



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

Title: SBE Foundational Discussions Part I

As related to:

- Goal One:** Develop and support policies to close the achievement and opportunity gaps.
- Goal Two:** Develop comprehensive accountability, recognition, and supports for students, schools, and districts.
- Goal Three:** Ensure that every student has the opportunity to meet career and college ready standards.
- Goal Four:** Provide effective oversight of the K-12 system.

Other

Relevant to Board roles:

- Policy leadership
- System oversight
- Advocacy
- Communication
- Convening and facilitating

Policy considerations / Key questions: SBE Mission and Theory of Action

Relevant to business item: Impacts all business items

Materials:

- Foundations Part I Segment Outline
- Three documents on the Retreat Preparation Page of SBE website:
 1. Intro and three chapters from NASBE's Publication, [About NASBE and State Boards of Education](#) (please review pages 6-14 and 22-27).
 2. [Chapter two of How People Learn: Bridging Research and Practice](#)
 3. [Condensed version of the WA SBE Overview PPT](#)

Synopsis:

During this segment of the retreat, the Board will engage with one another through dialogue and activities on the statutory goals for the public education system, and the alignment of SBE's vision, mission, values, and goals with SBE's statutory purpose, which is (pursuant RCW 28A.305.130) to:

- provide advocacy and strategic oversight of public education
- implement a standards-based accountability framework that creates a unified system of increasing levels of support for schools in order to improve student academic achievement;
- provide leadership in the creation of a system that personalizes education for each student and respects diverse cultures, abilities, and learning styles; and
- promote achievement of the goals of RCW [28A.150.210](#).

Objectives for this Foundational Discussion are to:

- Share individual purpose and develop group consensus for the future purpose of SBE
- Discuss optimal SBE-OSPI relationship, as well as potential roles and responsibilities of SBE vis-à-vis OSPI
- Set the stage for strategic planning in September 2018

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Kaaren Heikes at Kaaren.heikes@k12.wa.us.

State Board of Education Foundational Conversations

The State Board of Education exists in a dynamic political and social climate. In the last year we have experienced significant membership change including an unexpected chair transition. A new Superintendent has been elected, bringing a new point of view about the relationship between OSPI and SBE. The political environment is complex and requires clarity about our point of view. There are pragmatic parameters to what any state board of education is capable of influencing powerfully.

From this context, the Executive Committee decided to dedicate time during our annual retreat to foundational conversations. On Tuesday, September 12th, we will engage in the normal developmental process of groups. Because of our significant membership change, we are in the *forming* stage of group development which includes forming, norming, storming and performing. The demands of the time require that we move quickly toward *performing*.

Please prepare for our retreat by reviewing:

1. Designated portions of the NASBE state board handbook;
2. The portions of Ben's excellent PPT related to the historical, statutory and accomplishment review of our SBE; and
3. Chapter 2 of *How People Learn*.

Thanks to Connie, Jeff, and Ben for providing these important background pieces.

Prepare yourself for the retreat by thinking about your individual purpose on the board and your hopes for what the board will accomplish over the next 10 years. We will illuminate these purposes and distill them into a group purpose and theory of action that will help us determine the best path toward efficacy in our unique niche within the Washington education policy landscape.

If you have questions or comments, please be in touch with Janis: janis@treehouseforkids.org or 206-290-3426 (c).

Foundations Part 1: Board Mission and Theory of Action

I. Background

Each of these titled sections will be printed on large paper to hang around the room.

Our Vision

A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

Our Mission

The mission of the State Board of Education is to lead the development of state policy for K-12 education, provide effective oversight of public schools, and advocate for student success.

Our Values Summarized

- To be an effective public body, we believe we must demonstrate dignity and integrity.
- We value every board and staff members' inherent worth to our work and believe each member should play a meaningful role in the Board's overall operations.
- We value a "no surprises" mode of operation. We value deliberations that strive for commonality and unity of purpose.
- We believe in the power of advocacy and strategic oversight of a standards-based accountability system that improves student academic achievement.
- We value an education system that personalizes education for each student and respects cultures, abilities and learning styles.
- We believe in the paramount value of Washington State's Basic Education.

Statutory Goals for Our Public Education System

1. Read with comprehension, write effectively and communicate successfully in a variety of ways and settings and with a variety of audiences;
2. Know and apply the core concepts and principles of mathematics; social, physical and life sciences; civics and history, including different cultures and participation in representative government; geography; arts and health and fitness;
3. Think analytically, logically, and creatively and to integrate technology literacy and fluency as well as different experiences and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems; and
4. Understand the importance of work and finance and how performance, effort and decisions directly affect future careers and educational opportunities.

Our SBE Goals

The [2015-2018 Strategic Plan](#) contains four goals for the State Board of Education:

1. Develop and support policies to close the achievement and opportunity gaps.
2. Develop comprehensive accountability, recognition, and supports for students, schools, and districts.
3. Ensure that every student has the opportunity to meet career and college ready standards.
4. Provide effective oversight of the K-12 system.

Each SBE Authority is listed on a single flip chart page + one blank posted around the room; pages are divided in 2 – good match or needs refinement

II. Theory of Action/Change Session: Preparing for Strategic Planning in 2018

Tuesday Objectives (written on flip chart paper):

- Share individual purpose and develop group consensus for the future purpose of SBE
- Discuss optimal SBE-OSPI relationship, as well as potential roles and responsibilities of SBE vis-à-vis OSPI
- Set the stage for strategic planning in September 2018

Foundations Part 1: Segment Outline, September 12, 2:30 – 6:00pm

Critical Question	Time/Facilitator	Goal	Activity	Instructions
Why are you on the SBE?	25 minutes/Janis	Identify and share each individual purpose at SBE.	Individual reflection. Our desired legacy: When I leave SBE I will feel that we have been successful if we have accomplished...	5 minutes: reflect and write your purpose. Then share. Share round the circle, whole group. Volunteer recorder on flip chart paper.
How/where does your view of the SBE’s vision/mission match with the existing Vision/Mission?	25 minutes/ Janis	Recognize potential agreement and disagreement about our common purpose.	Debrief – identify commonalities, matches, building shared vision	5 minutes: Pair share – what do you notice members have in common? What are outliers? Agree on three key insights 10 minutes: Pairs share with another pair. Share around the circle. 10 minutes: Each group of four shares key insights with whole group Volunteer recorder on flip chart paper NOTE – if commonalities are overwhelming, facilitator can skip this exercise.
Looking ahead to the future: What is the purpose of the SBE?	40 minutes/Janis	Shape the long term purpose of the SBE.	News Headline In 10 years news headlines proclaim SBE has achieved a long term objective. What is it?	7 minutes: Individually write 1 – 2 headlines that proclaim what SBE has accomplished. Write each headline individually on 3 inch Post-It notes Each SBE Authority is listed on a single flip chart page + one blank posted around the room. Pages are divided in 2 – good match or needs refinement 3 minutes: Carry your post-it headline to the Goal most associated with it, place in “good match” or “needs refinement.”

				<p>20 minutes: Group huddles around each page and individuals share their headline and why they placed it there.</p> <p>10 minutes Debrief: what do you notice members have in common? What are outliers? Facilitator arranges in groups</p>
How does the SBE operate?	30 minutes/Janis	Toward identifying ideal roles & responsibilities	<p>Strengths & Limitations brainstorm Individuals write one strength or limitation per 2 inch post-it</p>	<p>10 minutes: Write strengths or limitations on post-it notes. Place post-its on the flip chart pages</p> <p>5 minutes: Facilitator moves post-its around to group common ideas</p> <p>15 minutes: Discussion to define unique contribution/leverage for SBE.</p>
Matching Headlines with SBE Roles & Responsibilities	90 minutes/Kevin and Janis	Establishing parameters for discussing OSPI/SBE relationship and respective roles & responsibilities	Identifying ideal SBE – OSPI relationship.	<p>15 minutes: Discussion about Board’s vision of an ideal SBE – OSPI relationship (full group)</p> <p>20 minutes: Small groups or pairs to discuss SBE’s statutory responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does SBE currently not do that we think it should do? • What does SBE currently do that we think SBE should not do? <p>10 minutes: Share back with full group</p> <p>20 minutes: Superintendent Reykdal’s vision of an ideal SBE – OSPI relationship and respective roles and responsibilities</p> <p>20 minutes: Discussion about future purpose identified in headline exercise and what ideal governance roles will support fulfillment of these headlines.</p>