Board of Education Meetings 8/13/26

Special Meeting

VI. Action on Proposed Amendments to Bylaws and Code of Conduct for the Hawaii BOE

Lo – changes give more latitude to the Committee Chairs. Board is supposed to set the direction of the DOE not to micromanage. This is difficult with Sunshine Law. How does the BOE set the direction? How do the Committees work cohesively? How are the Committees evaluated? Do Committees set the direction independently? How does the Board set the direction for the year?

Takumi – BOE developed the Strategic Plan and Committees report on items related to the Plan.

Lo- what will the BOE focus on this year in terms of the Plan? How will the goals and objectives be monitored? Should develop focus areas by quarter from the Plan. Is the governance structure and the way we operate appropriate for setting the direction of the Department.

Arakaki – how do the Committees work together toward the Strategic Plan. Do we need to identify priorities for the last 2 years of the Plan? Committee Chairs need to work together.

Lee – has concerns about some changes to the bylaws and lack of discussion, particularly around giving more authority to leadership and less authority to the Board. Concerned about sections giving sole authority to Committee Chairs, agenda setting, access to the Attorney General.

Hattori – section 9.1 language needs to be amended (AG access)

Takumi – all members and the ED can access to the AG with notification to the Committee Chair.

Motion to approve the new Bylaws passes.

VII. Report of the Board Chairperson

A. Hawaii State BOE Self-Assessment

Will start next month, 3-month process.

Lee – why will only Board members participate in the assessment and not Board staff? They are critical support for each Board member due to Sunshine Law.

Takumi – not aware of NASBE process to include staff in the assessment

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

A. Update on Student Transportation
    a. Down six routes this year on Maui due to driver shortages and unforeseen circumstances, six new drivers being trained
    b. Bus driver shortage still a national problem. Increase in shortage from last year. Usually start off the year low and new drivers come on line during the year.
    c. Some routes consolidated – 336 down to 300 routes (294 active)
    d. Express bus participation anticipated to increase throughout the year.
B. Update on School Safety
    a. SRO program expansion to new schools with retired HPD officers; counties provide funding. Plan is to have 3 SROs per participating school (4 schools). Will continue to expand program to high schools and middle schools.

IX. Oral Report of the Chairperson's Designee to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

X. Investigative committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to paragraph 92-2.5(b)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes) investigation concerning processes for FY27, FY28, and FY29, and targeted goals for FY27, for the superintendent evaluation: Findings and recommendations

Board members Arakaki, Hattori, Kuraya, and Chung in the PIG to develop evaluation process.

XI. Action on authorization of participation in the national 40 By 40: Fulfill the IDEA Promise Campaign and designation of Board representative.

Campaign to advocate for the federal government to fulfill its promise to provide 40% funding for IDEA services. Goal is to have all states signed on by Sept.

Motion passes.

XII. Designation of Board Members to an investigative committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to paragraph 92- 2.5(b)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes) concerning nomination of individuals to serve as members of the State Public Charter School Commission.

2 vacancies

3-year term

Motion passes. BM Hattori will Chair the Committee.

XIII. Audit Committee oral report – Hattori

Student Achievement Committee

III. Department of Education Update on Sexual Violence Prevention Education

Provides age-appropriate education for K-12 students in recognizing sexual abuse and locating a safe adult to report to.

Parent brochure distributed, translated into multiple languages.

Department maintains a website with related resources.

Takumi – does harassment based on sexual orientation count at sexual violence?

IV. Action on Department of Education proposal to proceed with revision of Board policy 101-15 (Focus on Students)

Strengthen alignment with the Strategic Plan and the new Vision for a Public School Graduate by revising the General Learner Outcomes (GLOs).

Motion to proceed with review process to the GLOs passes.

V. Action on Department of Education proposal to proceed with revision of Board policy 102-15 (High School Graduation Requirements and Commencement)

Would be a phased implementation plan for the new requirements – (starting 2028-29)

Motion to proceed with the revision passes.

Finance and Infrastructure Committee

III. Update on Capital Improvement Portfolio

$1.8 billion in projects

Richard Fajardo presenting.

Making progress in finishing and closing out projects. At 50 projects over $1 million down from 56 projects in February of this year.

Lapses – examples include budgets that come in higher than funding provided.

Lo - great progress has been made. Should we do an ageing report for older projects? Which projects are behind schedule, over budget, etc, and require risk management.

Takumi – challenging to produce information for legislators in the format they prefer.

Souki and Fajardo - Exploring quarterly reports, a dashboard to provide additional transparency.

Takumi – SFA six years in, challenges remain in overlap/inefficiency/redundancies. Lack of clarity in the law. Would it be easier if DOE got out of the school construction business and gave it all to SFA? SFA came about because there was a perception that DOE was not effective. Marriage between DOE and SFA is not a good one.

Souki – increasing project completion year over year. Scope of work is far greater than SFA. SFAs mission is broader than just building and maintaining schools. Strategy now in DOE is to close older projects out. Moving problems from DOE to SFA does not eliminate the problems – old buildings, labor shortages, etc.

Superintendent – we build schools for educational purposes. We have improved over the last few years. Transitioned to lump sum buckets budget requests instead of by project, providing more flexibility. Seeing continuous improvement in performance.

Kuraya – lump sum buckets enable flexibility.

Lo – trying to put too much information in one report when the information involves different discussions (project management, lapsing funds, appropriations, etc)

IV. Update on Status of School Fire Alarm Systems

Souki and Fajardo presenting – fire watch means school personnel regularly monitor the area for fires since fire alarms are inoperable.

Poor rating means the system is functioning but less reliable, components becoming obsolete, etc. When the Department receives more funding in their health and safety bucket, more systems can be worked on. Received funding the past 2 years from the Leg for health and safety projects, and fire alarms are a high priority.

V. Update on School Facilities Repair and Maintenance

Report does not include deferred maintenance projects backlog.

IBM training was first step in process to improve communication with the schools, and improving documentation and transparency of status of projects. Working to clean up the data in the system.

SLA was updated, also to clarify processes for R&M, improve communication with schools.

Sometimes work orders are closed prematurely. Efforts to improve reporting on status of projects and if it's not completed, why it was not. Issue is communication. Ex if the project is larger than just minor R&M and should be moved to deferred maintenance. Updating SLA will equalize response times between DAGS and Oahu.

VI. Update on the State's Goal of 30% of School Meals Consisting of Locally Sourced Products (section 302A-405.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes)

Souki and Tajima presenting –

Have made progress in overall local food purchase and particularly local produce.

Demand starts with the menu. Working with a variety of state partners. Department needs to know what is available for purchase and vendors need to know what will be on the menu.

Manini Connections – micro-purchase agreements with small farms and local schools.

Event in Wahiawa with over 80 local farmers.

In order to scale to 30% - it will require larger changes in procurement away from long standing vendors.

Finishing kitchen assessments for those that will receive food from the new regional kitchen.

Hattori – impressed in light of the progress made in the past 5 months since the audit report.

Completed eight of the recommended actions in the audit report and close to completing the remaining items.

Takumi – per meal cost has been $9 and the Department can only charge a quarter of the amount. Other regional kitchens report average cost of $3 per meal, but only food. $9 includes food and labor, supplies, etc.