

Ferndale School District No. 502
School Board Special Meeting January 17, 2017
Generated by Tammy Bengen

Members present: Kevin Erickson, Hugh Foulke, Andrew McLaurin, Lee Anne Riddle, Candice Wilson, Ben Bagley and Jeremy Knapp

Meeting called to order at 5:12 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Information: 1.01 Call To Order

Dr. Erickson called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. and welcomed audience members. The meeting was held at Kelly's Odell Meeting Room located at 5506 Nielsen Road, Ferndale, Washington. There were no audience members present.

Present from the administration were Superintendent Linda Quinn, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning Scott Brittain, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Mark Hall, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Support Services Mark Deebach and Executive Director for Human Resources Paul Douglas.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Information: 2.01 Recite Pledge of Allegiance

At this time, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. GENERAL

Information: 3.01 Reviewing the Agenda, the Social Contract and Setting Intentions for the Meeting (20 minutes)

Board members reviewed the agenda for this meeting and set intentions for the meeting. They also reviewed their social contract by participating on a group activity. Those present were split into four groups and were asked to label items in the social contract that "we do well" and those items "we continue to focus on."

4. BUSINESS

Information: 4.01 Provide Input to the Proposed Process for Developing the 2017-2018 Budget (30 minutes)

Mr. Deebach led the board in a conversation about next year's budget. He presented a PowerPoint presentation to the board. He noted that this year, the district is taking a different approach to the budget process. More district staff than in the past will be involved in the process. Administrators will be analyzing their budgets and aligning expenditures to the board's strategic commitments. This will also allow principals to become knowledgeable about their budgets. The transition to this process will take the next three years.

At the board's next regularly scheduled meeting, Mr. Deebach will present enrollment models to the board for its consideration. He pointed out funding that the district has lost over the years: \$2.3 million in AARA, \$1.8 million in I-728 and \$3.6 million related to the levy cliff. Mr. Deebach said he believed the state legislature will adopt the budget in late summer and that the district will probably face a huge budget deficit.

Dr. Quinn said school board members may want to look at putting together some recommendations about the budget—belief statements—much like they did for their beliefs about facilities.

5. Break for Dinner (20 minutes)

Information: 5.01 Break for Dinner

At 6:30 p.m., the board recessed for dinner.

At 7:00 p.m., Dr. Erickson reconvened the meeting.

6. GENERAL

Information: 6.01 Exploring a Model Called Coherence Governance and Contemplating Possible Applications for the District (120 minutes)

Dr. Quinn, Ms. Riddle and Dr. Erickson led a two-hour discussion about exploring a school board model called Coherence Governance and contemplated the possible applications for the Ferndale School District. In November, all three had the opportunity to attend a session at the WSSDA Conference on this topic. The model is based on the book by Randy Quinn and Linda Dawson titled "Good Governance is a Choice: A Way to Re-Create Your Board—the Right Way."

The following were established as next steps in the process of exploring this model:

1. Copies of the book will be ordered for each School Board and Executive Team member, and they will read the books.
2. Determine a process for encouraging more Board member input into School Board meeting agendas.
3. Tie each agenda item to one or more of our Strategic Commitments or policies.
4. Create a process for evaluating each of our meetings.
5. Develop a list of Board beliefs about (1) the budget process and (2) the school improvement process (similar to the list of beliefs generated several years ago about school facilities).
6. Contact Randy Quinn and Linda Dawson to inquire about other districts that have transitioned to this model and how their consulting services might assist.

7. Schedule a future study session (soon) dedicated to this topic for the purpose of reviewing our current work to see where it aligns with the Coherent Governance framework.
8. Determine a date by which we will decide whether or not we are going to pursue seriously this particular governance model.

Information: 6.02 Consider Short Topics: Culture Fair, Public Comment at Board Meetings, Possible Capital Projects Bond or Levy and Selecting a Replacement for a Board Member (40 minutes)

Board members considered these short topics:

1. Preparing for a possible capital projects bond or levy in 2018: board members reviewed the community survey that will be released shortly.
2. Reconsidering how we handle public comment at School Board meetings: board members decided to only schedule public comment at the beginning of the agenda and to remove it from the end of the agenda.
3. Planning for the community-wide Culture Fair on March 24: Mr. Hall provided a letter that the school board signed. It will be sent out to staff and community members inviting them to participate in the fair.
4. Considering board make up for 2017: The election of the board president and vice president will be scheduled for the January 31 regular meeting. Ms. Wilson announced that she will not be relocating to California and plans to stay in Ferndale and continue to serve on the school board.

Information: 6.03 Sharing of Information by the School Board, Superintendent and Executive Team (10 minutes)

Board members, the superintendent and Executive Team members shared informational items.

Student Board Member Ben Bagley said students at Ferndale High School are asking if Spanish V will be offered next year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Board President

Board Secretary