items into the Friday memos to give Directors advanced notice. He is concerned that this item brought today has not followed the Board communications protocol and administrative process. He referenced the communications protocol, handed out a document that included excerpts from it and discussed the policy development portion on the work plan and outlined the process for policy revisions. Supt. Nyland discussed the different options with schools, programs, services, etc. that would be involved in these policy changes. Supt. Nyland suggested a meeting of the whole or of the Executive Committee and staff to discuss the implications on where to draw the line on program, service and school involved closures.

Directors agreed that a work session is preferable and noted they would like more advanced notice and more transparency as they are the front line when parents and community members come to question the decisions. Directors would like to move in the direction of working together with Seattle Public Schools (SPS) staff and leaders to have a united front. Dir. Peters noted her action report would be to provide justification and be proactive, instead of looking backward, which breeds mistrust from the constituents. She gave examples of Queen Anne and Middle College, and the frustrations with not having advanced notice and having responsible oversight. Directors noted the need for a work session on the implications on staff for these changes, with well-defined terms, assessment of volume, determination of the committee it would be going through, to understand the alphabet policies, and have further discussion on the policy implications. Supt. Nyland noted the terms have been an issue with SPS and other districts as well, with categorizing the different forms of educational services. Supt. Nyland suggested putting it on the work plan for this committee and look for a date to have a work session in March. Or to look at Tuesday/Thursday opportunities in April.

Mr. Nielsen discussed the timeline of having the meeting in March, and the preparation that staff would need to come to the meeting with, and he summarized the asks from the Directors during today's discussion. He noted the complexities with SPS and the multifaceted decision-making process that would be involved in this. Mr. Nielsen noted that this may involve multiple meetings to discuss and be strategic, cohesive and simpler. Directors discussed having a March 23 work session as a starting point, and noted that they do not want this item to be bogged down in process and details. Clover Codd agreed that the definitions are complicated, and also pointed out to consider the Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) and other agreements that will be impacted, and noted other layers that need to be involved. Directors discussed the level of decision that come to the Board, and the flexibility that schools and school leadership have that doesn't come to the Board, and the perception of the public. And, that aligning the definitions so that school leaders, staff, Directors and families are all on the same page will be crucial. Michael Tolley noted a list of definitions of programs, services, etc. He gave examples of the varying levels of details in programs and services and what could or could not come to the Board for oversight; such as discontinuing a readers/writers workshop or a French program at a specific school. Mr. Tolley noted that the CBA has definitions of what is under the principal's direction and purview. He noted that many are contracts for services, not a SPS offering, for example the Experimental Education Unit. Directors noted getting a solid definition base, and asked that Board review be written into the contract for services.

Supt. Nyland suggested a work session on March 23 of the full Board, and that he will put some information in the Friday Memos, and suggested bringing that information to the work session to use as examples. Ms. Bennett suggested adding it to the Executive meeting on April 7 for further discussion. Dir. Peters suggested adding it to the April 6 Legislative agenda as introduction, pending the outcome of the work session on March 23.

Dir. Peters made a motion to move this forward to the full Board for consideration on April 6 pending the outcome of the March 23 work session. Dir. Patu seconded. This motion approved unanimously.

Review of the April 6 legislative sessions agenda (continued)

Directors and staff went back and reviewed the agenda for the April 6 Legislative session. The previously discussed policy item will be added as an introduction item pending the work session as discussed previously.

Dir. Geary made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Dir. Peters seconded. The amended agenda was approved unanimously.

V. Routine Items

Community Engagement

Bernardo Ruiz gave an update on Goal #2, and noted a meeting at South Shore K-8 on creating unified efforts in the district to support students of color. He noted the racial and equity teams learning objectives, which were well received. Mr. Ruiz noted leveraging grants, decreasing disproportionality in discipline, and responsible pedagogy. Mr. Ruiz noted a recent community group meeting to review the applications for the African American Male Think Tank (AAMTT), and noted many were high caliber applicants who want to be a part of the committee. He noted on Tuesday there was training to Principals on SMART Goal #2. Mr. Ruiz noted recruiting for the spring cohort of a ten week training with the Family Connector University. Directors asked for information on the different locations and number of students and families served. Mr. Ruiz noted the locations and families served. Directors asked how many people will be on the AAMTT. Mr. Ruiz discussed the applications received, and confirmed there will be 63 people on the advisory committee, and they will likely have subcommittees with such a large group. Directors noted that they would like to attend and asked for the schedule. Mr. Ruiz will send out the schedule. Mr. Treat noted that if four Directors are in attendance, that it would be a quorum. He noted that he, Ms. Bennett and Ms. Coe will work on putting together a special meeting notice to the public. Mr. Treat noted the OPMA requirements of a quorum and where to be observant of instances where that may be an issue.

Government Relations

Stephen Nielsen provided an overview of this item. He discussed the legislative agenda coming up. He noted the goals of SPS and noted the budget puzzle with collecting levy funds already approved by voters. Mr. Nielsen noted the Per-Pupil Inflation, which lowers the ability of districts collect already approved levy dollars. He discussed working with legislators and the delegation to change the context. Mr. Nielsen noted capital money challenges to help with renovations, and a bill that may be coming to the table to get extra capital funds. Directors noted the compressed laminate timber, and noted it takes specific architects that know how to use it, and that there are other layers with costs for modular buildings. Mr. Nielsen noted a potential special session and noted there is a strong external push to find candidates to run for Washington Supreme Court that could reverse the McCleary and charter decision. He noted legislators have given more funds to K-3, but it is restricted money that creates staffing issues and other complexities. Directors asked if there was additional funding for transportation. Mr. Nielsen confirmed there is not. Directors discussed funding for charter schools and what they have heard. Mr. Nielsen discussed that potential. Supt. Nyland asked about substitute relief. Mr. Nielsen noted that it could be funded, and discussed the potential implications and

budgetary process and noted that SPS might get some sort of qualified relief for substitutes in an emergency. Directors asked if this relieves the issue of retired teachers coming back. Supt. Nyland noted that it does, and discussed the different plans that teachers had in their contracts. Directors asked about the School Board Director compensation discussion in the legislature. Mr. Nielsen noted he would check on that discussion

Superintendent 2015-16 SMART Goal #6 Update

Jacque Coe provided an overview of this item. She discussed the staff that attended a five-day training for community engagement on communications planning, public transportation and a spectrum of engagement processes. She discussed public expectations for involvement. Ms. Coe highlighted the training areas of closing the loop, leadership, building baby steps in trust, responsiveness to social media, managing expectations, elevating feedback and inclusive outreach. She noted meeting with groups, such as “A Better Way,” Soup for Teachers, Kids Not Cuts, PTSA’s, etc. to come together for a conversation on more respectful dialogue. Stephanie Jones is working on getting a grant to support that work. Ms. Coe discussed research from a partnership with the University of Washington (UW) and Erin Okuno that surveyed 650 parents. Ms. Coe noted working with Eric Anderson on the family survey, and discussed the timeline and phases of what will go out to parents. She noted previous response rates, and the various outreach methods to increase the upcoming response rates to the survey. Ms. Coe noted giving Directors some talking points to use at their community meetings and during outreach to encourage parents to take the survey. Directors asked for the results of the survey that was done at UW, and would like to hear more from Erin Okuno at a public meeting.

Supt. Nyland discussed additional government relations. He noted that he and Director Patu were at the kick off meeting for the Mayor’s Education Summit, and noted the focus groups that will be held in preparation for the Summit on April 30. Supt. Nyland noted a piece that will be discussed regarding a recommendation on funding. He noted that the Families & Education Levy is up for renewal in 2018. Dir. Patu noted a meeting with the Mayor in regards to the City paying for International Baccalaureate programs, and noted that it’s an ongoing conversation with the Mayor. Supt. Nyland noted meeting with Bruce Harrell, Seattle City Council President, and noted Councilmember Harrell’s interest in the possibility of a School Board/City council meeting, or Board to Board 2x2’s around issues of interest, such as capacity. Supt. Nyland also noted the interest in changing public testimony rules so that elected officials are given priority on the public testimony list. Dir. Patu noted her meetings with five City Council members individually, and discussed their support for SPS. Directors asked about closed sessions for the advisory committee. Supt. Nyland noted that it’s not a decision-making meeting of the advisory committee, and are held for recommendations, not actions being made. Supt. Nyland discussed the work to close the opportunity gaps, and noted the schools that are outperforming in the district. Directors discussed showcasing the positives across the district. Directors asked what the end goal is for the Education Summit. Supt. Nyland noted that the message he heard was that they are working on a pragmatic approach, and that it’s still being worked on.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18am.