

THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY FORUM ON GRADUATION PATHWAY OPTIONS

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

Kitsap Conference Center
100 Washington Ave.
Bremerton, WA 98312

Members Attending: Chair Peter Maier, Mr. Chris Reykdal, Mr. Jeff Estes, Ms. Holly Koon, Ms. Judy Jennings, Ms. MJ Bolt, Mr. Ryan Brault, Ms. Patty Wood, Mr. Harium Marti-Morris, Mr. Bill Kallappa, Dr. Susana Reyes, Ms. Autymn Wilde, Ms. Margarita Amezcua (13)

Staff Attending: Dr. Randy Spaulding, Dr. Andrew Parr, Ms. Linda Drake, Ms. Alissa Muller, Mr. Parker Teed, Ms. Stephanie Davidsmeyer, Ms. Tamara Jensen, Ms. Terri Eixenberger (8)

Members Absent: Mr. Ricardo Sanchez, Dr. Paul Pitre, Mr. Kevin Laverty (3)

Staff Absent: Ms. Linda Sullivan-Colglazier (1)

The Washington State Board of Education hosted a public forum in Bremerton on November 5 regarding the equity and adequacy of the new graduation pathway options enacted by legislation. The SBE envisions an education system where students are engaged in personalized education pathways that prepare them for civic engagement, careers, postsecondary education, and lifelong learning. The strategic plan also lays out a set of goals and priorities to realize this vision.

The goal of the Community Forum was to gather feedback from community members, parents, students and partners on recently passed legislation on new graduation pathway options. Executive Director Dr. Randy Spaulding introduced State Board Member, and teacher, Ms. Holly Koon. Ms. Koon facilitated the Forum. Part of the job of the State Board is to research and survey people on their thoughts and ideas around the graduation pathways. Ms. Koon stated that the SBE needs to think about the equity and the accuracy, and to make sure that the Board is training itself to look at all this through student eyes. The Board tries to ground its work on being student centered.

Attendees broke into table groups for discussion and feedback. Groups were asked to think about the wide range of students that are served in Washington State, and then to describe individually a student that came to mind for them. Each table group then reported out to the larger audience.

Table groups then spent thirty minutes discussing four questions on graduation pathway options and subsequently shared their findings with the full group. Discussion ensued and input was given.

The consensus of the conversation was that pathways are great, but hard to take advantage of when students are required to have 24 credits to graduate. Dr. Spaulding said the legislature assigned the SBE to evaluate whether or not they will work with focus groups and surveys over a two and one half year period. Stakeholder feedback is very important. Based on the data that students are using, the SBE will go back to districts to see what is happening in local districts to understand what the barriers are. Final recommendations will be made in the fall of 2022. Three classes will graduate before any changes are made. The rules need to be filed in the next thirty-one days. Executive Director Spaulding added that what the Board adopts, districts will want to start looking at. This is a major system change. A high level summary of feedback will be sent out. Everything the Board members receive, the public will receive.

Ms. Koon thanked people for attending and becoming involved in the discussions.

There being no further business, the forum concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ms. Terri Eixenberger