

BOARD SPECIAL MEETING OPERATIONS COMMITTEE



2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98124

September 17, 2015
Stanford Center, Board Conference Room

Approved Minutes

Director Patu called the meeting to order at 4:30pm. Director Martin-Morris was also in attendance. Assistant Superintendent for Operations Pegi McEvoy, Senior Project Manager Lucy Morello, and new Enrollment and Planning Director Ashley Davies staffed the meeting.

The agenda was revised to include moving the Hughes building item out to October and re-ordering and then approved; minutes of the August 20th meeting were also approved.

Monthly Capital Financial Report: Melissa Coan reviewed the July 2015 report, noting the \$60 million decrease due to board-approved construction projects. She said the next report would be yearend, likely at the November meeting.

ORCA card service agreement with Metro: Kathy Katterhagen pointed to an error in the board action report and reported that there is an increase in the cost per student from \$32/card to \$35 card, still within the State reimbursement rate. In response to questions, she said that both Metro and the district look at ridership use and do not see much use on weekends and evenings; principals emphasize these are for school use when cards are distributed. Committee members suggested that the district should exercise its ridership clout and take the relationship to the next level with Metro, perhaps having a Metro liaison working in the district to study routes as new service levels come on-line. They then moved this item forward as amended with a recommendation for approval.

Meany Middle School actions: Lucy Morello said the three items coming forward are all part of the State D-9 process for construction reimbursement amounting to \$4.5 million on this project. The building is scheduled to open Fall 2017, and the budget is \$27.6 million with the budget transfer authorized by the board. Committee members agreed that these three items could go to the consent agenda for action.

- **Constructability review:** This step assures the district is doing a systematic design quality assurance check. The committee moved this item forward to the full board with a recommendation for approval.
- **5 year/30 year building life:** This step assures a district commitment to five years of educational purposes use and an extension of the building life by 30 years. Ms. Morello talked about a WAC related to this that was never updated by the State after the Legislature had changed this to 20 years; the district has been using the 30-year commitment for years. It was suggested that this WAC be attached to the board action report for the record, and the committee moved this item forward to the full board with a recommendation for approval.

- Intent to construct: This step assures that the district is committing to this construction-modernization. The committee moved this item forward to the full board with a recommendation for approval.

Student assignment plan revisions for 2016-17: After introducing herself, Ashley Davies talked about the goal of this revision being to consolidate all the years of transition plans into one document to streamline communication to families and implement a final state of the student assignment plan that eliminates outdated information about programs and services. In the process, there are also recommendations to standardize tiebreakers. She said there will be several community meetings, and the plan will be introduced at the October 7th board meeting.

The primary change in tiebreakers is the elimination of the distance tiebreaker. This change will make the plan clearer and allow the district to execute the assignment process more quickly after open enrollment. Updates to individual programs and services will be maintained by those programs.

Another change being proposed is moving the waitlist action from the end of September each year back to before the end of the previous school year. The process would still look the same, where families could go through the open enrollment process in February, and the district would continue to generate wait lists in April. This action would allow greater predictability in assignment for families. Discussion followed:

- Acknowledging the challenge of summer and families moving, Ms. Davies said there would always be seats set aside for students to enroll in their attendance area school.
- With option schools, students would be slotted into the choice list which would move before the end of the school year.
- Concern was expressed over stabilizing the enrollment between Cleveland, Franklin, and Rainier Beach. The wait list process had been used to help Rainier Beach over the past years, as students would begin in that attendance area school and get to know the program and students in that school. All acknowledged the tension between this goal and allowing the ability for the significant number of students who requested to make the change earlier rather than having them wait.
- There was a suggestion about removing any reference to the date wait lists are moved to give the district the maximum amount of flexibility. In a transition, the district could use a “no later than” date.
- There was a suggestion about removing the use of the word “minor” referring to revisions, as this will be a significant change to some families.
- Due to increasing enrollment, there is going to be limited space to actually exercise choice, as the district is no longer in a situation where dozens of seats will be available. The critical lens is that the district will be continuing to look at the schools and the impact of moving students in and out, using the same values, just doing it earlier for families and schools.
- Committee members suggested that to be helpful in telling the story, the district should be visual and verbal about the tiebreakers proposed for elimination not being ones that

are used and saying out loud that there is no new boundary work this year; however, planned boundary changes will be discussed.

With that additional language, the committee moved this item forward to the full board with a recommendation for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.

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