

BOARD STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2022

Call to Order

President Rivera called the Study Session of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on May 17, 2022.

Roll Call

Present: Rebeca Rivera, President; Emily Williams, Vice President; Sara Betnel, Director; Meghan Jernigan, Director; Sarah Cohen, Director, Sky Stark, Shorecrest Student Representative, and Yubi Mamiya, Shorewood Student Representative

The following topic was discussed:

Student Board Representative Framework

Yubi Mamiya, Shorewood Student Representative and Sky Stark, Shorecrest Student Representative, presented.

Proposal for the Expansion of Student Voice in the Shoreline School District

Values

- Equity
- Represent Historically-Marginalized Populations
- Expand Student Voice

By having these three values, the students felt they had effectively grounded this entire proposal. When brainstorming and discussing with stakeholders different options for what could be in this proposal, these are the values that stood out.

Timeline of Process (for developing the proposal)

- Started at WSSDA Conference (November 2021), learning and communicating with the other student representatives
 - Opportunity to reflect on how our district is doing things and ways we can improve
- Drafted initial concepts for changes, identifying problem areas
- Brainstorming with key stakeholders, thinking through different ideas
- Sky and Yubi got together on draft language and proposal (December 2021)
- Started talking through different proposals
- Showed a draft proposal to student leaders (ASB, Clubs, Affinity Groups) at both high schools (early January 2022)
- Two meetings with Shorecrest and Shorewood Activity Coordinators
- SC Draft Language at revision 5, approved by Activity Coordinator (February/March)
- Meeting with Superintendent Reyes and Activity Coordinators

Examples of Student Voice in Relation to School Boards Around the State

Presented and compared four other school districts: Seattle Public Schools, Pasco School District, Highline School District and Federal Way Public Schools

Seattle Public Schools

- Superintendent's Student Advisory Board
 - Students from 17 high schools, all grades, apply to the group
- 3, 5, or 7 school board student members
 - Act as advisors to the Board on the special committees
 - Students can re-apply for a second one-year term
 - Juniors or Seniors
- Application/Interview process, nominations by students, selection by School Board.

Pasco School District

- Three Student Representatives
 - Two-Year Terms
 - Serve as advisors to the Board
 - Helps to orient new student representatives
- Superintendent Student Action Council
- Application/Interview process, selection by Board, Superintendent, Principals, and Departing SB Rep.

Highline Public Schools

- Superintendent's Student Leadership Team
 - Provides input on strategic plan refresh
 - Focus on student and community topics
 - Members represent high school campuses
 - One-year terms, for any 10/11/12th graders
 - Superintendent not always present.
- Application/lottery process, specifics unclear, uses "recruit", some filtering step may occur.

Federal Way Public Schools

- Scholar Representatives to the Board (two)
 - Provides reports to the Board, after approval from comms team.
- Scholar Advisory to the Superintendent team
- Application/Interview process, selected by Board and Supt.

Key Findings

- Understanding Power Structures
 - Method of Representative Selection
 - Representing the students? Or the Board?
 - Degrees of separation
 - Power concentration vs. delegation
- Application in Shoreline
 - Continuation of current selection method
 - Potential future methods of selection
 - Future work anticipated beginning fall 2022

Three Core Elements

1. Evolving Responsibilities of Representatives
 - Foundation for the Future
2. Student Committee to Represent Student Voice to the School Board
3. Two-Year Term, JR & SR Rep, Responsibilities

Evolving Responsibilities for Student School Board Representatives

- 1-year term -> 2-year term
- Leading the Future Student Committee for the School Board Representation
 - Student leaders uplifting other student leaders
 - More people bringing student voice to district level as currently there are only two of us and it is difficult to represent all the students in the district
- Future responsibilities could expand in the direction of advisory votes
 - Other student leaders at a statewide district level getting more involved in voting rights
 - Student reps having more capabilities and grounding when the time comes to expand their voting rights

Student Rep Stark explained that the two representatives were tasked with representing all students in the district and when interacting with state organizations, representing all Shoreline students.

Although this is possible, it is very difficult when there are not dedicated systems of communication to get a clearer understanding of what is happening in elementary, middle and even high schools with students with whom you may never interact. That is where the Student Committee for School Representation comes in.

Student Committee for School Board Representation

Co-chaired by student representatives and district-run

- Advisory body to the Student Representatives
- Similar to "Superintendent Student Advisory" groups elsewhere
 - Not with the idea of advising the Superintendent, but incentivizing student representatives
 - Act as the communication bridge to the student body and the Board, including the Superintendent
- Schools choose how to send representatives, start with middle and high schools
 - Want dedicated representatives who have made commitment to attend meetings
 - That gives a baseline of people who can guide others
 - Opportunity to become more aware of how the Board operates and be more engaged in this work and elevating student voice
 - Raise profile of these positions to encourage more applicants and higher involvement in the future
 - Hope is to expand to elementary schools
 - Make it easy as possible for everyone to engage
 - Every student feels welcome, limiting equity concerns
- Coordinated by Superintendent's Office and the Student School Board Representatives

Student Rep Stark summarized that this is a group to give information to the student representatives, coordinated by the Superintendent's Office, with the goal of concentrating student voice and giving us the widest understanding while also cultivating student engagement with local government and making sure that all ages get their voice heard.

Two-Year Terms

Selected end of sophomore year.

Each high school selects a junior rep, elevates the now senior rep.

- Selected according to school's ASB Constitution
- Junior Student Representative
 - Works in absence of Senior
 - Training Phase
 - Delegated Responsibilities
- Senior Student Representative
 - Mentors Junior
 - Empowered to speak for the student body

Student Rep Stark explained that this position is expected to speak with people at the state and federal level and interact with members of the legislature. That becomes challenging when we don't have the policy language or building blocks to back that up. As we're supposed to be representatives of the student body, and as we are going to be maintaining a democratic selection process, it is our recommendation that we expand the authority of the student representatives.

Future Action Pathway

This shows from when the proposal was finalized and no changes to the proposed draft language. Illustrating how different groups have been involved, how we have been circulating with key holders - assuring everyone's on the same page, and educating people.

What's next

- (done) District Admin Circulation (April)

Study Session Minutes – May 17, 2022

- (done) Circulation to ACT CORDS (April)
- (done) Meeting with Dr. Brandon-Felder (April)
- (done) Meeting with Director Betnel and Director Williams (May)
- School Board Report (May)
- Revision, formalized language (May)
- Second reading of the cumulative proposal for school board action/approval on June 7

Implementation Timeline

If the Board adopts this proposal in full, the current timeline is projected as follows:

- September - October 2022
 - Student Committee for School Board Representation is formed, co-chaired by senior Student Representatives. Starts working with Building Admin Teams at SC, SW, KMS, EMS and District
 - New Student Representatives start work on Phase 3 problem statements
 - Language for ASB Constitution Revisions is finalized by Justices (language is already drafted)
 - Constitution Revision is presented to Student Council(s)
- October 2022
 - Constitution amendments are adopted by the Student Councils, goes to Board for approval
 - Start of selection process for junior representatives
 - Implementation of committee for school board representation, selection process adopted
- November 2022 - December 2022
 - Selection of Junior Representative
- January 2023
 - Operation of Committee for School Board Representation
- May 2023
 - Selection of new Junior Representatives
 - Elevation of Junior to Senior Representative

Student Rep Mamiya emphasized that in implementing this, she and Sky need to work closely with the new incoming student representatives to be sure they're up to date on everything. It will be dependent on their vision so that is why the timeline is a little bit looser.

Director Jernigan offered her gratitude for how much thought and consideration went into mapping out a way forward. "This is generational thinking that you're engaged in. I'm impressed and grateful."

President Rivera thanked the student reps for all the work done to improve the Board and student representative system. She noted there are limitations to what a Student Committee for the Board would look like, versus a Student Superintendent Advisory Group, which is broader based. Would that committee be open to both and giving input on many different things?

Student Rep Stark noted one of the primary goals, specifically in this group, will be to make the barrier to access as low as possible. The goal is to focus on student voice being directed through students, keeping it as authentic as possible for as long as possible, while supporting the students who provide insights. No matter the age, giving space to authentically host those insights and allowing these representatives to either act on them or to direct the students to the most effective place for them to share.

Director Jernigan feels like this model activates leadership everywhere and that's what's so powerful about it.

President Rivera acknowledged the need and possibilities of allowing more direct communication with students. Would we also have a Superintendent Student Advisory Group and would the same students be involved in both? That would take a lot of time and energy.

Student Rep Stark replied it may be redundant to have this committee and a Superintendent Student Advisory Group, but don't want to rule that out. They would recommend the Board allow this committee as a pilot program next year to see how it develops and interacts with middle and high school students. Then see if it makes sense to open up to elementary students, along with investigating the possibility to have a separate way of communicating directly to the Superintendent for students.

Superintendent Reyes thanked the student reps for the presentation and the work done this year. Regarding the question around the Superintendent Student Advisory Group as compared to the Student Committee for School Board, these are different in the sense that the Student Advisory Group would work directly with the Superintendent to review different topics. Then that student group, reconnecting with fellow students, would engage throughout the year. There could be a variety of topics. A Superintendent Student Advisory Group, in collaboration with the Superintendent, can develop different plans to move work forward into the schools. They also could develop a presentation to the Board sharing updates on how that work is going. The Student Committee for School Board Representation can serve that purpose. Students across the system, representing their schools, can connect directly with the student board reps and check in on topics. It is a way for student board representatives to engage with students across the system that can either lead to topics being brought to the Board, or helping students who are requesting support to connect where needed at their school level.

President Rivera clarified her question was not about either/or, but both/and. There is a need for both things.

Superintendent Reyes noted there may be some redundancy with both. Something to think about is the feasibility of having two groups. She would be really engaged in the process to be of service in a way that's going to be the most impactful and meaningful for the students.

President Rivera stated that when the juniors are elected for this year, it is in their junior year. In future years, would they be elected at the end of their sophomore year?

Student Rep Stark clarified yes; this would be a single year event to transition from our current system to the future system.

Director Williams thanked the student reps and is excited to see what this will look like in the future. Director Cohen also thanked the student reps for the impressive body of work they presented. She commented on the model focusing on representation to the Board, rather than to the District or Superintendent, which has a potential to be really powerful as an experience and engagement in local government. It also has a potential to be frustrating because the Board's action is limited. She thinks there is a lot of value of a larger group of students thinking about how to influence the changes they want within the system that has a lot of constraints. It has potential as an educational experience for the involved students to be powerful in a different way than going to the Superintendent, and maybe more directly see an operational change. It's clear the value your work brings to the Board, student voice, and what student representatives bring to the District and the Board. What do you think this position offers to the student reps and to other students involved? We hope it's a valuable experience. As you're closing out your year and reimagining this, what do you see as the value and how do we continue that?

Student Rep Mamiya appreciated the question and was really excited when starting in this role and the ability to see herself in a leadership role, especially coming from a background that's not normally as represented in politics. She didn't see other Asian American people going into politics or civic engagement, and never saw herself doing that at all. After this experience, she wants to get involved

in policymaking in local government. Seeing herself in that role and being able to do it is really cool. That is why she is working so hard with Sky to expand the number of people who have this opportunity, to give students a chance to see themselves in that role as well. It's one thing for people to tell you you can do this, but it's totally another thing to actually be in the room as a leader, with the leaders of the Board.

Student Rep Stark explained that they were always wanting to use their skillset and help people, and the best way to do that was be involved in government. They had the idea of this being what they wanted to do, be a servant to the people in government – but now they know that is what they want to do. They will be deferring university for a year to assist on midterms and work at the state level, continuing to engage and advocate before going to university. “The big opportunity for me was being sure of myself, that this is what I want to do and commit a few years or longer to this kind of work. It's incredible as a senior to know what you want to do. Not only do I know what I want to do, I've gotten to do it! Doing what you want as a career is very powerful. The best way to learn something is by doing it, having engaging conversations, asking questions with people who are knowledgeable. Also learning that you belong, you can be a leader too, while learning details of a complicated system as well seeing the higher-level perspective.”

Director Jernigan stated that it is OK to graduate with more questions than answers. You don't have to have it all figured out, and thanked both reps for pointing out that learning will be continual and ongoing for them.

Director Betnel thanked the student reps for the amazing work they've done. The Board wants more student voice that directs Board decision making. The vision laid out is relational, accessible, and diverse. She likes starting with middle and high school students. We heard from middle school students wanting a voice and to be involved. There are many opportunities in the model for the next round of leaders to carry forward. “It is a great legacy you are leaving and I'm proud to serve alongside you and look forward to working with your successors. The one question that remains for me is how best can we support student leaders that come into the role and serve on that committee? I invite any recommendations you have that we can offer to support the work of student leaders so this relationship is reciprocal.”

Representative Stark responded that a list had been started with items mentioned as well as items needing to be done and things to know.

President Rivera asked that the list be shared with the Board, and asked for a few examples from the list to be shared now.

Representative Stark noted it is important the incoming representatives, from the beginning, connect with WSSDA and the student representative network, understand recommendations put forward, be sure they have contacts in those meetings and get an introduction of the District.

Representative Mamiya agreed and added the ability to meet with leaders in the district and learn from them is helpful. This is a good space for finding shared passions to work towards in the future.

Director Betnel noted both student representatives would be speaking at a WSSDA session the following day around equity, leadership, and the transformational impact of student voice. You haven't just been giving leadership here in the district, but you both have been doing work regionally across the state, continuing to give of yourselves.

Representative Stark noted they are not in the session together, but both will be in different sessions, so if you want to see all of it, you'll have to join both sessions.

Study Session Minutes – May 17, 2022

Director Jernigan thanked the student representatives for elevating the Board to meet students where they are and also pointing out where there are areas for improvement. Your work is generational and will last beyond your time at Shoreline Public Schools.

President Rivera thanked Yubi and Sky, excited for their future as well as working with the next student reps in bringing on more students to work with the Board.

Superintendent Reyes thanked the student reps for learning and growing with her this past year and is excited to see their work impact students for years to come.

President Rivera thanked everyone and closed the study session.

Adjournment: 7:04 p.m.

Rebeca Rivera, School Board President

Attest: June 29, 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.