

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

October 10, 2023

### **Call to Order**

President Cohen called the Regular Board Meeting of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order in the Board Room of the Administrative Offices at the Shoreline Center at 6:00 p.m. on October 10, 2023. This meeting was also available to the community via Zoom.

### **Roll Call**

Sarah Cohen, President; Emily Williams, Vice President (*attended remotely*); Sara Betnel, Member; Meghan Jernigan, Member (*attended remotely*); Lily Fredericks and Aiden Rouhani, Shorecrest Student Representatives; and Esme Harkess, Shorewood Student Representative.

Absent: Mitchell Ichinkhorloo, Shorewood Student Representative.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

President Cohen provided a brief land acknowledgement.

### **Celebrations, Recognitions, Introductions and Gratitude**

None

### **Agenda Review**

None

### **Comments from the Community**

President Cohen read the instructions for the community comment process.

The following individuals spoke in person:

- 1) Christina Simmons, Parkwood Parent and Highland Terrace First Grade Teacher – Expressed concerns about class sizes in grades 4-12. She has 18 students in her first grade class and she has the time to understand each child's strengths, challenges and families. She would not be able to do that in the classes the size of those in grades 4-12. One thing that would help is to fully fund smaller class sizes at all grade levels.
- 2) Erin Kirkpatrick, Highland Terrace Teacher, Parent and Graduate – Had three "big ideas" related to impacts on students: class sizes, budget, and split classes. She spoke about the class sizes—29 in her 4/5 split class and 33 and 34 in the fourth and fifth grades. HT fourth graders have jumped from class sizes of 17 to 29, 33 and 34, and it is overwhelming, especially with the spike in behavioral issues. Erin will email the Board with her thoughts on budget and split classes.
- 3) Laura Becker, Parkwood Parent of 2 – Her son's largest class size over last four years was 24 students; now he's in a class of 35 students. Teachers have the impossible task of making sure that students feel heard and valued. Due to the pandemic, these fourth graders had their kindergarten cut in half and have been playing catch up ever since. Not every family has the time and resources to help their children succeed in school, thereby creating an equity gap. Please find a solution.
- 4) Laura Drinkwine, Briarcrest Staff and Shorecrest Parent – Spoke regarding recent communication about the extended care program for next year. Shoreline has always said it was the only school district in the state that runs a district-operated extended care program; however, Lake Washington proudly promotes their program. Thinks they are licensed but not sure.
- 5) Aja Njie, Student – Spoke on behalf of multi-lingual learners (MLL) in the District. They have many struggles and they are not receiving the proper education that they deserve. There are so many language barriers in the classroom and teachers cannot help because they don't understand the

languages. They are not being provided with the proper resources. Requested training for teachers who are teaching blended classes.

The following individual spoke over Zoom:

- 6) Louise Jessen, Parkwood Fourth Grade Teacher – There is a false narrative that the budget crisis is affecting all schools and students; this is not true. At the elementary level, this is actually affecting two schools, Parkwood and Highland Terrace. Hopes that the Board engages with fourth and fifth grade teachers to ensure equity for all students.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 12 Regular Board Meeting and September 20 Special Board Meeting had been submitted to the Board for their review and approval.

MOTION NO. 3: Director Rivera moved that the Board approve the minutes of the September 12 Regular Board Meeting and the September 20 Special Board Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Director Betnel and carried unanimously.

### **Adoption of Consent Agenda**

President Cohen announced that the Board had an opportunity to ask questions on the consent agenda and have them answered prior to this meeting. The following consent agenda was presented for adoption:

- a. Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, Donations
  - 1) Brookside Elementary - \$15,250.00 – Brookside PTSA – Learning Tools, Office Supplies, Grade Level Enrichment
  - 2) Cascade K-8 Community School - \$6,480.00 – Cascade K-8 PTSA – Classroom Resources
  - 3) Cascade K-8 Community School - \$6,500.00 – Cascade K-8 PTSA – Nature in our Neighborhood Presentation
  - 4) Cascade K-8 Community School - \$7,000.00 – Cascade K-8 PTSA – Field Trip/Classroom Enrichment
  - 5) Cascade K-8 Community School - \$7,000.00 – Cascade K-8 PTSA – ASB Fall Camp
  - 6) Shorewood High School - \$7,366.71 – Shorewood Boosters – Various ASB Sports and Clubs
- b. Approval of Settlement in Vaping Litigation
- c. Approval of Extended Field Trips
- d. Approval of Personnel
  - 1) Certificated
  - 2) Classified
- e. Approval of Vouchers

MOTION NO. 4: Director Rivera moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, items 7a through 7e, which is attached hereto and becomes a part hereof. The motion was seconded by Director Betnel and carried unanimously.

As of October 10, 2023, the Board, by a unanimous vote, approved for payment, those vouchers described as follows: Reconciliation of Warrants Issued September 15, 2023 – General Fund Warrants #102404-102405, 102406-102438, 102454-102494, 232400028-232400030 and 232400031-232400037, totaling \$370,938.41; Capital Projects Fund Warrants #102439 and 102495, totaling \$17,419.36; Student Body Fund Warrants #102440-102453 and 102496-102499 totaling \$93,608.76; and Private Purpose Trust Fund Warrant #102500 in the amount of \$542.00, for a grand total of \$482,508.53.

## **Reports and Presentations**

### **Enrollment and Budget Planning Update**

*Presenters:*

*Angela Von Essen, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Operations*  
*Mark Spangenberg, Director of Finance and Business Services*

Ms. Von Essen shared the actual FTE enrollment for September and October, with the caveat that October numbers are preliminary and may change based on a final review. *[Additionally, these numbers did not include the budgeted 191 FTE for Running Start.]* The average total enrollment through October is 8,953.25 FTE, which is a variance of 87.25 from the budgeted FTE enrollment. This number will change month to month based on Running Start, dropouts, or perhaps students transferring to another district. Kindergarten and grades one and two are all below what was budgeted.

Ms. Von Essen also shared a chart reflecting enrollment trends from 2015-2016 through 2023-2024 *[October 1 counts]*. The pandemic definitely had its impacts; however, on a positive note, the actual numbers for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 are exceeding the budgeted numbers.

Priorities for the 2023-2024 fiscal year include:

- Closely monitor enrollment
- Monitor all expenditures in comparison to the budget
- Continue to engage and gather feedback from all stakeholders
- Seek and implement additional budget reductions
- Monitor our total and **unreserved** fund balance
- Calculate the state's prototypical funding for each school for alignment

Also shared were total fund balance trends for 2015-2016 through 2026-2027 (estimates used for 2023-2024 through 2026-2027). The estimated unreserved fund balance for 2023-2024 is \$2,312,000 (based on current information available but will change). Regarding the trends slide, Director Rivera clarified that somewhere between 2015 and 2018, the previous school board approved the decision to reduce the fund balance and that was part of the reason for the earlier decline.

Director Betnel asked if she was correct in saying that part of the work that remains to be done for the 2022-2023 budget close-out is in connection with the completion in recent weeks of labor negotiations with various bargaining groups. Yes, there will be changes and that information is scheduled to be shared at the November 14 regular board meeting. Focus should be on the unreserved fund balance *[as is listed on the monthly cash flow reports]*.

Challenges ahead include:

- Continue to build and maintain an adequate fund balance:
  - Meet monthly cash flow obligations
  - Available for emergencies or unforeseen expenditures
  - Achieve financial stability
- Plan for contractual obligations for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026
- Monitor actual enrollment trends

Director Betnel asked if there were any thoughts about what the under-projection numbers at kindergarten and first grade might portend for the future or if we think it might be connected to state law that says children aren't required to attend school until age 8. Ms. Von Essen responded that ways of improving those projections could include collaboration with the Department of Health for live-birth data. Some parents aren't registering their children early on due to social-emotional needs; they may be in preschool longer or at home. Mr. Spangenberg added that the enrollment differences from budget are in the tenths of a percent range.

Also, in regard to the kindergarten numbers, there has been an assumption for many years that the number of kindergartners would be around the same as the previous year. This method may need an adjustment. Superintendent Reyes added that she learned in a recent regional superintendents meeting that this is not unique to Shoreline but is occurring all over King County.

Director Betnel also asked for a reminder of what the state funds at the K-3 level and then beyond. Mr. Spangenberg responded that the staff ratio for K-3 is 17:1, but that includes the PE and music teachers and a portion of our librarians. It also includes an OSPI-calculated number for special education that's applicable to K-3. Grades 4-12 class size is funded at about 27:1. That's what will be reviewed more closely this year in order to line us up with the prototypical model and determine where we might be overspending.

President Cohen asked if the prototypical school model was new. Ms. Von Essen responded that it has been around for many years. It's a district-wide model that combines all schools, by grade level, by building and by program. *[RCW 28A.300.173 states the OSPI shall implement and maintain an internet-based portal that provides ready access to the state's prototypical school funding model for basic education under RCW 28A.150.260. The portal must provide citizens the opportunity to view, for each local school building, the staffing levels and other prototypical school funding elements that are assumed under the state funding formula. . . ]* As a reminder, Mr. Spangenberg noted that this year's budget include 15 additional teachers over last year, which was a result of maximizing the K-3 ratio.

In response to questions from Directors Betnel and Jernigan regarding the reconvening of the Budget Advisory Team (BAT), Ms. Von Essen reported that the teaching and learning team of Brian Schultz, Mike VanOrden and Trish Campbell had recently prepared a document that outlines the upcoming work for this school year, which includes the BAT. It is anticipated to convene in November and run through April. Superintendent Reyes added that the details were still being formulated and worked out. There will likely be a review of some of the learning about school funding that occurred last year as well as digging deeper to find budgeting efficiencies. Superintendent Reyes announced that she would be meeting with staff at all schools and departments. Another survey could be explored along with meetings with community and student groups and labor partners.

Director Williams stated that she hopes there will be some equity analysis within the BAT this year as well as some reflection on how things are progressing.

#### 2024 Legislative Priorities and WSSDA Positions Prioritization

*Sara Betnel, School Board Legislative Representative*

Director Betnel announced that this presentation would have two prongs: (1) discussion about the initial proposal for the Board's top 10 positions from the WSSDA catalog; and (2) planning for the District's legislative priorities for the 2024 session. As a reminder, the 2024 session will be the second year of the two-year biennium. It will be a short, 60-day session. Generally, there are not many new policies brought forward and any bills that were introduced last session but not made into law can be re-introduced, beginning at the place they left off.

The following was the initially proposed list of 10 positions (in alphabetical, not priority order) to submit with WSSDA as priorities for the organization's advocacy on behalf of Washington boards for the 2024 legislative session; however, the Board was encouraged to come to this meeting prepared to propose/discuss alternate positions in lieu of the ones listed below:

1. Amply Funded Staffing Levels
2. Attract, Recruit, and Retain Diverse Staff
3. ~~Career and Technical Education Funding~~ **(replaced with Climate Impact Mitigation Assistance)**
4. Equity-Based PK-12 Education System
5. Preventing Self-Harm and Suicide

6. Preventing Substance Abuse and Overdoses
7. Sexual Harassment, Assault, and Abuse Prevention and Response
8. Student Reentry and Re-Engagement
9. Support for Special Education Programs
10. Transportation Funding

Board members and student representatives engaged in a lengthy discussion and came to consensus regarding a modified list of 10 positions to submit to WSSDA. There was a desire to include the Climate Impact Mitigation Assistance as one of the positions. Various options for swapping out a position in order to include it were discussed, but in the end, it was decided that the Career and Technical Education Funding position would be replaced with the Climate Mitigation Assistance position. There was also consensus to allow Director Betnel to make any adjustments to this list as needed (based on input from other districts and WSSDA) prior to submission.

The full discussion can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/873386992?share=copy>

The WSSDA catalog of positions can be viewed at: <https://wssda.org/about-us/permanent-and-legislative-positions/positions-catalog/>

The Board and student reps reviewed the Board’s 2023 legislative priorities and then discussed the legislative priorities for the 2024 session. Student representatives shared their ideas for priorities around climate and full-time support personnel at the schools, e.g. school psychologists (504s and IEPs), nurses, family advocates, homework club, ELO pay for teachers and funding for ELO programs, etc.

Director Rivera asked about a short statement that indicates the crisis we are facing and the urgency of legislative action to support school districts in navigating through it. She also shared some of the categories of the draft climate justice resolution, which includes: support for climate and climate justice, environmental justice, curriculum, support for equity, internal air quality of buildings, certification for building structures, support for teachers’ learning and professional development, to name a few. An additional topic was increasing walkability around schools and attaining grant money for sidewalks.

Director Jernigan praised Student Rep Rouhani’s comment about taking care of our future generations through the things that have the most impact on student wellness and success, specifically those connections with environmental health and climate resilience. In particular, she was referring to HB 1184, which aims toward creating rules around re-use of waste water within new buildings. “How do we connect some of those regulatory strategies in the state legislature with how we are growing as a district, because this particular state law really outlines standards for developers when they are seeking to build a building. Those standards are outlining how newly constructed buildings need to re-use wastewater within those buildings.”

President Cohen wrapped up the conversation and stated that the Board would work with District staff (Superintendent Reyes and PIO Belfield) in preparing the one-page flyer outlining the 2024 legislative priorities. Director Williams announced that she had three ideas that she would share via email with Director Betnel.

**Board Requested Discussion and Future Topics**

None

**Action Items**

None

**Reports and Communications – Board Members and Superintendent**

Student Rep Harkess reported that Shorewood facilitated the Healthy Youth Survey earlier in the day. The Homecoming dance took place on Saturday evening—1,300 attended, which was the largest crowd for this event in many years. Fall sports teams have done very well with some teams in the state’s Top 10 or Top 20.

Student Rep Fredericks reported on Shorecrest athletics: boys soccer team is second in the league, girls soccer is tied with Shorewood for first place (5<sup>th</sup> in the state), cross country girls took first place in a recent meet and cross country boys took second place, boys tennis has had several wins, girls swim and dive had four athletes qualify for state, and the Homecoming football game would take place on Friday (October 13). Student Rep Fredericks reported on a new Highlander Home system that would begin the following week. Students are able to choose activities based on their interest. It is hoped that students will attend Highland Home more often and that they will get any help needed if they are struggling. Students have been working hard preparing presentation slides in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month (Latino Club and Culture and Heritage Club). Work continues on the establishment of the Student Advisory Committee—applications are coming in.

Student Rep Rouhani reported that students had also done presentation slides for Indigenous Peoples’ Day. This included learning about the District’s land acknowledgement. There was a conscious decision last year by students to expand their recognitions of various groups in order to be more inclusive. He also reported that this was Spirit Week and this day (Tuesday) was Jersey Day, for which he proudly wore a jersey. The support for this activity at Shorecrest is very strong. Student Rep Rouhani also shared some experiences about the new bathroom and destination passes; so far, not very popular.

Director Rivera attended Curriculum Night at Shorecrest and very much enjoyed hearing about what our students and teachers are doing in the classroom.

Director Betnel attended the Shorecrest Curriculum Night as well. Following the same schedule as her student gave her a real sense of her student’s movements throughout the school day. The Culinary Arts class provided salted caramels. The Kellogg Curriculum Night was also lovely and much more self-guided.

As a Shorecrest parent, Director Williams was super excited about Spirit Week and in particular, Barbie Day, which was scheduled for the following day. She also had plans to go to the football game on Friday.

Director Jernigan acknowledged that Indigenous Peoples’ Day had been the day before. She and her family celebrated with the local community and saw many Shoreline Indigenous families out and about. She is appreciative and proud of the District’s efforts to monitor, track and report on the statewide implementation of *Since Time Immemorial*. President Cohen commented that *Since Time Immemorial* was also discussed at her children’s school, Syre, during Curriculum Night, and the plans for that curriculum to be part of fifth grade.

President Cohen spoke about the spreadsheet that had been prepared [by Mike VanOrden] for board members to schedule times to visit schools. She thought it might be a good idea to visit in pairs when possible. Board members engaged in a conversation as to how best to proceed with the school visits. If three board members would like to visit a school at the same time, advance notice will need to be given so that it can be published/advertised as a meeting [24 hours in advance].

Regular Minutes – October 10, 2023

Superintendent Reyes announced that she would be at the Homecoming Assembly at Shorecrest on Friday and the football game on Friday night. She expressed her enthusiasm for the work being done around the Student Advisory Committee. Their first meeting will be on October 26 at 10:30 a.m. and will include middle school and high school students. A study session will be held on October 17 at 6:00 p.m. on the topic of high school start times and will include presenters from three school districts that have implemented late start times.

**Executive Session**

None

Adjournment: 8:52 p.m.

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Dr. Sarah Cohen, School Board President

Attest: November 14, 2023

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Dr. Susana Reyes, Secretary  
Shoreline Board of Directors

**All documents referenced in the minutes may be viewed in the Superintendent’s Office during normal business hours.**