

Highline Public Schools | 2020.08.12.Board.Meeting

Recording. And we can start.

So welcome, everyone, to our regularly-scheduled board meeting. And I'll ask for us to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

At this time, we'll-- Kyle, if you could call roll call?

Director Van?

Here.

Director Dorsey.

Here.

Director Garcia?

Here.

Director Bradford?

Here.

Director Alvarez.

Here. And joining us, of course, is our superintendent, Dr. Enfield, and part of our cabinet as well. So I'm making a call for any changes or additions to tonight's agenda. Hearing none, so we'll go ahead and move to our scheduled communications. So I have one scheduled communication. And it's the written public comment for August 12, 2020, from Amelia Bowen. And it states, it has come to my attention that half of the hours allotted for family connection time previously scheduled during November conferences has been changed to professional development time for teachers, prior to the start of school.

As a district committed to racial equity and anti-racist practices, I believe this action goes against our beliefs. And the anti-racist work that I have done through Highline, my own school, Mountview, and in my personal life, so much of anti-racist work for teachers lies with first making connections with families. With distance learning, making connections with students and families can be even more

challenging, yet even more important as feelings of isolation and fear are prevalent.

As educators, time to connect with families should be considered essential, especially in the start of the new school year. Taking away half of that time for teachers to focus on content-related professional development is an action leading us away from our anti-racist goals. And it's a decision that I would like to be reconsidered. I urge the board to do what they can to protect the sacred time that has previously been saved for family connections.

And that concludes our public comments at this time. And with that, we move on to our superintendent's update.

Good evening, everybody. It's good to see all of you. Well, our work to prepare for the start of the school year continues at a furious pace. I wanted to provide you with a few updates, many of which I think I've been forwarding to you. You'll get another batch this Friday. But trying to share with you the presentations and the materials that our teams have been putting together.

We did host two family webinars yesterday that were fairly well-attended. We had over 300 participants in each of them. Very good questions, some that we have answers for, some that we do not. Not insignificant levels of angst on a number of issues that our families are facing right now, but we are working to address those as best we can.

Today we had one of our typically twice-weekly fall planning meetings that Suzanne hosts, along with other members of our team, with principals to hear their questions and keep them up to date on work that is happening in preparation for the fall. I think I let you know that this week, our office managers return to our schools. And ERAC is open to the public. We're asking people to make appointments to come in, so that we can control the number of people in our buildings, because we still want to make sure that we're maintaining safe distance.

But we have put safety measures into place. We all have an electronic attestation form that we have to fill out every time we enter the building. There is one at the front desk as well for visitors who come in to ERAC. But the reality is that school is beginning and we do have to have some time in there to prepare, so we will keep doing that.

We are also continuing to meet with-- well, not meet with-- well, yeah, I guess meet with, Zoom counts as a meeting-- my twice-weekly meetings with our ESD superintendents and representatives from OSPI. Kate and Holly and I just came off of our weekly large district roundtable call, where we've been meeting with legislators as well to address some of the concerns that we have, specifically regarding

funding that we will need to support our students and our families in the fall.

I believe I shared with the board Highline signed on to a letter that all of the-- I think all of the Puget Sound ESD superintendents signed on to to the governor, really requesting a change in our transportation funding formula. The way it currently works is we are funded based on transporting students-- numbers of students we transport. We will not be transporting students in any significant number in the fall. We may be transporting very small groups of students. We are looking if we can bring back small groups of students with special needs.

But those numbers will be small. That means that we are at risk of incurring a \$7 million dollar deficit for us to keep our drivers employed and have them do the work we need to do. Because just because students are not in school, we still need to serve them. We need to bring meals. We need to bring instructional materials. And that will require delivery. So we're working on that right now, and we will keep on fighting for that.

Mark and I were also on the call today with King County officials looking at what we can do to increase home internet access for our students, because we know we still have several in our community that do not have reliable internet access in their homes. And we are gravely concerned about that, because that means those children will not be able to go to school.

If you don't have an internet connection at home or somewhere else to access it, you will not be able to connect with your teachers and your peers. And so we are working very hard to make sure that we can ensure that we have home internet access. That was something that OSPI said was the district's responsibility. And we're doing our best to live up to that responsibility and provide that.

Thanks to Kisa and her team, we are partnering with child care providers across five of our sites to provide child care to very, very small groups of children. It is fee-based. And we will be working with our principals to make sure that we can accommodate the child care providers in our buildings, while also accommodating our teachers and paraprofessionals who may opt to come in and do their teaching in small-group instruction from the classroom.

We want that option to be available. We do have some teachers and staff who don't have great internet at home either. Or they've got so many people on it, it's hard for them to connect. And so some may opt for that as well, because they believe it's the best option for them. And finally, we are lobbying very hard as well to make sure that we have testing sites in our region.

Aaron, I believe there's finally a testing site in White Center. I saw that listed the other day. Is that

true?

Yes, they have-- the Sea Mar clinic is hosting one. And they do some remote ones.

Right. I believe that's fairly recent. I know that formerly, Highline Medical Center-- now St. Anne's Hospital, they have a new name-- they've been really lobbying to get more testing available in this region as well. Because we know that our positive test case rates are much higher across our district than in other parts of King County. And this is where the testing needs to be for people who need it most.

So I share that with you, because the reality for school districts at this moment in time is not just preparing to provide instruction to our students and support our staff in doing not necessarily jobs as they once did them. You know, things may be different this year. But we are also putting intense amount of time into advocating for, lobbying for, the basic needs that our students and families will not get if we don't do it.

And that is access to health care and testing. It is access to child care. It is access to internet. It is access to food, and the list goes on and on. I say this because I believe strongly that we need to be having a broader conversation around the degree to which our school districts are safety nets for our children and families. We have always done that. It's just now become apparent to the world that this is what we've always done.

But with the needs as great as they are right now, we simply can't lay this responsibility at the doorstep of our school districts any longer. This requires a statewide response. Frankly, it requires a national response. But until that happens, we can't wait. So we will keep devoting as much time as possible to making those things a reality, to the best of our ability for our children and families.

And with that, I believe that that's all I have right now. It's just sort of different day, same focus of work, which is adjusting to our new reality and making sure people have what they need. I will close by reading Sandy Hunt's statement. Dear school board directors, it is worth repeating at every school board meeting that Black Lives Matter, including Black Lives Matter at school. This remains the context for a 3-2 school board vote to continue the funding of SROs at two comprehensive high schools at last month's meeting.

This vote came after what seemed to be a heartfelt reflection on how to be an anti-racist. In this regard, I respectfully refer you back to a quote by Dr. Kendi, found on page 141. "Every single person actually has the power to protest racist and anti-racist policies, to advance them, or in some small

way, to stall them. Nation-state sectors, communities, institutions are run by policymakers and policies and policy managers." As leaders in the system, each decision we make is a test of how we will use our power.

I am sure I am being tested each day. And I imagine you may feel that way too. When we turn institutional or systemic decisions over to individuals, as was done with this decision, we are abdicating our power and losing the opportunity to refashion our institution to make it work for our black, indigenous, and other students of color. We found this vote disappointing. First, eliminating all SRO contracts would have freed up funds for the entire system to engage students, families, and educators in finding new ways to improve safety on campuses.

And it was particularly troubling that the administration teams who asked to retain their SROs received twice the allocation of funds than the other two schools. This sends a signal that institutional power is being used to reinforce the status quo at the expense of potentially new anti-racist solutions. Looking ahead, we do appreciate that we made good progress at the bargaining table today on issues related to the remote opening of school.

Still to be addressed is the question of opportunity for students to attend instruction outside the typical school day. More than one-third of the families who responded to a Labor Council survey have indicated normal school hours do not work for them. Predominantly, the time of day they prefer classes to be offered is 4:30 to 8:30 PM.

As we look for models for service delivery, should the system consider more than just recording teacher lessons? To ensure Black Lives Matter at school, we need to guarantee students access to instruction. And that may require a more intentional approach than the model being presented tonight. We hope the district will take up the union's offer and continue to look for ways to reach our students not served by a 9 AM to 4 PM model. Advancing together, Sandy Hunt. And that concludes my report for the evening.

Thank you, Superintendent. With that, we move on to school board reports. Bernie, do you have any legislative reports?

No. No legislative.

How about a director report?

I know President Alvarez and Director Van and I-- or excuse me, Director Van and I-- and I took some copious notes, which I'm happy to share with folks-- attended the webinar from Safe and Sound

Schools regarding the SRO issue. And I guess my biggest takeaway from that-- I took away many. But the primary one was training, training, training. That was really-- I found that very helpful. Thanks for passing on that notice, Angelica, I appreciate that. And that's pretty much it. Just continued appreciation for all the work that's being done around meeting the needs of the community, with the distance learning. Endeavor to persevere.

Whoops. I broke the internet.

Oh no.

Angelica's frozen.

Bernie, do you want to take over? Until she gets back.

Sure. So how about you, Aaron? You got a director's report for us tonight?

Nothing specific. I just wanted to, again, kind of give some love to the team on the communications that's coming out. And I've just noticed a lot of opportunities for people to fill out surveys and give feedback. And I just know people really appreciate that. And also, how quickly the team was able to respond to the snafu that happened last week with the multiple texts. I just thought that it was funny. But it's also the responsiveness and being able to get the word out was really appreciated. So I've heard good things from folks. And I just wanted to pass that along.

Nice. Thank you.

I appreciate that, Aaron.

Director Van?

You know, I echo what Director Garcia just said. The communication has been just phenomenal to our community. Great responses and the webinar that was given yesterday was just fantastic. So thank you to all. Also, thank you, President Alvarez, for sending us the link to the roles of police in our schools.

One of my biggest takeaways was defining the roles of our SROs, making sure that each building site leader is working with our SROs and our security officers to define what their roles are and what they are responsible for. So thank you so much for that. Susan, quick question-- or even Kisa, in regards to the child care, the limited amount, how are we selecting those students? What criteria are we using to accept those kids?

So at Highline, we're not actually running and organizing the child care. We're partnering with the YMCA of Greater Seattle with Right At School and SeaTac Parks and Rec. So they are managing their own child care registration, so we're not in charge. What I can say is that it is open for Highline Public School students, first and foremost. So K through-- I think they go through fifth or sixth grade. And if space available, we'll be open for Highline Public School staff's children as well. But first, serving Highline students.

That's awesome. Thank you very much.

And we're partnering with them on meals as well, with Lisa Johnson of Nutrition Services. And partnering with Teaching and Learning, so that they can support-- so they can learn how to best support students learning during the day. And I should also add, while they're not site-based-- on one of our sites-- the Southwest Boys and Girls Club, we're partnering them with them as well. Because they serve students at White Center Heights, Mountview, Beverly Park, Southern Heights, Cascade, and Evergreen.

Thank you so much. That's really promising. Thank you. And one last thing. Today I had a great time. I just want to thank Macy's of Southcenter and the Highline Schools Foundation. Macy's donated 1,400 brand new prom dresses or formal dresses to the Highline Schools Foundation. And we were there and hustling 20 carts' worth of gowns into the U-Haul and trailers and stuff. It was amazing.

And I just want to thank Macy's and their support to their community for the amazing donations. It was just-- I was awestruck. So that was for the Project Promise for the Highland Schools Foundation. So I just want a big shout out to Macy's. That's it.

Can people hear me?

Yep.

So I'm on my phone. My internet crashed. Ezekiel has been playing video games for the last hour. And I don't know if it's that. But I can't get back on my internet, on my home internet. So I have no access, actually, to the agenda visibly. So I know we were in directors' report, so Bernie, I'm going to ask for your support while I try and figure this out.

Certainly. So Fa'izah, director's report?

Nope, I have nothing to report. Thank you.

OK. Angelica?

I have nothing to report. Thank you.

OK, so do you want me to just go and run through the agenda?

Yes, please, until I can get mine up. I don't have a-- unless I get it on my phone. Then I can't see you guys.

OK, gotcha. So that takes us to our consent agenda for this evening. And with no additions or amendments, do we have a motion to approve the consent agenda?

I second that. Or I make a motion that we approve tonight's agenda.

OK.

I'll second.

Angelica moved and Joe seconded. All in favor, aye.

Aye.

Opposed? OK. And that takes us to our action item for this evening, item 7.1. Motion to approve revisions to policy 3242, closed campus. Any questions or discussion?

Not really. I don't even think it has to be added on here. But I think some guidance or feedback might be helpful in the secondary schools for students who decide to use things like UberEats and Grubhub. And I know that could interrupt school time. And just being able to provide that kind of guidance might be helpful. Like I said, I don't think we have to add any specific language here. But that idea just popped in my head around this.

That's a great--

Aren't there policies or practices on individual student food deliveries, Holly, to school?

No, but Aaron, since you now said it, you may have brought it into being. So we will work on guidance for our secondary schools. Thank you for that idea.

Thank you, Aaron, that is really important for us to think about. I do have a question or a comment. In regards to-- it looks like juniors and seniors may leave campus during lunch with a verified parent. So

that goes away during the pandemic, correct?

Correct.

OK.

Well, there's no kids in school right now. And even if they were, the safety of being contaminated with others or being infected, it goes way higher. So it makes sense.

Joe, when the time comes that we can return-- likely in a hybrid of some kind-- we will have a closed campus and provide meals to students on campus. Or they can bring their lunch, if they want to.

OK, thank you.

OK, any other questions? OK I move that Highline School Board approve revisions to policy 3242, closed campus.

Second.

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

Director Dorsey.

Yea.

This motion passes 5-0.

Thank you, Kyle. So that takes us to number 8, introduction action items. And the first one is 8.1.

Motion to approve resolution 09-20 on reopening schools in fall 2020. Any questions or comments?
Seeing none, I move that the Highline School Board approve resolution 09-20 on reopening schools in fall 2020.

I'll second that.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

Director Dorsey?

Yea.

This motion passes 5-0.

Thank you, Kyle. Item 8.2, motion to approve revisions to policy 2420, measuring student progress. I think, Fa'izah, you might have had a question, you thought.

No, I don't at this time.

OK. Any other questions or discussion? I move that the Highline School Board approve revisions to policy 2420, measuring student progress.

I'll second that.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

Director Dorsey?

Yea.

This motion passes 5-0.

Thank you, Kyle. Item 8.3, motion to approve award of contract for trail extension project. Questions or comments? I move that the Highline School Board approve the award of contract for trail extension project.

I'll second.

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

Director Dorsey?

Yea.

This motion passes 5-0.

Thank you, Kyle. Item 8.4, motion to approve award of contract for 6080 classroom. Any questions or comments?

I have a question. So Scott, can you tell us what-- I was trying to find the sites. I'm sorry, this is at Hilltop. My apologies. Never mind. I answered my own question.

OK. Good job, Joe. Any other questions or comments? Seeing none, I move that the Highline School Board approve the award of contract for 6080 classroom.

I'll second that.

Director Garcia?

Yea.

Director Bradford?

Yea.

Director Dorsey?

Yea.

Director Van?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

This motion passes 5-0.

Thank you, Kyle. And that takes us to our introduction item, item 9.1. Motion to approve resolution 0820, bond projects and state-assisted projects. This is an introduction item. So any questions or concerns for next meeting? OK, seeing none, do we want to consider moving that to our consent agenda for our next regularly-scheduled meeting?

Well, I just want to make sure that all that-- is everybody willing to sign for it? You know, Kate Davis,

Scott Logan, Rodney Schaeffer, and Ellie Daneshnia. So if everybody's good, yeah.

OK. So do we want to move it to next meeting's consent agenda then?

I'll make a motion that we move this to next meeting's consent agenda.

Do we have a second?

I'll second.

All in favor.

Aye.

Aye.

I oppose.

OK, so that takes us to adjournment, unless we have anything else for the good of the order. Oh, it looks like Dr. Enfield's got a hand up.

Sorry. I know, you were this close to getting out before 6:30. Just very, very quickly. But it's an important reminder. Next Tuesday, we will be hosting our third annual Equity Symposium. And if any board members would like to participate, please let Kyle know. We can register you. Obviously, it's virtual. But it proves to be-- it's always been a very rich day of learning for us. And we're looking forward to it.

So I wanted to make sure that you all were aware and I will include details in your Friday packet.

No, it's not next Tuesday. It's the following Tuesday, the 25th.

Sorry. It's the following Tuesday. I've lost all sense of time.

Yeah.

I just also--

That's what happens when you're trapped in a little box like that all day long.

Before we sign off, I just want to say thank you, Bernie, for-- I still don't have internet access. But thank you for the support in helping run the meeting. So I appreciate you.

Absolutely. Happy to do it. OK, so a motion to adjourn.

I second that.

Someone needs to motion it.

I make a motion that we adjourn.

I second.

Movement is seconded, is all in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

Aye.

Have a great night, everybody. Thank you very much.