

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303
SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT MEETING MINUTES
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2011

Place: Yonder Conference Center

Attendees

Board: Mary Curtis, Patty Fielding, Tim Kinkead, Mike Spence, John Tawresey

District Staff: Faith Chapel, Peter Bang-Knudsen, Julie Goldsmith, Betsy Minor-Reid

Review of Mission, Vision, Guiding Principles

The group reviewed the draft *Mission* and *Vision*, and the documents are ready for final edits. Superintendent Faith Chapel and her designees will make the necessary edits, with a final version to be presented to the Board for review and approval in the next few weeks.

The group also reviewed the draft *Student Profile* and everyone was impressed by the work to date. It was noted Superintendent Chapel will lead efforts to gather further input from both staff and community, which is expected to support an ongoing evolution of the *Profile* as the educational landscape and District priorities change over time.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Initiative

Discussion revolved around the questions of “How does Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fit in the District?” and “Is it a separate focus outside the rest of the curricula OR is it integrated through all coursework and grade levels?”

It was noted the STEM and Math initiatives must be integrated. The Math program update, already well underway as part of the core curriculum update, is on a parallel track with STEM, and will both inform and be impacted by STEM activities. The group discussed what the District standard was for STEM at 4th, 8th, and H.S. levels. In meeting state requirements for both coursework and testing, the District must keep a focus on its own standards and goals. Meeting the state standards with high percentages is a goal but not necessarily the goal. The board expressed the need to remain engaged in the ongoing discussions around the STEM initiative, with periodic presentations to the Board by STEM Coordinator Greg Moncada.

The general consensus of the group was clarification is needed regarding the key STEM components so the content of the initiative is rigorous and consistent with student readiness and ability. Further, the group noted the integration of STEM subjects across other subject areas will bring balance to overall instructional programs, and serve to challenge students at a pace that is consistent with their ability and interest. Other areas of discussion focused on funding and support to sustain the STEM initiative, engagement of teachers and students, and the importance of continuous communication about these activities and successes. All agreed the District was in a “good place” and it is committed to its mission and to making the necessary changes to accomplish that mission.

Individualized Learning

The group discussed various elements related to individualized learning including the use of assessment data to guide instruction, how to eliminate barriers (especially during time of economic stress), use of technology, and individualized interventions.

Options Programs

The group discussed how unique options programs fit with the emerging STEM initiative and individualized learning strategies. The characteristics of options programs, based on past conversations, include individualized learning, involve multi-aged students, is project-based, and uses parent engagement. It was noted that these concepts were being incorporated into district-wide program instruction. Past assumptions considered the value of creating program options to market the district and grow enrollment. This assumption was reviewed to understand if it is consistent with current and future direction.

Concluding Perspective

The board needs to openly communicate with the staff and community as the district direction evolves. It was noted that any change requires board leadership and a shared vision of different strategies that meet or exceed their goals.

Board Member Responsibilities

Board member responsibilities were determined by consensus as follows:

President:	Patty Fielding
Vice-President:	Mary Curtis
Government Relations:	Mike Spence
Capital Projects Committee:	John Tawresey/Mike Spence
Finance Committee/DBAC:	Tim Kinkead/Mary Curtis
Curriculum Committee:	Tim Kinkead/John Tawresey
Technology:	Tim Kinkead
Instructional Support:	Patty Fielding
IGWG: (Intergovernmental Work Group)	John Tawresey/Mike Spence