



COMMISSION
AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Item No. 7a

BRIEFING ITEM

Date of Meeting February 11, 2020

DATE: January, 31, 2020
TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director
FROM: LeeAnne Schirato, Commission Specialist

SUBJECT: Maritime Secondary Education

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late 2018, Commissioner Calkins initiated an ongoing dialogue with a diverse group of tribal, community, labor, education and industry leaders from the Seattle area to discuss how to empower young people to succeed in the climate-adaptive, new-economy, maritime jobs in the region. In July of 2019, the Port engaged consultant services to create a strategic action plan, generate significant stakeholder engagement, and produce a final case statement to outline the feasibility of a public secondary education institution and/or programs in the Seattle area focused on maritime education. This presentation will share the results of the final case statement that includes support to transition the maritime and ocean sciences initiative from a port driven effort to a community driven effort.

A CHANGING TIDE

The final case statement "A Changing Tide," calls for a maritime and ocean sciences high school in the Seattle area. A Changing Tide was authored by Architects of Achievement in consultation with the Maritime Secondary Education Advisory Group, whose members include:

- Ryan Calkins, Port of Seattle Commissioner
- John Welch, Superintendent, Puget Sound Educational Services District
- Dr. Diane DeBacker, Chief Academic Officer, Seattle Public Schools
- Sarah Scherer, Executive Director, Seattle Maritime Academy (now with City of Seattle)
- Paulina Lopez, Executive Director, Duwamish River Clean Up Coalition/TAG
- Joshua Berger, Executive Director, Maritime Blue
- Ali Vekich, Washington Area District Council, ILWU
- Marie Kurose, Chief Executive Officer, Workforce Development Council of King County
- Adrienne Hampton, Washington Sea Grant Keystone Fellow, Seattle Aquarium
- Gilda Wheeler, Senior Program Director, Washington STEM
- Angie Mason Smith, Core Plus Project Coordinator, Office of the Superintendent of Public Schools
- Victoria Bergsagel, President & Founder, Architects of Achievement

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- Jessica DeBarros, Executive Director, Communications, Puget Sound Educational Services District

The recommendations in the case statement were also informed by a stakeholder summit, held on September 25, 2019 and attended by over 80 participants, two study tours to NYC and Port Townsend, and conversations with students, business and labor leaders, educators and non-profit agencies and legislators.

THE ROLE OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE

The Port has exercised civic leadership as a maritime anchor institution to facilitate efforts to convene regional stakeholders and identify maritime workforce gaps and education opportunities. A regional and collaborative synergy with the goal of creating a maritime and ocean sciences high school has emerged.

The Port of Seattle is uniquely positioned to continue its role as a convener of regional stakeholders, communities and school districts, maritime education non-profit organizations, labor and industry, and aligned government agencies, in pursuit of the mission and vision, and supported by the guiding principles identified in “A Changing Tide.”

The development of a maritime and ocean sciences high school will require the explicit desire and leadership of at least one school district, explicit support from the Office of Superintendent of Public Schools, industry expertise, and funding.

Using \$100,000 secured during the Port of Seattle 2020 budget development process, the Port will execute a contract for consultant services to continue the facilitation of coordination with school districts, the development of a workplan and other duties to support the transition of work to a school district or a non-profit organization. A contract will also be executed for community outreach services.

The Port is at the forefront of ensuring that the regional workforce evolves to meet industry demands. It also has the responsibility to drive solutions that will support workers, families, communities and the Port of Seattle to reach their full potential in current and future economies. The Port of Seattle’s \$100,000 budget allocation will facilitate the successful transition of the maritime and ocean sciences initiative from a port driven effort to a community driven effort.

GROWING SUPPORT

The Port of Seattle has a long history of interest and action in supporting workforce development efforts in port-related activities. The Port’s mission to achieve economic development includes both the generation of quality, living-wage jobs and ensuring a stable, well-trained and diverse workforce to fill them. The Port has worked to integrate its efforts with regional stakeholders and use its influence to increase the capacity and efficiency of the regional maritime workforce development system.

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In November 2019, the Northwest Maritime Center, NWMC, demonstrated its strong support for this initiative by submitting a Career Connect Washington, Career Launch grant application. If awarded, the funds would have been used to create an action plan to create a Seattle-based Career Launch Maritime High School and a Maritime Apprenticeship Council (MAC). The NWMC identified two critical gaps in the maritime workforce development sector in Washington State: the lack of a maritime vocational career and technical education (CTE) high school and the lack of a youth maritime pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship program. Creating an action plan for a Maritime High School and MAC to serve traditionally underserved youth in Seattle would directly address both the Maritime Blue and Career Connect Washington State legislative initiatives. NWMC was not awarded a grant, but is considering a resubmittal in the future.

On February 3, 2020, Rep. Jesse Johnson and Sen. Hasegawa submitted a budget proviso requesting \$250,000 to support the design and planning of a maritime and ocean sciences high school. Funds would go to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to align school design.

On February 6, 2020, Commissioner Calkins met with the superintendents of Highline and Tukwila school districts and the Chief Academic Officer of Seattle Public Schools to discuss coordinated support for creating a maritime and ocean sciences high school.

NEXT STEPS

A motion to support the recommendations of the Maritime Secondary Education Advisory group that calls for the development of a Maritime and Ocean Sciences High School will be considered at the February 25th commission meeting. The motion will facilitate efforts to convene regional stakeholders, with an emphasis on South King County communities and school districts, maritime education non-profit organizations, labor and industry, and aligned government agencies, in pursuit of the mission and vision, and guided by the principles identified in “A Changing Tide.”

The Port will execute two contracts for community outreach and plan development services to support the transfer of effort from the Port to a school district or a non-profit organization.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING

- (1) Presentation slides
- (2) Case Statement: A Changing Tide
- (3) Advisory Group Commitment Letter
- (4) Draft Motion

PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS

None