

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303**  
**School Board Retreat Minutes**

**Date:** Saturday, March 24, 2012  
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Place:** Yonder Community Meeting Facility

**Attendees:** Patty Fielding, Mary Curtis, Tim Kinkead, Mike Spence, Faith Chapel, Julie Goldsmith, Peter Bang-Knudsen, Betsy Minor Reid, Tamela Van Winkle

**Strategic Planning: Aligning programs and priorities with BISD Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles**

Considering the preliminary data related to enrollment trends, meeting participants reconfirmed the Wilkes Elementary School replacement project rationale as follows:

- Commitment to neighborhood schools
- Value of replacement vs. renovation costs for Wilkes
- Future flexibility for the full range of educational program configurations
- Phasing of capital investments with known information (e.g., current enrollment data, external and Island economic environment, educational trends) and adjustments to the Master Plan as a “living document.”

Three changes have occurred since the decision was made to replace Wilkes Elementary:

1. A new demographic study will provide the opportunity to develop a revised context:
  - Where we were before
  - Where we are now
  - What the changes mean
  - How we use new information going forward
2. Need for broader conversation about the future; location and size of schools, emerging blended instructional models, economic imperatives for operations, demographics and technology.
3. Trade-offs could be different because of the shrinking education budgets.

The reasons for the Wilkes replacement still exist, and, if anything, are even stronger now that we need flexibility for strategic long-term options.

Issues for deliberation in strategic planning:

- Perspectives on class sizes
- Combinations of instructional models and technology - blended models
- K-6 instructional model
- Combination of variables that might change the District’s current framework and direction

The key variables for consideration in developing strategies and options are:

- Changing economics
- Changing demographics
- Changing educational models
- Changing possibilities for K-8

**District Improvement Plan for 2012-13: Discussion of strategies for improving student learning**

- High quality curriculum and programs
- High quality assessment
- High quality instruction and instructional leadership

Discussion of the K-12 education opportunities in programs, assessment, and instructional models:

- The Shared Learning Collaborative is an excellent resource
- Authentic feedback is key to change
- Blended Models need to be explored

BISD will begin exploring blended models with Math first and apply learning to other areas over time.

Four big “takeaways” from the discussion:

1. A representative committee (parents, staff, community members) will be formed to create enthusiasm, generate energy, and provide insight and buy-in
2. Implement a disciplined approach to evaluation and implementation
3. Math used as a catalyst for other learning models
4. New Wilkes facility to provide an opportunity to configure educational space differently to pilot new learning models.

### **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Discussion and Update**

Immediate focus is on elementary and middle school. STEM summer camp program has been fully developed. Science activities are underway and include the following:

- Wilkes Science night (100 families)
- Math explorations (Ordway 300 families)
- After school math clubs (opening another section)
  - ≥ Parents trained to do after school math help
  - ≥ Bainbridge Schools Foundation is funding kits - pilot is at Ordway
  - ≥ Release next year to the entire District

STEM Coordinator Greg Moncada has secured innovation grants for teachers and is working with teachers to define STEM as an integrative model. In addition, the number of interested, committed, and engaged parents who are participating early with instructional options for math is on the increase.

### **Other emerging strategies for improved student learning were discussed as follows**

- Possible Wilkes multi-age classes
- Possible language focus within Mosaic
- Countless, ongoing, and innovative instructional interventions are occurring within each classroom and school.

The final discussion of the day focused on the Superintendent evaluation document and process.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.