



Board of Directors Business Retreat Meeting Minutes

The Board Retreat will be recorded and will be available for viewing after the meeting at <https://www.tacomaschools.org/about/school-board>

Tacoma Public Schools acknowledges that we are on the traditional ancestral and historical lands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Puyallup Tribe. This acknowledgment serves as a first step in honoring our nearest tribal neighbors and partners who have inhabited this region since time immemorial, and to whom we give thanks for allowing us passage to their lands. We shall intentionally create inclusive and respectful partnerships that honor Indigenous cultures, histories, identities, and sociopolitical realities.

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 06:00 PM

1. AGENDA REVIEW

President Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:00PM and reviewed the agenda.

2. POLICY REVIEW STRATEGY

General Counsel Trueblood and Executive Legal Assistant Anderson presented a Policy Review Strategy for the board to use as they plan to do a thorough policy review.

The board does not need policies for everything, but they do need to adopt and update policies as needed, such as for specific state or federal laws or programs. Other times they may want policies to reflect the strategic plan or direction. In addition to policies, we also have regulations, which implement the steps required to enact a policy. There are currently 232 policies and 143 regulations.

This policy manual went through a thorough audit this past year. They also checked to see when each policy was revised, checked for compliance gaps, and compared them to WSSDA model policies to see if they should be updated. Through the audit, the General Counsel's office found 12 policies that they have slated as a priority. Priorities are based upon the need of a department, legal compliance, and direction of the board and their strategic priorities. They propose two possible additions to the process of creating or updating policies: community engagement and an equity lens.

The board will look through the information on policies that is being sent to them and will give the General Counsel's office feedback on the priority policy updates and determine next steps.

3. TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS

Superintendent Santorno and Deputy Superintendent Garcia presented on the Strategic Plan process, including the progress and changes that have occurred since 2010 when the process was started. They went over each of the Strategic Goals that were adopted in Spring 2020 and shared recommendations of priority benchmarks that can be used to assess progress for the 2025 goals.

The Strategic Goals are:

- o Academic Excellence: "We will support all students to perform at or above grade level and eliminate group disparities.
- o Partnerships: "We will fully engage our parents, community and staff in the education of our children.
- o Early Learning: "We will focus on early assessment and intervention at the Pre-K through 3rd grade levels to ensure early academic success.
- o Health and Safety: "We will create and maintain healthy and safe learning environments that promote excellent academic achievement. This goal has two priority benchmarks associated with it.
- o Operations: "We will focus on effective and efficient business practices to ensure student academic success.

Board members asked questions and gave feedback on the recommended benchmarks for each goal. For next steps, the Superintendent's office will take another look at the recommendations bring back some revised stretch goals for the following areas:

- o Partnerships
- o Early Learning

- o Academic Excellence

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Cobb adjourned the meeting at 8:13PM.