

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 20-21, 2024

Call to Order – Day 1, Saturday, January 20, 2024

President Williams called the Study Session (School Board Retreat) of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order in Room D105 at the Shoreline Center at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2024. This meeting was not available via Zoom but was open to the public.

Roll Call

Present: Emily Williams, President; Sara Betnel, Vice President; Sarah Cohen, Member; Sylvia Gil, Member; Meghan Jernigan, Member; Aiden Rouhani, Shorecrest Student Representative; Esme Harkess, Shorewood Student Representative; and Susana Reyes, Superintendent.

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

Board Operating Principles, Meetings and Roles

Board members engaged in an activity whereby thoughts and understandings were written on post-its and placed on flip charts under specific categories, e.g. president/vice-president, superintendent, individual board members, student reps, and legislative rep. Results were shared out with the full group.

Director Betnel provided a summary of how the operating principles came about at a board retreat in January 2020. After a quick review of the board operating principles, it was decided that this item would be tabled until the next day.

Board members engaged in a second activity, similar to the one mentioned above, with post-its placed on flip charts under the following categories: agenda structure, public comment/requested topics for discussion, and decision making. Again, results were shared out with the full group.

2022-2023 Board Self-Assessment

Last year's board self-assessment was reviewed briefly in order to assist new board member, Sylvia Gil, to become familiarized with the process. Board members were requested to perform their individual assessments by the beginning of mid-winter break.

Board Committees

Updates were provided on the progress of the four board committees: Policy, Climate Justice and Sustainability, Metrics, and Communications.

Adjournment: 5:02 p.m.

Call to Order – Day 2, Sunday, January 21, 2024

President Williams called the Study Session (School Board Retreat) of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order in Room D105 at the Shoreline Center at 1:08 p.m. on Sunday, January 21, 2024. This meeting was not available via Zoom but was open to the public.

Roll Call

Present: Emily Williams, President; Sara Betnel, Vice President; Sarah Cohen, Member; Sylvia Gil, Member; Meghan Jernigan, Member; Aiden Rouhani, Shorecrest Student Representative; Esme Harkess, Shorewood Student Representative; and Susana Reyes, Superintendent.

Board Operating Principles

Director Gil shared a draft version she had prepared of some suggested board operating principles. They were placed in the following categories: shared priority, collaboration, commitments, and responsibilities. A lengthy discussion ensued on this topic, which also included the possibility of incorporating student norms and principles. Thoughts and ideas should be sent to Superintendent Reyes. Student Reps Harkess and Rouhani were tasked with preparing some ideas for how that might look. Board officers will finalize the language edit (bullet #1) that was originally proposed in 2022 but hadn't yet been incorporated into the operating principles.

Board Trainings

Board members discussed required trainings that have already been taken as well as those still needing to be checked off the list. It was suggested that board members contact Kathie when they need to register for offerings. They can also submit completed training paperwork to Kathie and she will keep a spreadsheet.

Activity: Pending Reports, Presentations, Study Sessions Feedback

Board members were encouraged to prioritize topics for future meetings and/or Friday Briefings. Board members engaged in a third activity, whereby post-its and priority stars were placed on flip charts on the following pending topics:

- School safety and role/impacts of School Resource Officers
- Purpose, intentions, process for requested discussion
- Student discipline
- Community service opportunity awareness
- Sports recognition process
- Student advisory votes
- Assessments used in district and their purpose
- Highly Capable program
- Impacts of COVID on student learning

Group Professional Development

Seattle School Board President Liza Rankin conducted a very informative 90-minute session with board members regarding the best practices for roles of board members and what makes boards effective. She utilized the Board Time Use Evaluation framework document. It was highly recommended that student outcomes be 50% of the focus of school board meetings. Director Rankin shared a number of ideas for running shorter, more efficient meetings. Board members discussed the possibility of tracking how time is spent during board meetings, maybe from now through June of this year.

Wrap-Up

Board members and student reps wrapped up by sharing out their positive thoughts and feelings about this 2-day retreat. Notes from the retreat post-it activities would be shared in a Friday Briefing.

Adjournment: 5:08 p.m.

Emily Williams, School Board President

Attest: March 5, 2024

Dr. Susana Reyes, Secretary to Board of Directors