

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2023

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 6:00 p.m. on January 10, 2023. This meeting was also available to the community via Zoom.

Roll Call

Sarah Cohen, President; Emily Williams, Vice President; Sara Betnel, Member; Meghan Jernigan, Member Rebeca Rivera, Member (*attended remotely*); Luke Smith, Shorecrest Student Representative; and Helen Murphy, Shorewood Student Representative.

Land Acknowledgement

President Cohen provided a brief land acknowledgement.

Celebrations, Recognitions, Introductions and Gratitude

None

Agenda Review

No changes

Comments from the Community

The majority of the following individuals spoke regarding their displeasure with the Board's desire to recover the recommended 4% ending fund balance in a single year. The target of \$18-19 million in cuts is equivalent to 123 full-time teachers or the entire SESPAs bargaining unit. The Board was urged to reconsider the charge to a longer timeline for restoring the ending fund balance. The following individuals were in the room to make comments:

- 1) Matt Reiman, SEA President (spoke on behalf of SEA, SESPAs, BAT – asked for and received permission to speak for approximately 2 minutes 40 seconds as he was speaking on behalf of three groups) – Urged the Board to reconsider their charge; informed the Board that SEA and SESPAs members of the Budget Advisory Team (BAT) were resigning from the committee, effective immediately.
- 2) Eileen Wood-Lim, SESPAs Co-President – Don't rip off the band aid in one year; the District will bleed for far longer than if you slow down; please allow three to four years to heal.
- 3) Claudia Macin, Shorecrest Parent – Asked for Spanish interpreter; Dr. Reyes provided interpretation. Her daughter receives special education services at Shorecrest. Reported that over the past couple of months, her resources for math have been reduced with no explanation.
- 4) Jessica Menendez-Macin, Shorecrest Student and Daughter of Claudia (above) – Spoke about the elimination of the math club associated with an AVID class mentioned above by her mother.
- 5) Priscilla Santiago, Shorecrest Junior – Also spoke about the services that were cut at Shorecrest; urged Board to slow down and not make all cuts in one year.
- 6) Claire Hammill, Ridgecrest 2nd Grade Teacher, Shorewood Graduate, Parent – Expressed concern about the short timeline for making cuts; invited board members to visit her classroom in order to see how difficult the job of an educator is.
- 7) Molly Boone, Ridgecrest Teacher and Shorewood Graduate, Parent – Concerned about the Board's aggressive approach to correcting the financial situation; shared her experience and that of her colleagues with spending money out-of-pocket on research-based materials. Encouraged Board to use data to inform their decision making.
- 8) Anne Dame, Einstein Librarian – Shared a recent experience of doing the job of three people one day when others were unavailable; this could be the norm next year if the District makes \$19 million in budget cuts.

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- 9) Scott Anderson, 30-year Shoreline Resident, Parent, Taxpayer – Provided a historical financial perspective and stated that proposed hurried timeline for budget cuts will hurt the students and teachers.
- 10) Shereen Allen, Kellogg Teacher and MLL Team Member – Wanted to know where the Race and Equity Tool was in this decision-making process. Who is speaking for those who are the farthest from justice? “How does money in a bank show them that we really want to bridge that gap and close that distance?”
- 11) Laura Drinkwine, Staff Member for 30 Years and Shorecrest Parent – Spoke in support of the extended care program. Before COVID, the program was growing significantly; she feels the program could flourish if allowed to remain—the community wants and needs it.
- 12) Marcy Caruso, Shorecrest Teacher and Kellogg Parent – Spoke on behalf of recently hired BIPOC educators and the insecurity that budget conversations have created for them.
- 13) Laura Gamble, Graduation Success Coordinator and SESPAs Rep @ Shorecrest – Cannot see how building the budget back in one year makes any sense, particularly for our high school students as they work toward graduation. We can’t lose any more staff.
- 14) Christina Simmons, Highland Terrace BIPOC Teacher – Invited the Board last year twice to visit her classroom but no one has come. You are going to lose teachers of color if you try to make all these cuts in one year.

The following individuals made comments over Zoom:

- 15) Lanaya Waldron, Briarcrest and Kellogg Parent – Thanked the Board for their continued service; echoed concerns around the short timeline considering the magnitude of the proposed cuts. As a result of the COVID fiasco, our students need more, not less. Encouraged all to contact their legislators about funding shortages.
- 16) Lily Fredericks, Shorecrest AVID Student – Shared her family experience—siblings have not been able to go to college, two brothers nearly didn’t graduate. These cuts are hurting the most vulnerable in our schools.
- 17) Johanna Polit, Ridgecrest Math Specialist (4th Grade) – Shared that 80% of her students are at least one grade level below 4th grade math; half of them (40% of her students) are two grade levels below 4th grade and another half (20% of her students) are three grade levels below 4th grade, and 20% of her students are on grade level. Her profound belief is that this is a result of the learning loss during the pandemic. This is typical of 4th graders. Please serve the students who are in front of us today. Spread the cuts over four years or even eight years, but not one year.
- 18) Kim Alford, Einstein Office Staff, Former District Student and Parent – The cuts involved in building back the reserve in one year would be similar to the disastrous cuts that took place in the early 70s when the levy failed. Please take more time for this process.
- 19) Kim ?, Einstein and Shorewood Parent – Had two questions—why is the school district facing such a large financial gap; and why does the school board want to close the gap in just one year? Her fear is that students will be impacted in a very harsh way and that we will lose students, teachers and staff.
- 20) Diana Cruz, Kellogg Special Ed Teacher – Teachers have been asked to do so much with large caseloads. We need to keep supporting our students academically; doesn’t know how much more they can handle, especially after what they went through during the pandemic.
- 21) Diana Antunes, Meridian Park Parent and Brookside Paraeducator – Expressed her support to her coworkers; she sees every day how stretched everyone is with the financial restrictions presently in effect.
- 22) Andrew Ely, Shorewood CTE Teacher – Suggested looking at diversifying income streams and revenue sources much like what businesses have done; this would benefit our students, e.g. production systems that might add value both financially and educationally to the school system.

President Cohen sincerely thanked all who attended and shared their thoughts, both in person and online. She also explained that school board agendas are set in advance and school boards must follow what's on the agenda; the budget situation was not a topic for this meeting. The Board was listening but could not respond to comments. She also encouraged all to contact legislators about the ongoing shortfall in revenue to schools. School boards, unfortunately, have very limited ability to affect the revenue stream.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 15 Regular Board Meeting had been submitted to the Board for review and approval.

MOTION NO. 21: Director Jernigan moved that the Board approve the minutes of the November 15 Regular Board Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Director Williams and carried unanimously.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

President Cohen 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
 - 1) Parkwood Elementary- \$7,125.00 – Parkwood PTA – Classroom Field Trips/Enrichment
 - 2) Shorecrest High School - \$5,000.00 – Jonathan Lewis – Band Trips, Music, Lessons
 - 3) District-Wide - \$5,500.00 – Shoreline Foundation – STAMP and ALTA Testing
- b. Approval of 2022-2023 VEBA Memoranda of Understanding with Shoreline Principals Association (SPA), Shoreline Center Administrators (SCA), Prof-Tech and Confidential Employees
- c. Approval of 2022-2023 VEBA Memorandum of Understanding with Shoreline Education Association (SEA) Employees
- d. Approval of 2022-2023 VEBA Memorandum of Understanding with Shoreline Educational Support Professionals Association (SESPA)
- e. Approval of 2022-2023 VEBA Memorandum of Understanding with Maintenance Employees
- f. Approval of Shoreline Athletics and Activities Association (SAAA) Final 2022-2023 Salary Schedule
- g. Brookside Elementary School Fire Alarm Replacement Project – Total Project Budget and Award of Contract – Brink Electric, LLC
- h. Approval of Updated 2022-2023 Transportation Trip Rate, Effective January 11, 2023
- i. Approval of Extended Field Trips
- j. Approval of Personnel
 - 1) Certificated – Recommended for Election, Leave of Absence
 - 2) Certificated – Out-of-Endorsement Assignments
 - 3) Classified – New Hires, Resignations/Retirements
- k. Approval of Vouchers

MOTION NO. 22: Director Betnel moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, items 7a through 7k, which is attached hereto and becomes a part hereof. The motion was seconded by Director Williams and carried unanimously.

As of January 10, 2023, the Board, by a unanimous vote, approved for payment, those vouchers described as follows: Reconciliation of Warrants Issued Between December 2 and December 23, 2022 – General Fund Warrants #98400-98466, 222300234-222300271, 98471-98561, 222300289, 222300291-222300292, 98590-98676, 222300294-222300337, 98701-98747 and 222300338, totaling \$969,624.44; Capital Projects Fund Warrants #98467-98470, 98562-98565 and 98677-98678, totaling \$203,467.36; and Student Body Fund Warrants #222300272-222300288, 98566-98589, 222300290, 222300293, 98679-98700, 98748-98757 and 222300339, totaling \$104,745.22; for a grand total of \$1,277,837.02.

Reports and Presentations

First Reading: District Instructional Materials Committee (DIMC) Recommendation

Mike VanOrden, District Academic Officer, presented.

Mr. VanOrden began by expressing his sincere appreciation for all those in the room and also the staff in our schools; he's encouraged and hopeful by the level of engagement.

There was one resource brought forward for the Board's consideration—a free resource called *CommonLit*. These materials provide over 2,000 high-quality free reading passages and accompanying lessons for grades 3-12. The materials represent an appropriate and high-interest supplement to our English Language Arts curriculum. Themes of texts include identity, justice/equality, discrimination, and resilience. This resource coincides nicely with district values around representation for our students of color and students with disabilities. There are also nonfiction texts that would connect with science materials. The library is easy to navigate for planning purposes. Students can engage with texts flexibly whether online (text to speech is an option) or with printed copies. Access to texts in Spanish is a district need and *CommonLit* provides many of these.

CommonLit is proposed for grades 3-12 and was unanimously approved for recommendation to the Board.

President Cohen asked for examples of how this resource might be used in the classroom. At times, limited print materials don't always represent all of our students. Having a broader set of resources (over 2,000 passages as mentioned above) allows us many more choices in identifying materials that represent our students. Teachers can review the database and find things that are more in line with our district's values.

This information was presented for first reading and would be brought forward for recommended adoption at the Board's regular meeting on January 24.

Legislative Update

Sara Betnel, School Board Legislative Representative, presented.

This was the second day of the current legislative session and it is scheduled to run until April 24 (105 days). The legislature will determine the budget for the next biennium, which will run from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. If the legislature successfully passes a budget on time, the session will end on April 24. If they are not able to come to consensus, special sessions will be invoked for the sole purpose of passing the budget.

The legislature this year has returned to a full in-person model; however, they have maintained the provision of remote testimony and the ability to sign in remotely to record a position on a bill. It is anticipated that this will be a very busy session, given the record number of bills being pre-filed before the session started. There are a lot of competing priorities and there is only so much time for bills to be heard and make it through the process.

The Governor's Budget was released in December, which has a strong focus on housing and not as much on education as many would have liked. However, there are items within education that are receiving focus this year. For example, special education funding—lifting or eliminating the artificial funding cap of 13.5%. Shoreline is facing an \$8 million gap from our combined special education state revenue and the federal funding (including Safety Net funds), which we make up from our levies (currently 33%). The fed is currently only funding 10% of the 40% it is supposed to be funding for IDEA. Director Betnel is hopeful that collective advocacy on this topic could bring about a more positive outcome at the end of session.

Other key areas of education funding that are gaining some traction include: Dual Language programs, access to dual credit classes and transportation funding. Director Betnel will continue to share updates as the session progresses. Additionally, she has created a resource document for the board members and student representatives.

Director Betnel announced that she would be attending the upcoming Legislative Conference on February 26 and 27 in Olympia. WSSDA would be sponsoring her attendance at the conference; she offered to provide transportation to our student representatives if they would also like to attend.

President Cohen inquired as to what she or any other community person, student or staff member could do this week in an advocacy role. Director Betnel recommended writing a message to the chairs and the assistant/ranking chairs of the following committees: Education, Appropriations, and Ways and Means. Individual legislators for the writers' appropriate districts should be cc'd as well. Director Rivera asked if a link to these committees could be provided on the District website. Director Betnel responded that she would put that in place along with her legislative advocacy article that would be part of the next district update (through ParentSquare) at the end of the week.

Board Requested Discussion and Future Topics

President Cohen spoke about the upcoming board retreat on January 29, the purpose of which was to share the results of the Board's annual self-assessment. The Board will also review their operating principles and discuss strategic planning, communication and fiscal oversight. Director Jernigan suggested that a conversation about the upcoming policy review might be a good topic to include as well.

Action Items

Adoption of Revisions to Policy and Procedure 1120/1120P, Annual Organizational Meeting

Dr. Susana Reyes, Superintendent, presented.

The revisions to Policy and Procedure 1120/1120P, Annual Organizational Meeting, were presented to the Board for first reading at the December 13, 2022 regular meeting. Specifically, these revisions relate to the elimination of the language regarding the election of the legislative representative at the annual organizational meeting.

There was one additional revision made to the procedure since the first reading:

*"The normal order of business shall be modified for the annual organizational meeting by considering the following matters ~~after the flag salute and approval of minutes~~ **at the beginning of the meeting.**"*

It was the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board adopt the revisions to Policy and Procedure 1120/1120P, Annual Organizational Meeting, as presented and to be effective January 10, 2023.

MOTION NO. 23: Director Jernigan moved that the Board adopt the revisions to Policy and Procedure 1120/1120P, Annual Organizational Meeting, as presented and to be effective January 10, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Betnel and carried unanimously.

Adoption of Revisions to Policy 1230, Legislative Representative

Dr. Susana Reyes, Superintendent, presented.

The revisions to Policy 1230, Legislative Representative, were presented to the Board for first reading at the December 13, 2022 regular meeting. In response to Board discussion during the review of the policy at the first reading, additional revisions have been made. Primarily, these new revisions relate to (1) when the legislative representative will be elected (two months after the completion of the legislative session in which the legislature passes an operation budget); and (2) the duties that will be taken on by the legislative

representative (five bulleted items). The policy, with the new revisions, was submitted for second reading and Board consideration for adoption.

It was the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board adopt the revisions to Policy 1230, Legislative Representative, as presented and to be effective January 10, 2023.

MOTION NO. 24: Director Jernigan moved that the Board adopt the revisions to Policy 1230, Legislative Representative, as presented and to be effective January 10, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Williams and carried unanimously.

Reports and Communications – Board Members, Student Reps and Superintendent

Student Rep Smith reported that the Shorecrest Mascot Committee would be presenting its findings to the Student Council later in the week. The Committee had been in early discussions regarding how students feel about the current mascot. The first Winter Dance since the beginning of the pandemic would be held on February 4. The Senior Prom is now scheduled for June 10 and will be held at the Columbia Tower. The theme will be a masquerade ball.

Student Rep Murphy reported that Shorewood had recently approved the language changes to the ASB constitution regarding the school board student representatives becoming two-year positions, as well as the establishment of a student committee. The full review of the constitution is continuing and is expected to be presented to the Student Council in February. Students were able to celebrate the winter sports teams at the recent winter assembly. There will also be a fundraiser dance at Shorewood on February 17.

President Cohen and Director Betnel both spoke very highly of their recent visit to Einstein; it was a first for both of them since the reopening of the new building. It was alive and vibrant and students were very much engaged in their learning. A shout-out to the staff as well for their outstanding work.

Director Williams stated she was looking forward to her visit to Parkwood with President Cohen the following day. They would be involved in deep listening and connecting with staff in order to find out their priorities in regard to the current budget situation. She expressed gratitude to Superintendent Reyes for her encouragement to visit schools and be out in the community.

Director Jernigan also expressed gratitude to Superintendent Reyes and to staff for working around her full-time, in-person work schedule to make it possible for her to visit schools; she would be visiting Shorecrest and Shorewood the following week. She lifted her hands up to the Meridian Park community for their overwhelming support in attending the holiday concert.

Superintendent Reyes announced that she had begun her budget presentations with staff at schools; she had been to three schools so far and was scheduled to present at every school. She would also be presenting to student and community groups. The Legislative Conference is scheduled in Olympia on February 26 and 27; board members and student representatives are invited to attend. The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday was coming up and Superintendent Reyes took a moment to honor the occasion. There will be assemblies held in our schools this week and next week. She will be speaking at the Ridgecrest assembly on Friday, January 13. Black Lives Matter in Schools Week is coming up in February. She thanked staff for all the work they do on behalf of our students.

Director Rivera praised the music concert that was held in a packed house at the Shorecrest auditorium shortly before winter break. On January 3, she, Superintendent Reyes and President Cohen attended a climate action committee meeting at the City of Lake Forest Park. The City is currently working on a climate action plan and has offered to assist the District in drafting a resolution.

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Executive Session

None

Adjournment: 7:59 p.m.

Dr. Sarah Cohen, School Board President

Attest: March 7, 2023

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.