

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303
SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT MINUTES

Date: December 6, 2011

Place: Director John Tawresey's Home

Attending:

Mary Curtis, Tim Kinkead, Patty Fielding, Mike Spence, John Tawresey
Faith Chapel, Peter Bang-Knudsen, Julie Goldsmith, Betsy Minor-Reid

District Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles

The most recent draft documents were distributed for discussion and editing prior to a planned Board presentation in 2012. General discussion focused on how these foundation documents will set the district's direction for the next few years. It was noted the documents will continue to be reviewed and revised as necessary over time to reflect the changing needs in education. Board members provided specific edits that included minor semantics and order of content. Those edits will be incorporated into the next iteration of the documents prior to Board presentation. Any further suggested edits will be directed to Mary Curtis who will work with Faith to incorporate additional changes.

Overall, reaction to both the content and process for the *Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles* (and to the emerging *Student Profile*) was extremely positive, with confidence these foundation documents will serve the district well strategically and operationally for years to come.

Strategic Planning

Community Engagement

Superintendent Faith Chapel provided the Board with an update regarding past and existing mechanisms of communication and community engagement, and highlighted the goals and opportunities presented by the new website. Acknowledging the value of community input, group discussion focused on the need for dialogue rather than simply one-way communication, and ways to enhance that dialogue.

Further discussion centered on the concept of district/community engagement, with the opportunities and challenges such a unique, talented, and incredibly supportive community. Associate Superintendent Julie Goldsmith provided an informal update on the recent parent activities in Math at the elementary level, which have generated a good deal of excitement and participation. Superintendent Chapel also spoke of the recent PALS success, of parent and community member participation on advisory committees, and of student internships and specific projects that partners with community, individuals and/or groups. The group agreed as the district moves forward in the various arenas of program development, further opportunities for accessing community talent will be explored.

Strategic Program Planning

A review of current district budget challenges, enrollment trends, and program options set the stage for the discussion of various program directions and options for the future. Ms. Goldsmith

provided a summary of the work underway to review the various options programs in the district. Board members reiterated any optional programs must be cost-neutral related to start-up, have enrollment that is sustainable, and be cost-neutral to the district over time.

Group discussion focused on student needs and the district/board commitment to individualized learning for student achievement. The conversation continued around how the district might fulfill that commitment in light of student diversity and increased budget challenges. Given the current and expanding emphasis on real-time measurement of individual student progress, and student-specific interventions tailored to addressing assessment gaps, the group engaged in a lively discussion regarding how optional programs fit relate to the emerging district educational model.

Summary

Board members and district senior staff agreed the retreat was not only helpful but essential to reinforce shared values and directions as the basis for continued work. The combined board/senior staff retreats will be continued in 2012.