



Board of Directors Business Retreat Meeting Minutes

The Board Retreat will be recorded and will be available for viewing after the meeting at <https://www.tacomaschools.org/about/school-board>

Tacoma Public Schools acknowledges that we are on the traditional ancestral and historical lands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Puyallup Tribe. This acknowledgment serves as a first step in honoring our nearest tribal neighbors and partners who have inhabited this region since time immemorial, and to whom we give thanks for allowing us passage to their lands. We shall intentionally create inclusive and respectful partnerships that honor Indigenous cultures, histories, identities, and sociopolitical realities.

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 06:00 PM

1. AGENDA REVIEW

President Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

Assistant General Counsel Gbenro gave the following Safety and Security updates:

- o HB 1214, Providing K-12 Public School Safety and Security Services by Classified Staff or Contractors, was signed into law and will take effect July 25, 2021. This bill provides requirements for safety and security staff agreements, data collection, and training for educational service districts, school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools.
- o Regarding the School Safety update, when ready, the General Counsel's Office will bring a recommendation forth at a future Board Study Session. After input from board members and any requested changes, the final recommendation will be placed on a Business Meeting agenda for a final vote by board directors.

3. POLICY REVIEW STRATEGY UPDATE

The General Counsel's Office gave an update on the Policy Review process, the first step of which was the completion of a Policy Audit. The audit included a gap analysis that identified revision dates and compliance gaps, along with comparisons to WSSDA Model Policies.

Two additions to the policy review process include adding a community engagement component, where appropriate, with representative community voices and looking at policies through an Equity Lens. Community Review Team members would be tailored to those with relevant ties to the subject matter. The review could include using the *OSPI Culturally Responsive Style Guide*, the PSESD Racial Equality Toolkit, completing an internal language review based off the work of the District's Equity Design Team, and gathering feedback from that team. The "Policies Manual" page on the School Board website will also showcase policies currently under review, and details several options for community members to provide feedback.

Next steps in the review process include revising and prioritizing the policies that were identified as needing updates.

Policy 1310, *Policy Adoption, Manuals and Administrative Procedures*, has been identified as a top priority, and a draft regulation was presented for a first review.

4. COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Board directors would like to more clearly define their roles and responsibilities when serving on committees, both within the school district and in those in the wider Tacoma community. They discussed ways they can be more strategic in their interactions and how they can represent the TPS Board of Directors as a consensus group.

Members will share any relevant information with other board members through email if it needs to be brought up sooner than at a business meeting. The Board will work on defining the expectation/role they fill on each committee they serve on, which will also help provide sustainability as board members change over time. It was also suggested that the Board identify gaps where they should be engaged, such as in athletics and the arts.

5. BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

With at least one Board position coming up for election in the fall, it is important that there is a good Board Professional Development plan in place. This could include training beyond what is given by the National School Board Association (NSBA) and Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA). Additional trainings on different topics, such as for appeals hearings, could be useful to establish a baseline of expectations.

Board members, along with the superintendent and deputy superintendent, are currently reading *The Governance Core: School Boards, Superintendents, and Schools Working Together*.

It was suggested that Board Members complete something like the DISC Assessment, which can help improve teamwork and how individuals work on a team. Board members will keep discussing ways that they can continue to grow and identify key concepts to focus on.

6. ADJOURNMENT

President Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:08PM.