



**COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**Item No.** 11a

**BRIEFING ITEM**

**Date of Meeting** October 12, 2021

**DATE :** September 10, 2021  
**TO:** Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director  
**FROM:** LeeAnne Schirato, Sr. Commission Specialist  
**SUBJECT:** **Maritime High School Commission Update**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Changing Tide: A Strategic Plan for Maritime and Ocean Sciences High School in Greater Seattle was published in February 2020. On March 10, 2020, the Port of Seattle Commission passed a motion supporting the recommendations in “A Changing Tide” that align with the port’s Century Agenda goal to use our influence as an institution to promote workforce development.

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. From hosting a 2019 summit attended by nearly a hundred stakeholders to touring the New York Harbor School to partnering with the Northwest Maritime Center, Highline Public Schools and the Duwamish River Clean Up Coalition, the Port’s investment has supported the successful transition of the Maritime High School from a port-driven inquiry to a community-driven reality. Highline Public Schools welcomed the first class of incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders to Maritime High School on September 2, 2021.

**Work Funded by the Port in 2021**

The Port entered into a contract with the Northwest Maritime Center in the amount of \$49,999 for a scope of work to include:

- Project Management & Work Plan
- Pro Forma Financial Projections
- Fundraising
- Instructional Design

The Port also entered into an interlocal agreement with Highline Public Schools in the amount of \$125,000 for a scope of work to include:

- Instructional Design

- Community Engagement
- Partnership Development
- Family and Student Engagement
- Staff Development

### **Work Accomplished in 2021**

- Development of Advisory Board
- Engagement with over 150 Community Collaborators
- Approval from the State Board of Education for a Credit-Based Graduation Waiver – a necessary step to facilitate project-based learning.
  - Students will engage in project-based learning, working with teachers, community partners and industry experts in hands-on experiences; an innovative transcript will demonstrate their learning across all academic subject areas.
- Community Engagement
  - Duwamish Valley Community Winter Event
    - Informational mailers (English, Spanish Vietnamese, Somali, Khmer) sent to all residences in Georgetown and South Park
  - 2 Careers in Maritime Webinars and Panel Discussions
  - 2 Boat-based Maritime Education Events
  - Duwamish River Festival
- Confirmed Maritime Academic Focus Areas
  - Marine Construction
  - Vessel Operations
  - Ocean Resources and Research
- Curriculum development
  - Student learning will center on the environment, marine science, and maritime careers working on or near the water. Students will engage in integrated projects, learning across all high school content areas.
  - By graduation, students will have the skills to launch a maritime career and will also be ready to continue studying in a 2 or 4-year college. Regardless of a student’s life path, attendance in this school will enhance their understanding of the natural world, increase their competency in practical skills, and offer them a greater awareness of the career opportunities of the sea and beyond.
- Launch of the region’s first Student-centered, Equity-driven, Maritime-focused public high school.

### **The Future of Maritime High School**

- Recruitment
  - 8th grade engagement
  - 2021 class of 34, future classes of 100 and a student body of 400

- **Continued Curriculum Development**
  - Refine 9th grade program
  - Develop 10th grade program
  - Build infrastructure for 11th-12th grade specialty areas and internships
  
- **Long Term Budget Planning**
  - A Pro Forma Financial Assumption to be completed in Q4 2021.
  - The Northwest Maritime Center has agreed to champion the fundraising efforts. The 2021-2022 fundraising goal is \$1.6M. The Maritime High School will continue to require funding. First-year funding will include start-up costs, as well as support for the first class of students. As the school grows to full enrollment of 400, funds will be required in addition to the state per-student contributions that come from the state of Washington.
  
- **Capital Planning**
  - Initial capital planning is currently underway. The goal is for the creation of a standalone Maritime High School located in the Duwamish Valley, considered both vulnerable and incredibly diverse—socioeconomically, racially and culturally. A key component of this comprehensive effort is to provide opportunities that connect community to the maritime industry in their own backyard.

**ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BRIEFING**

1. Interlocal Agreement
2. Motion 2020-05
3. Changing Tide
4. Presentation Slides

**PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS OR BRIEFINGS**

April 13, 2021 – The Commission authorized an Interlocal Agreement with Highline Public Schools, Maritime High School.

March 10, 2020 – The Commission passed Motion 2020-05, a motion supporting the recommendations in “A Changing Tide” that align with the port’s Century Agenda goal to use our influence as an institution to promote workforce development.