

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2023

Call to Order

President Cohen called the Study Session of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order in Room D105 at the Shoreline Center at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 29, 2023. This meeting was not available via Zoom.

Roll Call

Present: Sarah Cohen, President; Emily Williams, Vice President (*attended remotely*); Sara Betnel, Member; Meghan Jernigan, Member; and Rebeca Rivera, Member; Luke Smith, Shorecrest Student Representative; Helen Murphy, Shorewood Student Representative; and Susana Reyes, Superintendent.

Facilitator: Brook Buettner, MPA, LICSW, City of Bothell Program Manager

The board members began with a team and trust-building activity that involved sharing what space they were in on this day and why they do the work they are doing. They then discussed in detail the following topics:

Board Operating Principles

The following School Board Operating Principles were developed at the board retreat in January 2020 and were adopted by the Board via Resolution 2020-1 on February 10, 2020; they were reaffirmed by the Board via Resolution 2021-4 on March 1, 2021. The Operating Principles were not reaffirmed at the January 22, 2022 board retreat. The following consensus was reached, as noted in the minutes of that meeting:

For the discussion about revisions to the current "Operating Principles" the next steps include:

- * *A team consisting of Superintendent Reyes, Director Jernigan, Director Betnel and Student Rep Stark will suggest some verbiage for both a title change and a change to item #1 for the Board's consideration*
- * *Words/phrases generated to address the "historically under-served population" phrase in Item #1 to change it to an asset-based principle were:*
 - *systematically/intentionally/colonially/structurally*
 - *oppressed*
 - *rectify/repair*
 - *elevating the brilliance and genius of our students*
 - *recognize/acknowledge the intentionality of the system that needs to be addressed*

These next steps were not taken in 2022, thus, the Operating Principles were not reaffirmed. Given that this meeting of January 29, 2023 was already running behind, Ms. Buettner recommended that the next steps agreed to at the January 22, 2022 meeting be addressed, but not at this board retreat. This would allow for more time to be spent on the Board's self-assessment results. After further discussion, there was consensus by board members to table the next steps until next year's retreat. Regarding the second bullet, Director Betnel suggested that the verbiage include student reps and that any references to the term, "Chair", be replaced with "President" for consistency. However, for reference, the Operating Principles (as is) are listed below.

- I will keep student needs, interests, safety, and success at the center of my decision-making - paying particular attention to eliminating systemic inequities that persist for historically under-served populations.
- I will strive for a positive working relationship with all members of the Board.

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- I will listen with an open mind and demonstrate flexibility and creativity in seeking solutions.
- I will support and encourage open expression of cultures, ideas, identities, thoughts, and comments.
- I will look for and recognize the positive contributions of each Board member, and will extend grace for occasional errors or mistakes, turning mistakes into opportunities for growth.
- I will attend all Board meetings, insofar as possible, and will notify the Chair in advance of the meeting if I am unable to attend.
- I will read all Board materials in advance of meetings and be prepared to act on agenda items.
- I will practice fiscal responsibility and sound financial management to support our capacity to adequately fund programs and priorities in a sustainable manner.
- Once a Board decision has been made, I will respect the authority of the Board to make this decision and will not work to undermine it. (Every board member gets their say but not necessarily their way.)
- No surprises. I will not withhold information until a Board meeting and then surprise either my Board colleagues or the Superintendent.
- Should an item of interest or concern come up during the meeting, I agree to ask the Board Chair to place it on a future meeting or study session agenda.
- I will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from my position as a Board member.
- I will participate in an annual Board self-evaluation and review of these Operating Principles.
- I will hold myself, and my Board colleagues, accountable for upholding these Operating Principles.

2022-2023 Board Self-Assessment

The board members had previously completed their individual assessments of the Board. Board members took five minutes to review and determine which questions they would like to move forward for further discussion. Two large themes emerged from that discussion:

- Communications (2-way – community to Board and Board to community) – specific emphasis on students and tailoring the methods for how it best meets student needs; responsiveness to community feedback; collection of community input for decision making; clarity around Board communication vs. District communication—how to distill and disseminate
- Strategic planning and goal setting – specifically understanding what is meant by student success; measures for accountability

Board Reflection and Goal Setting

The Board discussed the possibility of having a more formalized mechanism for coming to consensus when there isn't a specific vote, e.g. recent discussion regarding the guidance around the ending fund balance target for the 2023-2024 budget. For example, the City of Shoreline has a practice of discussing an item before a vote; each councilmember then states the rationale behind their individual vote.

There were also concerns expressed about the current process that doesn't allow the Board to respond to questions from the community during board meetings.

Board members expressed disappointment in not being able to receive more training and engage in networking with board members in other districts, such as through the annual WSSDA conference.

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Due to budget constraints, they were not able to attend this past November. It was suggested that possibly the District could apply for grants to allow for attendance by all board members and student representatives in the fall of 2023. It was announced that the District would be hosting a WSSDA regional meeting on March 29 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Shorewood High School. All board members and student representatives were invited to attend.

Board members discussed their strong desire to move forward with a strategic district plan and to continually improve in the area of communications. They discussed their frustration with not truly knowing everything needed to make informed decisions on the current budget situation.

The meeting concluded with all sharing one thing from the meeting that was made more clear and that made them feel more hopeful/positive.

Adjournment: 1:05 p.m.

Dr. Sarah Cohen, School Board President

Attest: March 21, 2023

Dr. Susana Reyes, Secretary to Board of Directors