

Clark County School Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Friday, June 2, 2017 – 1:30 p.m.

Present: Marc Boldt, Clark County counselor; Mary Elkin, Vancouver Neighborhoods Alliance; Tyson Vogeler, Green Mountain School District; Mark Stoker, Vancouver School District; Dave Holmes, La Center School District; Julie Olson, Clark County counselor; Carol Foster, Educational Opportunities for Children and Families; Christie BrownSilva, Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County; Ken Root, Battle Ground School District; Mark Ross, Battle Ground School District; Trista Zugel-Bensel Clark County; John Deeder, Evergreen School District; Brittany Bagent, Columbia River Economic Development Council; Mike Stromme, Washougal School District; Connie Hennessey, Camas School District

Absent: Michael Green, Woodland School District; Tim Cook, Clark College; Sandra Yager, Hockinson School District; Nathan McCann, Ridgefield School District

1. **Welcome and introductions** – Councilor Boldt welcomed those in attendance, saying the Schools Advisory Council (SAC) had been reinstated.
2. **Charge** – Trista Zugel-Bensel introduced herself as the meeting facilitator. The meeting goals were presented as follows: build a common understanding of the group’s purpose; identify and discuss potential issues; define members’ role; and establish a meeting schedule.

Background – Trista said the county formed a school taskforce in 2006 to inform the 2007 Growth Management Comprehensive Plan update in four areas: quality education; impacts of growth and development: quality facilities; and proactively respond to growth. The task force developed a draft School Element for the 2007 plan, the element and the plan were subsequently adopted.

Roles, responsibilities and protocols – Trista noted that SAC members should have received an email with the agenda, purpose and charge, and draft protocols for the meeting. No concerns, amendments or discussion arose.

3. **Council work plan/issues bin** – Trista outlined the big idea exercise. SAC members were asked to fill out Post-it notes highlighting issues they want the committee to consider in a work plan. All Post-it notes were displayed on the wall. The issues identified are attached.

Each committee member used six colored dots to rank the top issues. The five issues that received the most votes were:

- a. Permitting process (21)
- b. Youth coping skills (20)
- c. Countywide school emergency planning/prep (19)
- d. Supporting student success (19)
- e. Talent pipeline to align with future employment demand (15)

Permitting process: Participants discussed the difficulty identifying parcels suitable for school development, as well as problems or delays obtaining permits. Mr. Vogeler of the Green

Mountain School District discussed two challenges: accommodating portables when most of the district land is zoned Forest; and addressing development code standards. He said he anticipates the district will receive greater state funding, but is concerned the funding increase is to increase classroom construction. The challenges will be to obtain permits for construction.

SAC members agreed to identify specific related issues and bring them back to the next meeting for discussion. Members said private development activities are obstructing the ability of schools to transport students in a timely fashion. They said another issue was that some school districts are having difficulty collecting School Impact Fees because some property owners do not request final occupancy permits. Members were asked to email specific examples of permitting issues to county staff.

Mental health/youth coping skills/supporting student success: The mental health landscape has changed, and schools are doing much more. Members want a better understanding of what services are available and what districts can consider to develop options.

Five organizations provide mental health services, but services are limited to students who receive free/reduced school lunches. How can services be provided more broadly? Students needing services are not getting them. The committee discussed the need for service coordination and identifying barriers to providing mental health treatment. Members identified related issues as poverty, homelessness and bullying. County staff agreed to contact Dr. Alan Melnick, Public Health director, and Vanessa Gaston, Community Services director, to help the committee discuss this issue at the next SAC meeting.

Talent pipeline to align with future employment demand: The committee discussed the need for schools to coordinate with local employers for internship opportunities, including vocational training opportunities for students who do not plan to attend college. Members also identified the need to create employment opportunities for students living in north Clark County.

Countywide school emergency planning and prep: CRESA and coordination with emergency resources.

Other Items:

The committee discussed whether ESD 112 should be a SAC member. The county will consider the suggestion.

ESD 112 has a superintendent work group called “sup,” and members suggested SAC be expanded to include early learning and neighborhood association representatives.

4. **Next steps** – The committee consensus was to meet on a quarterly basis. The next meeting will be in August.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.