

BOARD STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2022

Call to Order

Vice President Williams called the Study Session of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order via Zoom at 6:15 p.m. on September 13, 2022.

Roll Call

Present: Emily Williams, Vice President; Sara Betnel, Director; Sarah Cohen, Director; Meghan Jernigan, Director; Helen Murphy, Shorewood Student Representative

Absent: Rebeca Rivera, President

The following topics were discussed:

2022 WSSDA General Assembly Positions Consideration

2023 Legislative Session Funding Requests

Director Sara Betnel presented.

Director Betnel thanked the group for their time and expressed her gratitude for this opportunity to be a collaborative process so she is confident she is representing the views of the Board. She shared a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics:

Overview of what will be reviewed during this Study Session:

- The role and purpose of General Assembly within WSSDA
- The two types of positions which comprise the Handbook
- The process of General Assembly & how positions are used
- This year's position proposals

The purpose of this conversation would be to get the Board's guidance on how to vote.

WSSDA's General Assembly

Membership is comprised of all school board directors across the state. It is an annual meeting to review, discuss and vote on existing positions.

Director Jernigan asked if there is a fee for each Board member, and if so, have we paid that fee? Director Betnel confirmed yes, there is a fee, and yes, the fees have been paid.

The types of positions and how they work

There are two types of positions that are part of the guiding documents for WSSDA, which include operating principles and positions. During General Assembly only positions are reviewed. Through the democratic processes that occur during General Assembly, school board members across the state establish permanent and legislative positions.

Permanent positions are the foundational core principles that represent WSSDA's beliefs and values. Legislative positions are adopted and revised around specific legislation that was done. These are items which will be discussed at General Assembly, and have the opportunity to be revised, added to or removed.

These positions, combined with WSSDA's legislative priorities, form WSSDA's advocacy platform.

Processes for General Assembly

In the spring there was an opportunity for directors and boards across the state to submit proposals on the positions to either create a new position, do a revision, or to consolidate. These are considered by committees formed within WSSDA comprised of members from each director area in the state. Shoreline is part of area two, and Director Betnel is one of the representatives.

The WSSDA Resolutions and Legislative Committees (comprised of members from each director area in the state) review permanent and legislative position proposals, respectively, in order to provide *do pass* or *do not pass* recommendations for each proposal. This is not a vote, but a recommendation for the larger membership to consider.

The final handbook (compiled by WSSDA) outlines the agenda for assembly with all position proposals received, the proposal rationales, and the committee recommendations for each. They recommend informational sessions and discussions like this study session.

Each board is granted one set of voting credentials which one board member can use to vote on behalf of their board. There are no additional revisions during the assembly, so what you see in the handbook is what is being considered. All board members are invited and welcome to attend the session and the voting credentials can be shared between members if needed.

Director Jernigan noted this can be a long experience and it is Director Betnel's third year in this role. She asked if there is a need for an additional person there to support Director Betnel. Director Betnel appreciated the support but feels it is fine and manageable on her part. She'll think about the possibility of passing the credentials if it feels it is needed and thanked Director Jernigan for the question. It would be great to have all members who want to attend be there. If others want to have a turn being a delegate, the credentials can be shared.

It was clarified that the General Assembly is being held virtually and accessible for WSSDA members across the state with no fee.

Positions after Assembly

Director Cohen asked if the number of proposals accepted diminishes the amount of attention given to each one. Does that reduce the time and attention each proposal gets and what are strategic thoughts around position selection? Director Betnel explained prioritization happens after assembly. The final list of positions is brought to the full membership to submit input on prioritization to create the list of WSSDA legislative priorities compiled by statewide membership. These priorities can be the same, similar or completely different to Shoreline School District legislative priorities. Prioritization can have competing interests, because something that might be a key priority for us in Shoreline may not be a key priority for other districts in other areas of the state. There are several places where the committee recommended consolidating two or more priorities. There is a strategic step happening when this occurs.

Director Jernigan asked who is on WSSDA's strategic advocacy team. The team consists of members hired by WSSDA. The director is Marissa Rathbone and other members include Logan Endres and Brittany Montano. They work at the direction of membership and cannot advocate or testify if there is not an adaptive position.

Position Discussion and Review

This is a chance for the Board to look at the position controls for this year, talk through questions and talk through asking Director Betnel to vote contrary to the committee recommendation. This will be easier than going through the large report of proposals.

Director Betnel highlighted a few she'd like the Board to be aware of and shared a spreadsheet she created to make this process easier. The WSSDA General Assembly Handbook is linked to the spreadsheet for reference. The spreadsheet is organized similar to the handbook according to permanent and legislative positions.

Proposals which received a *do pass* recommendation are organized as always within the following categories: learning, staff, capital facilities and school construction, funding and allocations, and governance. Proposals which received a *do not pass* recommendation are organized as: association operations, learning, staff, capital facilities and school construction, funding and allocations, and governance. There is a consent agenda which includes returning legislative positions.

In reviewing the spreadsheet information, Director Williams asked if the items worked on with board members could be highlighted so all can see where the interest areas are. Director Betnel is happy to do this and will show the group the area on the spreadsheet which addresses that question. A quick tutorial on items available on the created spreadsheet was given, and in the far-right column identifies which position proposals were submitted by Shoreline. These positions were brought to the full board and approved to be brought forward as the full board.

Director Jernigan asked if legislation that WSSDA did not choose to adopt is tracked in the spreadsheet or separate. Director Betnel said there was legislation to expand the qualifications for who is eligible to run and serve on school boards.

There are about ten items to bring forward for the Board to be aware of. The discussion continued, reviewing how to read and access information in the handbook as well as the information on the spreadsheet. In reviewing a position that Shoreline collaborated with Northshore and Seattle School Districts, the example of how the process works, how the rationale is documented and the final outcome accomplished was presented.

Reviewed items from spreadsheet included:

- Comprehensive school safety
 - Opportunity to study controversial issues – the title is also receiving a proposed revision
- Director Cohen asked if WSSDA's positions relate to legislative advocacy. Director Betnel replied they can all be used for legislative advocacy. Standing legislative positions are not in this handbook. If proposed legislation came forward around controversial issues, WSSDA's strategic advocacy team could use this position as support for whether to weigh in and how to weigh in.

Based on what Director Betnel has seen, WSSDA is stating each board will adopt their policies to create a climate for this, not that they want the Legislature to mandate certain studies and discussion of controversial issues; or even that the board would have to implement a policy.

The discussion continued on subjective language as well as confusion around the board's role and appropriateness of the language in the resolution. It was explained what next steps in such a discussion would be in the assembly. It is a complex process.

After more dialogue, Director Betnel confirmed with the group that, as the proposed amendment is worded, this would be a *do not pass* on the revision for our board.

- Standards Conduct
- Equity-Based Education System
Because it's a returning legislative position, and it received an amendment proposal, there will be a vote after an amendment proposal as to whether the membership wants to confirm it as a returning position.
- Student Reentry and Reengagement
- Sexual Harassment, Assault, and Abuse Prevention & Response
Creates a new position
- Social Media Reporting Point of Contact
- Enrichment Programs
This position is being considered for consolidation. If the revision passes on the position, and then the consolidation passes, it passes with the *original* position, not the amended position.

If there is a shared definition of enrichment programs, often times they are set up in the state statute. Director Betnel will follow up on what defines enrichment programs, and if we if we want to adjust the definition, how would that look.

- Student Voice in Governance
This is a permanent position we worked to revise for student representatives to start bringing forward more specific and detailed recommendations that came from the student representative network. It ensures boards not only consider student voice and government, but also that they make policies around it, itemizing that it is with K-12 students' input.
- Participation in Local Voters Pamphlet
Revise the statement so a person submitting a pro/con statement on a local levy item or ballot item must live in the district.

Director Betnel noted the funding requests will weave into legislative priorities that will be discussed over the next four months. This information is to give you an early view of that. Due to the limited time left, we will spend the rest of time getting through the positions so there is clear direction.

A few position revisions that received *do not pass* recommendations are proposing changing English to multilingual and include bilingual in the description of programs, and changing ELL to MLL. English language learner is what is in the statute, and the rationale is to keep what is in the permanent position consistent with what is in the statute.

Director Betnel's position on these *do not pass* recommendations would be to support passing them, contrary to the recommendation.

The next revision submitted was of a nondiscrimination permanent position to define what aspects of policy would need to be considered in order to promote and protect student and staff diversity, which is trying to be captured in this position. In this instance, what will be proposed is to make a statement around what was the intent of the proposed revision, but still not pass it now, because this position is becoming about something else. And next year submit a new proposal that will address how that can be a stronger position about diversity.

The resolution committee's rationale for a proposal for a new position around parent and family partnership *do not pass* is because there already is a position and these would start to compete with the existing position. It is not in the best interest of membership or service of advocacy to have two positions that are similar or potentially be competing.

Conservation and stewardship is a proposed amendment to add language that acknowledges climate change as an issue students and communities are facing and the necessity to collaborate with local tribes in developing policies that promote fiscal environmental conservations and stewardship. The intent is to continue to support the position.

Two new legislative positions:

1. A new position to support legislation that would set middle and high school start times as a standardized time across the state. Our board has received consistent and persistent input from our community around start times. I wanted to highlight this because this would support legislation that would specifically mandate that middle and high schools could not start any earlier than a certain time.
2. A new position to support legislation that would move school board director elections to even years, so elections occur in the same years as presidential and federal elections. The number of people voting tends to be larger in even years, and the diversity of people voting tends to be larger.

The group can have more time to consider and provide feedback as it was a lot to cover in the few minutes remaining in the meeting.

When asked for recommendations on how the Board may revisit this and provide feedback, Superintendent Reyes suggested a follow up study session or members could share with her and in turn Superintendent Reyes could pass along.

The spreadsheet is public, so a column could be added for board directors to add their input, which was done last year. Superintendent Reyes will confirm this type of feedback stays within the OPMA (Open Public Meetings Act) guidelines.

The Board agrees following up through discussion on the spreadsheet with the valuable information received today is the best way to move forward.

Director Cohen commented on the importance of prioritization with the important needs for advocacy this year. Some items would get less support than others due to the importance of such prioritization.

Vice President Williams thanked Director Betnel for the work and information provided in today's study session.

Adjournment: 7:46 p.m.

Rebeca Rivera, School Board President

Attest: November 1, 2022

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.