

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2023

This entire meeting can viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/891922854?share=copy>

Call to Order

President Cohen called the Regular Board Meeting of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order in the Board Room of the Administrative Offices at the Shoreline Center at 6:03 p.m. on December 5, 2023. This meeting was also available to the community via Zoom.

Roll Call

Sarah Cohen, President; Emily Williams, Vice President; Sara Betnel, Director; Rebeca Rivera, Director; Aiden Rouhani and Lily Fredericks, Shorecrest Student Representatives; Esme Harkess, Shorewood Student Representative.

Absent: Meghan Jernigan, Director and Mitchell Ichinkhorloo, Shorewood Student Representative.

Land Acknowledgement

President Cohen provided a brief land acknowledgement.

Celebrations, Recognitions, Introductions and Gratitude

None

Oath of Office and Reorganization of the Board

The oath of office was administered by Superintendent Reyes to newly elected board member, Sylvia Gil, and re-elected board member, Sara Betnel.

MOTION NO. 10: President Cohen moved for the nomination of Emily Williams as President of the Shoreline Board of Directors, effective December 5, 2023, and also moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Director Betnel and carried unanimously.

New President Williams opened the nominations for the position of Vice-President of the Shoreline School District Board of Directors.

MOTION NO. 11: Director Cohen moved for the nomination of Sara Betnel as Vice President of the Shoreline Board of Directors, effective December 5, 2023, and also moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Director Gil and carried unanimously.

Agenda Review

None

Comments from the Community

President Williams read the instructions for the community comment process.

The following individuals spoke in person:

- 1) Michael Price, Parent of Jewish Students at Kellogg and Shorecrest – Expressed safety concerns about the topic of the Hamas war against Israel being brought into our schools, specifically about a

protest rally organized by students and held at Shorecrest High School. There were shouts that many Jews would find intimidating and they were made from a loud speaker outside the building. Secondly, it had been said that teachers were excusing students from class to attend the rally. This appears to be in violation of district policies. He submitted a more lengthy written comment that can be found on the online agenda packet under “5. Comments from the Community”.

- 2) Anna Deliganis, Mother of 4 Students and Shorewood Alumna – Read the land acknowledgement from the Suquamish Tribe, which is our nearest federally-recognized Tribe. They are nine miles from Shoreline School District land and they have a long history in this area. The Thunderbird mascot was removed from Shorewood without consultation with the Suquamish Tribe, which is supportive of the mascot. Considerable funds were spent in changing the mascot. She asked that the Board reconsider their decision.

The following individuals spoke over Zoom

- 3) Jill Steinberg, Former District Parent and Family Advocate – Spoke to the hardship in terms of child care options for many families created by the annual two weeks of early dismissals (one in November and one in March) for elementary conferences. Asked that the Board review the quantity of those days, particularly in light of the language in the SEA CBA (page 208) about the intent of these conferences and whether or not this is equitable for all families.
- 4) Ann Dame, Einstein Librarian – When looking at declining enrollment, is the District speaking to families who are leaving in order to determine their reasons? Also, are we doing anything to keep them, e.g. reducing class sizes?

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 24 Regular Board Meeting had been submitted to the Board for their review and approval.

MOTION NO. 12: Director Betnel moved that the Board approve the minutes of the October 24 Regular Board Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Director Cohen and carried unanimously.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

President Williams announced that the Board had an opportunity to ask questions on the consent agenda and have them answered prior to this meeting. The following consent agenda was presented for adoption:

- a. Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, Donations
 - Lake Forest Park Elementary - \$30,500.00 – Lake Forest Park PTA – Various ASB and General Fund Projects
- b. Adoption of 2023-2024 School Improvement Plans (SIPs)
- c. Parkwood Elementary School Bi-Directional Amplifier Replacement Project – Budget Authorization and Award of Contract – PowerCom
- d. Authority to Bid Items as Required – September 2023 to August 2024
- e. Approval of Extended Field Trips
- f. Approval of Personnel
 - 1) Certificated
 - 2) Classified
 - 3) Administrative
- g. Approval of Payroll and Vouchers

MOTION NO. 13: Director Cohen moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, items 8a through 8g, which is attached hereto and becomes a part hereof. The motion was seconded by Director Betnel and carried unanimously.

As of December 5, 2023, the Board, by a unanimous vote, approved for payment, those vouchers described as follows: November Payroll Warrants #448389-448418 and Electronic Transfers totaling \$12,428,448.98; Reconciliation of Warrants Issued Between November 3 and November 17, 2023 – General Fund Warrants #102969-102971, 102972-103098, 232400142-232400152, 103135-103222, 232400156, 232400158-232400176, 103245-103328, and 232400185-232400201, totaling \$1,010,561.42; Capital Projects Fund Warrants #103223-103224 and 103329-103330, totaling \$1,426,465.96; and Student Body Fund Warrants #103099-103134, 232400153-232400153-232400155, 203225-103244, 232400157, 232400177-232400184, 103331-103352, and 232400202-232400206, totaling \$121,878.88; and Private Purpose Trust Fund Warrant #103353 in the amount of \$2,800.00; for a grand total of \$14,990,155.24.

Reports and Presentations

Before and After School Child Care Update

Angela Von Essen, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Operations, presented.

Ms. Von Essen shared the presentation, which can be viewed here:

<https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/884764>

Board members asked for clarification as to how families will be communicated with regarding registration. Ms. Von Essen responded that communication would be coming directly from the YMCA. Superintendent Reyes added that the YMCA would be present at Kinderfest on January 20 at the Shoreline Center. They would also provide open houses in the schools/areas that don't currently house the YMCA program. The District will also be sharing information in the weekly update through ParentSquare. The Y has confirmed that they can handle the same capacity as is in place currently. The link that was included in the PowerPoint for this presentation can take families directly to the YMCA's website to find additional information about subsidies and scholarships. (<https://www.seattlemca.org/support/webform-financial-scholarship-school-based-programs>)

Student Rep Fredericks shared her childhood afterschool experience and expressed appreciation for this service being provided at all sites.

School Capacity Review and Closure Consideration

Presenters:

Brian Schultz, Assistant Superintendent

Mike VanOrden, District Academic Officer

Mr. Schultz and Mr. VanOrden shared the presentation, which can be viewed here:

<https://app.eduportal.com/documents/view/884763>

Mr. Schultz provided an overview of past processes as well as the current situation. Mr. VanOrden reviewed the very specific purpose/charge for the task force.

To make a recommendation about the most viable elementary school for potential closure

- ***The task force will bring the recommendation in the fall of 2024***
- ***Implications and factors related to a closure will be shared with the recommendation***
- ***Any closure, if implemented, would not take place until the 2025-2026 school year***

The decision whether or not to act on the recommendation would be at the discretion of the Board and Superintendent. This takes the pressure off the committee/task force to try to figure all that out. Additionally, the recommended process and the timeline were shared with the Board. Mr. VanOrden noted a typo on the timeline (slide 16); the second box in from the right should say Spring 2025, not Spring 2024. Mr. Schultz added that a project like this is typically a two-year process.

The Board and student reps engaged in a question and answer discussion. It was reiterated that the Board would make the final decision. It could be that they don't agree with either the recommendation or the choice of the viable school. The Board could say yes or no or it could ask the committee to go back and answer some additional questions, which theoretically could include reviewing different schools. Mr. Schultz added that in the previous process (2006-2007), North City and Sunset were the recommended choices for closure; however, other information was shared as well, based on current information at that time. It's been a long time so likely that data is irrelevant at this point. He looks forward to getting updated information on demographics and building conditions and then in the fall, enrollment data.

Board members expressed that this analysis is a very important piece for consideration in terms of short term and long term planning, e.g. strategic planning, facilities planning and budget planning. There are many uncertainties around enrollment, changing demographics, family decisions around schools in our community, as well as different types of housing coming in and their impacts.

In response to a statement by a board member about being sure to include outreach to all the various parent groups (not just the PTSA), Mr. Schultz stated that they are hoping the different stakeholder groups, including the Board, would assist in recommending individuals to serve on the committee/task force.

There was some discussion about moving up the timeline for the recommendation, possibly in the spring so that board members could include this information with budget adoption decisions. The presenters said that could be done but there could be some challenges. Mr. Schultz stated, "If you name a school in the spring, I'll be candid with you, there's a real mourning that goes with that and you're asking folks to go be in a school all the way through that coming year and the summer before—yet, that's clear communication . . . There's a lot of elements to think about. We do know that we want to see the enrollment in the fall as it will be a real important data point for us and we will have budget information through the summer. But we're flexible." Additionally, there is a strong desire for families to know by Kinderfest of January 2025 where their children will be going the following fall. Mr. VanOrden added that having the decision on the timeline at the start of the committee's work would be best so that the members know their target in advance.

There was consensus from the Board and the student representatives about moving forward with the formation of a task force. The Board also expressed appreciation for the district administration taking on three very large initiatives at the same time—strategic planning, budget advisory team, and school closure considerations. They were also appreciative of those serving on these committees.

At 7:55 p.m., the Board took a break and resumed at 8:10 p.m.

Board Requested Discussion and Future Topics

Director Cohen stated that since Director Betnel was now taking on the position of Vice President of the Board, there should be some assistance provided to her in the Legislative Representative role.

President Williams asked if there should also be a discussion about the board committees now that Director Gil had joined the Board.

At President Williams suggestion, Superintendent Reyes provided suggestions for the upcoming school board retreat—possibly the weekend of January 20 and 21, 2024—either one day or parts of both days. Superintendent Reyes stated she would reach out to Director Jernigan to see what works for her. A potential topic might include training around the amount of time boards spend talking about students and how that impacts student outcomes. Seattle School Board directors have offered to do the training. Other topics might include school board governance models and a review of board operating principles.

Student Rep Rouhani asked if student advisory votes could also be considered at some point. Director Betnel suggested that the student reps start the process by talking amongst themselves as to how to move forward and then it will be discussed as a full board.

Superintendent Reyes announced that staff members from the OSPI Office of Native Education would be sharing information on government-to-government relationships, tribal sovereignty and tribal consultation processes at a school board study session on January 23.

Director Gil stated she would like to learn more about the impacts of COVID on the District and where we are now.

Action Items

None

Reports and Communications – Board Members and Superintendent

Student Reps Rouhani and Harkess shared recent and upcoming activities at both Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools. Board members and the superintendent spoke about recent events they had attended at our schools and the WSSDA Annual Conference as well as their plans for upcoming activities. Board members and student reps compared calendars in order to come up with some possible dates for community listening sessions in the coming months.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment: 8:39 p.m.

Emily Williams, School Board President

Attest: January 30, 2024

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.