



Board of Directors Study Session Meeting Minutes

Central Administration Building
601 South 8th Street – Tacoma, WA
4th Floor Auditorium
Thursday, February 20, 2020 06:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board met for a Committee of the Whole and Study Session on Thursday February 20, 2020 in the fourth floor auditorium of the Central Administration Building located at 601 South 8th Street in Tacoma, Washington.

Board President Heinze called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. FLAG SALUTE

President Heinze led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

3.1 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY & STRATEGY

Superintendent Santorno introduced the resources that were provided to the board, including Epstein's framework for defining six different types of parent involvement, as well as Policy 4129-Family Involvement and Policy 4130-Parent, Family and Community Partnership.

Superintendent Santorno asked the board to share their thoughts, goals, priorities around family engagement.

Director Cobb stated the intent of the existing policy is right but perhaps it could be much more comprehensive and reflect a more comprehensive approach.

Director Keating remarked that family engagement looks different at the different levels of school and she would appreciate having it all in one bucket.

Director Bonbright would like to get some input from principals and others who are working with family engagement about their strategies, specifically their success, any barriers, any frustrations,

Director Leon remarked that there is more work to be done around communication, specifically translation and that seeing data round language translation would be helpful at the Study Session.

Director Heinze offered that there are a lot of people who aren't literate in their native language and the district should take that into consideration as we think about how we're engaging with families.

Director Bonbright suggested that a foreign language translator at parent group meetings might be a helpful way to get them engaged.

Director Keating remarked that not all cultures have a written language, which may be a barrier to engagement.

Amanda Scott-Thomas, Director of Community Partnerships, remarked that some cultures have very different concepts and ideas about family engaging with their child's school.

Director Heinze commented that leveraging our community partners is helpful as they are often the trusted source for a family.

Director Cobb suggested a sort of check-list in the policy about topics such as family engagement around discipline, around assessment, around translation support, with foster family situations, with students experiencing homelessness, etc. in addition

to what is required by law. Director Cobb suggested receiving best practices from schools who are doing any of this well and making it available to other schools.

Director Bonbright referenced Strengthening Families framework, 5 Protective Factors; Parental resilience, Social connections, Knowledge of parenting and child development, Concrete support in times of need, Social and emotional competence of children.

Director Leon suggested that more reassurance needs to be given to families who may not all be documented citizens of the United States.

Director Heinze suggested providing more support and guidance around academic issues, rather than just a low grade notification, and looking into what barriers might prevent them from accessing that support and guidance.

Director Keating commented that the district needs to be mindful of other forms of communication used in engagement, such as for the deaf/hard of hearing community. Director Keating also suggested being very clear about the different ways that families can engage, because often not everyone in the household is equally engaged in the school.

Director Heinze requested a report from the Community Partnership Office at their next study session on this topic.

Director Cobb requested that the district look at what family engagement is led by the school and what is led by district administration.

4. STUDY SESSION ITEM(S)

4.1 BONDS 101

Rob Bryant, Director of Financial Services and Fred Eoff, Director with PFM Financial Advisors, LLC presented the board with an overview of Debt and Debt Issuance Process.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Heinze moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm.

Minutes approved by the Board on: _____

Signed by: _____
Superintendent Carla J. Santorno

By: _____
Board President, Scott Heinze