

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2022

Call to Order

President Rivera called the Study Session (Board Retreat) of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order via Zoom at 10:12 a.m. on Saturday, April 9, 2022.

Roll Call

Present: Rebeca Rivera, President; Emily Williams, Vice President; Sara Betnel, Member; Sarah Cohen, Member; Meghan Jernigan, Member; and Sky Stark, Shorecrest Student Representative.

Absent: Yubi Mamiya, Shorewood Student Representative.

The Board discussed in detail the following topic:

School Board Listening Sessions Format – Discussion and Planning

President Rivera opened the meeting and stated that the Board would be discussing the format for school board listening sessions. They would begin with a visioning process where each board member shared their individual ideas; then there would be time for reflecting and looking for commonalities in order to move forward with planning the first session.

President Rivera shared her screen, which contained some initial goals and thoughts for community listening sessions.

Goals:

- 1) For the board to hear community stories, issues, successes directly from students, staff, families
- 2) For the board to hear voices that we don't get to hear from – those uncomfortable with talking with the board, those that may not be able to access the Board, those who are distrustful of the board/government, those furthest from educational justice
- 3) For the Board to create policy, budget decisions and resolutions based on what we learn in community listening sessions.
- 4) For the Board to learn and act together

What it looks like:

- 1) All board members present (public meeting)
- 2) Allow BIPOC students and families to be centered
- 3) Meeting regularly
- 4) Topical or open?
- 5) In person and not recorded

Board members shared many ideas about their individual visions for the community listening sessions.

- Create multiple access points to the Board
- Welcoming format for community engagement, more informal, more community dialogue-centered
- Hope this improves our collective understanding of what is going well as well as challenges
- Incentivize--Provide child care, food, things that bring people together
- Mechanism for follow up and reflection loop so people don't feel like they share something and have the Board not do something in response
- Evaluation of the sessions is crucial as to how they evolve
- Multiple sessions—possibly seasonal
- Need to be anchored by a topic but flexible enough to discuss other subjects

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- Two-page flyer providing top of mind, easy reference outlining Board's role, district's role and decision-making tree on back for who to call once parents have already spoken with the teacher and the principal; reference tool to pick up on the way in
- Reminded of why the Board originally wanted to do this—because they were all feeling siloed in terms of how they could communicate as well as who they were hearing from
- Tanisha as a resource as to what has already been done; is our work separate or does it support?
- Board has a fiscal role but we take direction from the district finance team
- Board has a clear policy function so that could be a piece of the outreach
- 2-minute public comment seems to be an incomplete experience at board meetings
- Disentangle what the Board's role is from what the District's role is
- Circle of chairs
- In regard to post sessions, board members need to be a responsible conduit between the community and operational side of things
- Make it an ongoing conversation
- No derogatory speech about individuals
- Involve students in decision-making about the process; create and learn together
- Possibly consider a joint listening session with the administration so there isn't a need to say "we can listen but we can't take action "
- Close the loop in the room and summarize the meeting before the session ends
- Close the loop afterwards
- Identify a small number of community leaders who might be willing to moderate and they could also help in finding the topic; hopefully they would be a good representative sample of the community and could guide the Board in how best to serve the community
- Targeted approach to outreach invitations in order to reach those folks that don't traditionally use public comment or send emails
- No expectation by the Board of community providing the solutions
- Get specific in details about individuals' experiences with the district
- Opportunities to level set, close loops and include board education about who to talk to in the district
- Let community know when they would be hearing back from the Board
- Go to them (wherever that is)—community center, church halls, parks; doesn't have to be on school property
- Way for people to engage anonymously; clear set of rules for how that's done, e.g. Zoom
- Variety of moderators, e.g. students, leaders in the community
- Food, transportation or some type of reimbursement
- Clarifying questions responded to in the moment
- Have district administrators attend and be a resource
- Board members sitting in different spots in the room and people can have one-on-one with each as they walk around the room
- Sprinkled throughout the room (like Susana above)
- Outcomes – community knows these will be happening
- Increased connection, transparency, responsiveness and unity with students, family, staff and community
- Insight into what data can't tell us
- Collective input and reflection and feedback on the lived experiences of our students and staff
- Student-led or community led
- Topics submitted by students and families
- Create norms around it being a brave, safe space
- Multiple sessions during a week on different days in different places each season

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- Opportunities for multilingual stakeholders - translators
- Child care; children not segregated away from adults
- Include an amount of time for people to ask questions not related to the specific topic
- Multiple modes of input; what other modes of listening can be facilitated? Speaking, writing, etc.
- Two opportunities—one is to hear from community on budget priorities; and the other one is that we have a class of seniors getting ready to graduate
- Time and resources – hiring a moderator would take a budget
- What is the difference between our listening sessions and the district listening sessions and what would be the uniqueness around the board listening sessions?
- Some issues from community may inform policy and budget; this could be part of the education piece
- Would like to plan something for May as a first step
- Find moderators that are really skilled and can handle multiple issues and navigate feelings but takes lots of staff time and volunteer time
- Panel of board members – field questions

Outcomes:

The Board came to consensus on scheduling the first listening session with 12th graders from both high schools on May 16, 2022 in the evening (60-90 minutes but only an hour for the circle). This could be held at one of the high schools or at the Shoreline Center (a reservation was made for the Shoreline Room). There would be a period of mingling before the session formally begins. Board members would each take a moment to introduce themselves at the beginning of the session. Board members and participants would sit in a circle. There would be snacks provided. There could possibly be a two-page information handout provided on the work of the Board (Sara Betnel offered to develop). It would be held in person only; not in a hybrid format. Students will be asked to share answers to a couple of questions:

- 1) What do you wish you would have had in your school experience?
- 2) What is going right and what are you grateful for? What do you hope never goes away?

Students would be given opportunities to ask questions of the Board as well. The follow-up to the event would include a summary of themes at the end and then acknowledging the dialogue in a written document that could be distributed afterwards. Part of the response loop would include accountability—how is the Board accountable to the challenges? Possibly there could be a way for students who were unable to attend to also provide feedback.

Any decisions not made at this school board retreat would be decided by President Rivera and Vice-President Williams.

Adjournment: 1:05 p.m.

Dr. Rebeca Rivera, School Board President

Attest: June 7, 2022

Dr. Susana Reyes, Secretary to Board of Directors