

Robbinsdale Area Schools School Board Meeting Agenda

Monday, December 17, 2012 at 5:30 PM

Work Session

Education Service Center Boardroom, 4148 Winnetka Avenue North,
New Hope, Minnesota

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- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Discussion of West Metro Education Program (WMEP) Joint Powers Board Resolution
Presenter: Helen Bassett | 2 |
| 2. Robbinsdale Area School Board Culture and Communication
Presenter: Helen Bassett | 15 |

October 23, 2012

RESOLUTION REGARDING CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST METRO EDUCATION PROGRAM ("WMEP")

WHEREAS, benefits of attending an integrated academic environment contributes to the holistic learning experience of students learning in an integrated, diverse environment teaches our students about cultures, provides opportunities for interracial and intercultural friendships, reduces prejudices and can assist in eliminating racial disparities in student outcomes such as graduation rates, suspension rates and overall academic achievement.


WHEREAS, in February 2012, the Minneapolis Public School Board served notice to the WMEP Joint Powers Board of its intent to withdraw from the WMEP Integration Collaborative district effective June 30, 2013. Subsequent to the submission of this notice, the Board directed staff to collect, review and analyze data to determine whether Minneapolis Public Schools would continue participation in the WMEP Integration Collaborative district.

WHEREAS, based upon the data collected and presented to the MPS Board and the Equity and Achievement committee, the Superintendent of MPS recommends the approval to rescind the resolution to withdraw from WMEP. The recommendation to rescind is contingent upon the WMEP Joint Powers Board adopting the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) and West Metro Education Partnership (WMEP) Agreement and Commitment to Equity and Excellence ("Agreement") with MPS on or before November 30, 2012. This Agreement is attached as Exhibit A. If the Agreement is not approved by the WMEP Joint Powers Board on or before November 30, 2012, the initial MPS resolution to withdraw from WMEP shall remain in place and become effective June 30, 2013.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education, Special School District No. 1, approves the recommendation to rescind the resolution to withdraw from WMEP and instead remain a member of the West Metro Education Partnership. The recommendation to rescind is contingent upon the WMEP Joint Powers Board adopting the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) and West Metro Education Partnership (WMEP) Agreement and Commitment to Equity and Excellence ("Agreement") with MPS on or before November 30, 2012. If the Agreement is not adopted by that date, the original resolution to withdraw from WMEP effective June 30, 2013, shall remain in effect. MPS and WMEP together recommit to strengthening the relationship to fulfill the terms of WMEP inter-district integration collaboration.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in addition, the Agreement provides a six-month notice to withdraw from WMEP. To the extent that change requires amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement, that change must occur by March 30, 2013. If not, the original resolution to withdraw from WMEP effective June 30, 2013, shall remain in effect.

Signed by:



Alberto Monserrate
Board of Education Chairperson

10-23-12
Date



Richard Mammen
Board of Education Clerk

10-23-12
Date



October 9, 2012

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) and West Metro Education Program (WMEP) Agreement and Commitment to Equity and Excellence

Background

In February 2011, the Minneapolis Public School Board served notice to the WMEP Joint Powers Board of its intent to withdraw from the WMEP Integration Collaborative district effective June 30, 2013. Subsequent to the submission of this notice, the Board directed staff to collect, review and analyze data to determine whether Minneapolis Public Schools would continue participation in the WMEP Integration Collaborative district. The data collected was presented to MPS Board members and focused on: 1) Whether WMEP was still serving its original purpose; and 2) how MPS students enrolled in WMEP's schools are performing academically. The analysis also reviewed other WMEP services including professional development and school related programming. Based upon the data collected and presented to the MPS Board, staff provides the following recommendation to the MPS Board of Directors.

Recommendation

MPS staff recommends that MPS remain a member of the West Metro Education Program and that MPS and WMEP recommit to strengthening the relationship to fulfill the terms of WMEP inter-district integration collaboration.

MPS and WMEP Mutual Accountability and Commitment

MPS and WMEP are committed to the integration goals of producing interracial student contact within its respective school districts, creating regional integration strategies and also significantly closing, and eventually eliminating, the racial achievement gap. In order to achieve these goals, MPS believes there must be mutual accountability and commitment from MPS and WMEP.

MPS and WMEP agree to the following conditions of satisfaction as part of the renewed commitment to equity and excellence:

1. MPS and WMEP value equity and diversity. We believe that equity, diversity and integration includes more than racial diversity. Equity and diversity includes multilingual student diversity (ELL), free and reduced lunch student diversity, special education student diversity and homeless and highly mobile student diversity. In order to create an equitable and diverse learning environment for students, MPS and WMEP agree to review and modify student enrollment policies for WMEP schools in order to create a more inclusive lottery admissions process that will increase the diversity of multilingual, free and reduced lunch, special

education and homeless and highly mobile students. WMEP agrees to adequately staff WMEP schools to support both academically and emotionally the specific needs of these student populations. In addition, WMEP agrees to provide building-wide professional development focused on supporting the needs of these students. MPS and WMEP agree that this more inclusive lottery and admissions process will be implemented for the 2013-2014 school year;

2. MPS and WMEP value fiscal accountability and the equitable allocation of resources. We believe that all WMEP participating school districts should be treated equitably with respect to tuition payment for students attending WMEP schools. In order to create more fiscal accountability and the equitable allocation of resources, MPS and WMEP agree to enter into good faith negotiations in order to determine the allowable per student cost for MPS students attending WMEP schools. Good faith negotiations will include the discussion of integration and referendum aid currently distributed on a per student basis from MPS to WMEP and the phasing out of such aid over an agreed upon period of time. MPS and WMEP agree that all negotiations will be completed and the new allocation of resources implemented and effective for the 2013-2014 budget;
3. MPS and WMEP value equity professional development and equity programming for staff and students. We believe that professional development and student programming can create an equitable school environment that promotes interracial student contact and the elimination of the racial achievement gap. MPS and WMEP agree to work collaboratively to create a more diverse offering of staff professional development and student programming that will benefit staff and students. We agree to work collaboratively to establish measurable outcomes and metrics to evaluate the success of professional development and student programming and its respective impact on student achievement. MPS and WMEP agree that all suggested modifications to professional development and student programming will be implemented for the 2013-2014 school year; and
4. MPS and WMEP agree to collaboratively work with the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Integration Repurposing Task Force, Minnesota School Integration Council and other racial equity leaders in creating a transformative integration policy and rule that provide a more equitable and inclusive approach for the inclusion of all students, including but not limited to: multilingual, free and reduced lunch, special education and homeless and highly mobile students.

Terms and Conditions of Agreement

MPS and WMEP agree that in order for WMEP to serve its purposes of creating interracial student contact and closing the racial achievement gap, MPS, WMEP and other member districts must hold each other mutually accountable to satisfy the terms of this agreement. MPS and WMEP agree that if MPS or WMEP does not satisfy the terms and conditions of this agreement, either party may provide 30-day notice and request a meeting to resolve any outstanding issues or concerns. Such issues or concerns must be clearly stated in the notice and the party stating the issue or concern must offer an equitable solution for such issues or concerns. If the meeting does not provide a mutually agreeable resolution, either party can provide 6-month notice of intent to withdraw from this agreement. Such notice shall also serve as official notice of intent to withdraw from WMEP and becomes effective for the next school year following the year in which the notice is given.

Full and Final Agreement

MPS and WMEP remain committed to increasing racial equity and closing the achievement gap. MPS and WMEP agree to recommit to the mission and purpose of WMEP and in good faith commit to productively engaging in an inter-district integration strategy that will benefit the achievement of all students.

Bernadeia H. Johnson, Ed.D. Date
Superintendent
Minneapolis Public Schools

Daniel L. Jett, Ph.D. Date
Superintendent
West Metro Education Program

Helen Bassett Date
Joint Powers Board, Chair
West Metro Education Program

Alberto Monserrate Date
Board of Education, Chair
Minneapolis Public Schools



WEST METRO EDUCATION PROGRAM
An integration district focused on student success

10 South 10th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403
612-752-7201
612-752-7206 fax
www.wmep.k12.mn.us

Dr. Daniel L. Jett, Superintendent

To: All West Metro Education Program Superintendents, School Board Chairs and Joint Powers Board (JPB) Members

From: West Metro Education Program (WMEP) Chair, Helen Bassett, and Dr. Daniel Jett, Superintendent

Date: October 30, 2012

Re: Information about the recent Minneapolis Public School (MPS) Board's decision regarding WMEP

West Metro
Education
Program
Members

Brooklyn
Center

Columbia
Heights

Eden Prairie

Edina

Hopkins

Minneapolis

Richfield

Robbinsdale

St. Anthony-
New Brighton

St. Louis Park

Wayzata

We are very much aware that many of you have questions and perhaps concerns about the MPS Board's vote to rescind its previous decision and notice to withdraw from WMEP effective June 30, 2013. As you know, the MPS decision is predicated on WMEP addressing concerns expressed by MPS in the attached document that was adopted by the MPS board on October 23, 2012. A first deadline for a WMEP JPB decision is November 30, 2012 and there is a second deadline of March 30, 2013 for a change to WMEP's Joint Powers Agreement.

The WMEP Joint Powers Board is meeting this Thursday, November 1, 2012 to have a first discussion about the process, the content, and the specified timeline indicated in the communication from Minneapolis Public Schools referenced above. Further information will be forthcoming to you after the November 1, 2012 meeting of the WMEP JPB.

For now, to coordinate responses to your questions, those from the media, and from other interested parties; and, since it could be confusing if each member school district answered questions for constituents or the press, we ask that you *please submit any questions you have to Helen Bassett, who will seek to provide answers for you.*

Chair Bassett will be our point person and spokesperson on this matter since she is the WMEP JPB Chair and thus is in the best position to understand the dynamic nature of this situation and to provide the most accurate information available

Please be assured that our major interest is to promote a balanced and fair approach among the members of the WMEP collaboration so that as a learning organization, we are amenable to changes that make us more effective and efficient in meeting our newly adopted Mission and Vision; and, and our exciting and ambitious Strategic Plan: WMEP 2.0. To do so will benefit thousands of students and hundreds of teachers in the region.

We appreciate your patience and forbearance as we move toward a speedy resolution. In the meantime, you may contact Helen Bassett at: phone #763-218-1793 and/or Helen_Bassett@WMEP.K12.MN.US and she will be happy to answer any questions you or your stakeholders may have. Or, if you wish, contact Dan Jett, Superintendent, at 612.752.7202 and/or Dr. Daniel_Jett@WMEP.K12.MN.US and he will share your questions with Ms. Bassett.



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Dr. Daniel L. Jett, Superintendent

October 30, 2012

West Metro
Education
Program
Members

Mr. Alberto Monserrate, Chairperson
Board of Education
Minneapolis Public Schools
Special School District #1

Brooklyn
Center

Dear Mr. Monserrate,

Columbia
Heights

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Joint Powers Board of the West Metro Education Program (WMEP), Joint Powers School District #6069 in response to the Minneapolis Public School (MPS) Board's Resolution Regarding Continued Partnership with West Metro Education Program ("WMEP"), adopted October 23, 2012.

Eden Prairie

Edina

First, I want to express sincere appreciation to the MPS board for its interest in the continuation of the relationship among MPS and its 10 suburban school district partners in the form of WMEP. We value the partnership and are eager to make it even stronger and of significant benefit to all of our members. We further appreciate the positive spirit with which the MPS administration and school board are approaching the conversation about the topics included in the Board's October 23, 2012 Resolution.

Hopkins

Minneapolis

Richfield

Robbinsdale

St. Anthony-
New Brighton

The Joint Powers Board members, and their respective school board members at the local level, total about 70 school board members. As member districts review the Resolution from the MPS Board, there is both excitement and encouragement about the expressions of recommitment and acceptance of shared accountability for WMEP's activities and outcomes; and, at the same time there is concern about meeting the timelines and other expectations in the Resolution.

St. Louis Park

Wayzata

Member district school boards have some processes in common and some that are unique to each district as they consider, deliberate, and decide issues. They all have means by which topics, issues, and proposals come before the board and are processed for final action. In

WMEP member districts, the processes are intentionally deliberate and transparent, thus, they take a period of time to complete but which historically provides the best decisions that are supported by most in their communities.

We know that you are aware of the above but we wanted to remind everyone that processes that are "fast tracked," especially among a large number of school districts and school boards can be less productive in the end than had been hoped for by getting a quicker decision. Such a measured approach was taken in the recent adoption of the WMEP Strategic Plan, and proved to be a successful process.

It is the WMEP JPB members sincere intention to address the contents of the MPS Board Resolution of October 23, 2012 in a forthright and constructive manner and it intends to do so in a timely manner; however, it is the JPB's hope that the MPS Board will be amenable to an adjustment in the current timeline solely for the purpose of allowing all member districts the time to constructively understand the issues, consider options and alternative. Adjustments to the timeline will also allow members time to come together and vote to express the will and commitment of each of the member districts, and their will as a group, and to integrate the philosophy, and thrust of the WMEP 2.0 Strategic Plan into any adjustments that are ultimately agreed upon.

In addition, should any of the decisions of the JPB require a change or changes to its Joint Powers Agreement and Joint Powers By-Laws, a vote by each of the member district school boards is required which historically has been a very slow process since each district, as indicated above, has its own schedule of processing items for consideration and for action.

WMEP is very sincere in wanting to address the matters proposed in the October 23, 2012 Resolution; however, the timelines currently in place simply will not allow suburban districts the time to process them in as thorough and constructive a manner as the situation deserves.

An extension from the current deadline of November 30 to February 28, 2013 would allow the soon to be seated "new" JPB (that will be seated in January 2013) the opportunity to have two full JPB meetings, January and February 2013, to consider and respond and it also provides additional time between now - and the very fast approaching holidays - to have currently sitting member district boards begin to deliberate the matter.

An extension of the second deadline from March 30 to June 30, 2013 for the "notice of withdrawal" on the would also provide ample time for the JPB to consider possible changes to its Joint Powers Agreement and, as indicated above, to initiate and complete the lengthy process of making those changes by having all member district school boards consider and take public action on any proposed changes to the Joint Powers Agreement.

As we all know, this process, involving 11 school districts, their boards, their administrations, their attorneys, and using their established processes and procedures takes time in order to be respectfully completed, as has been done in the past.

With those two extensions, it would mean that by July 1, 2013 these matters will have been dutifully considered and acted upon which is only ninety days beyond the current deadline of March 30th, and it coincides with the beginning of the 2013-14 school year.

To reiterate, the WMEP JPB is very appreciative of the MPS administration's and Board's expression of mutual commitment and mutual accountability for our work together and it is sincere in wanting to address the topics in the October 23, 2012 Resolution and its attachment, on a timely and constructive basis. By granting this requested adjustment in the current timeline, we believe will allow member districts and their school boards to do their very best work in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Helen A. Bassett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Helen Bassett, Chair
West Metro Education Program

CC: Bernadeia Johnson, MPS Superintendent

**Joint Powers School District #6069
West Metro Education Program (WMEP)**

Joint Powers Board Meeting

**Title: Some Considerations of A 6-Month Notice
of Intent to Withdraw Membership in WMEP**

Date: December 12, 2012

Background:

Since its formal beginning, WMEP has operated under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that requires notice of a member district's intent to withdraw membership in WMEP by February 1st and such withdrawal becomes effective on June 30th of the year after which the notice is provided to WMEP. To date, none of WMEP's eleven member districts has fully exercised this option, however, Minneapolis Public Schools has provided notice of intent to withdraw membership effective June 30, 2013. Minneapolis has stayed that notice contingent upon a change to the Joint Powers Agreement in the length of notice for withdrawal of membership from the current 17 months notice to a six months notice.

The original intent of providing for a 17-month period notice of intent to withdraw membership in WMEP was (and is) to provide ample and adequate time for all parties to make reasonable arrangements to accommodate the pending changes. Below are selected examples of potential arrangements and accommodations for the identified parties:

1. For WMEP

Magnet School students, families, and staff
District budgeting to accommodate possible reductions in revenue
Its JPB in terms of possible changes to the JPA and By-Laws
The impact on programs and services that WMEP can provide

2. For the withdrawing member district

Current WMEP Magnet School students, families and staff
Future internal staffing changes
School options and assignments

3. For the remaining WMEP member districts

Potential changes in Magnet School allocations
Potential changes in financial requirements for membership
Reduced access for students to WMEP programs and services

Action Item #2

A change from a 17-month time frame to a six-month time frame to consider the implications and to make accommodations based on the withdrawal of a member district from WMEP will truncate the above activities and the results of this shorter timeline are difficult to anticipate with any precision. However, time for careful deliberation, identification of options, and communications with member district stakeholders in both the withdrawing and the remaining WMEP member districts may be challenging at best. That such withdrawal has not ever occurred in the past also means that there is no prior record of the actual implications of such action on the part of a WMEP member district.

While it could perhaps be intuitively argued that seventeen-months is the optimal length of time needed to affect a withdrawal of membership in WMEP by a member district, there is no proof that such is the case either. And, in fact, from a practical perspective it may end up being very unlikely that a withdrawing WMEP member district would wait until the very last minute to provide the JPA mandated notice of withdrawal. In other words, to best evaluate the current request for change from 17 to 6-months notice of withdrawal from WMEP, one has to estimate the likelihood that a district would be deliberating possible withdrawal of membership from WMEP as a non iterative process, out of public view, and only come to its final decision to withdraw on the very last day possible in order to provide six months notice of withdrawal of WMEP membership.

It seems more likely that a WMEP member district contemplating withdrawal of membership will be very public and transparent about its deliberations in this regard, including public board meetings where the topic is discussed and where pros and cons of withdrawal are considered. It is also likely that a district considering such action will have its WMEP JPB member bring its district's concerns and interests to the JPB for possible resolution well in advance of any official vote to withdraw its membership in WMEP. Thus, while "official" notice of a district's intent to withdraw membership from WMEP could occur at the very six month in advance of withdrawal moment; however, it seems more likely that advance notice that is unofficial will certainly be known well ahead of the final date for notification.

Further, from a practical perspective, districts contemplating withdrawal of membership in WMEP, because of internal district timelines and deadlines for printing, communications, staff assignments, student assignments and other important matters related to the next school year, will likely want and need to make their decision well in advance of the proposed minimum 6-month notice deadline. Therefore, we anticipate that most likely such notice would be given in June at the conclusion of the prior school year and that would provide a 12 month advance notice of intent to withdraw. If not made at that time, it seems reasonable that at least such a decision would be made in the early fall and if so that would provide a notice of somewhere between 6 and 12 months.

Action Item #2

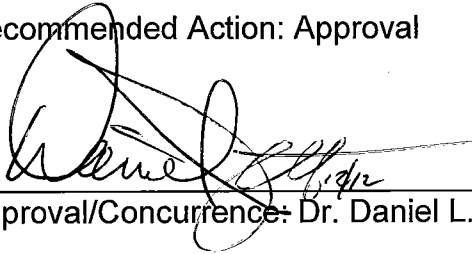
After weighing all of the known factors and anticipating some of the unknown factors that could affect a smooth and constructive withdrawal from membership in WMEP by a member district, we would prefer to maintain the current 17-month advance notice time period for withdrawal from membership in WMEP. However, given the practical aspects of operating public school districts as briefly described above, it seems reasonable to amend the JPA to change the notice of withdrawal time frame from 17-months to 6 months, minimum. We would hope that a district entertaining such a move would want to and would provide as much advance notice of its intent as possible, both to the service of its own students, families and staff members; and as a show of mutual respect for the remaining WMEP member districts.

A minimum six-month notice of withdrawal allows WMEP's JPB and Administration a full budget planning cycle (from January to June) to make any necessary adjustments to both revenue and expenditures. It would also provide a full staffing cycle that takes place simultaneous with WMEP's annual budget development.

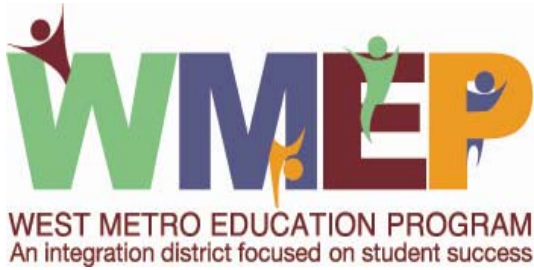
This change in the time period for notice of withdrawal from membership in WMEP can be evaluated as to its fairness and effectiveness should a district decide to withdraw membership in WMEP under the new 6-month notice requirement; and, if that process is not deemed to be satisfactory the members of the JPA can modify the notice deadline sometime in the future.

Recommendations/Next Steps:

Recommended Action: Approval

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel L. Jett", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Approval/Concurrence: Dr. Daniel L. Jett, Superintendent



Dr. Daniel L. Jett, Superintendent

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**WMEP District Boards’ Consideration of Proposed Change to
WMEP Joint Powers Agreement 2012/2013**

Proposed Timeline:

December 12, 2012:

Joint Powers Board Executive committee recommends modification of the Joint Powers Agreement to reduce the prior notice of intent to withdrawal deadline from 17 months to 6 months.

December 17, 2012:

If the recommendation is approved Joint Powers board chair will send to member district superintendents & board chairs a packet containing the following:

Background information as to the recommendation and its rationale
A copy of a proposed resolution that member district boards are to act upon

March 01, 2013 or sooner:

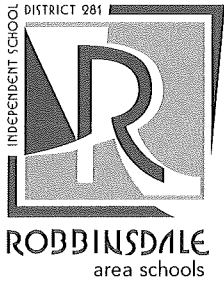
WMEP member district boards submit the results of the vote on the resolution to change the Joint Powers Agreement and shall provide to WMEP a copy of the minutes at which the proposed Joint Powers Agreement change was acted upon.

March 13, 2013:

WMEP Joint Powers Board meeting, at which results of member districts’ action on proposed changes to Joint Powers Agreement are canvassed.

March 14, 2013:

If approved change to the Joint Powers Agreement become effective.



ROBBINSDALE AREA SCHOOLS

4148 Winnetka Avenue North • New Hope MN 55427 • 763-504-8000

MEMO

DATE: Monday, December 17, 2012

TO: Members of the School Board
Superintendent Aldo Sicoli

FROM: Helen Bassett, School Board Member

RE: Planning for a Board Team-Building Discussion at the January Board Workshop

At the December 17, 2012 Work Session, School Board members will discuss and consider whether changes the School Board made to its operational procedures and schedule have influenced the culture and communication patterns of the School Board. This discussion will occur within a team-building framework, and is meant to inform what information is needed to support team-building exercises or discussions for the January 12, 2013 Board Workshop.

Background

During the last two years, the School Board together with Superintendent Sicoli and the Cabinet completed a study of the Iowa Lighthouse Project (LHP). The LHP examines the question, “do school boards make a difference and, if so, how?” The answer was a resounding yes, school boards and their work do matter and, in fact, they are critical to supporting efforts that support student achievement. At the completion of the study session, the School Board made operational changes to how work gets done.

In addition, a new board member will join the Board in January and a long-time board member of 11 years will depart. The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) recognizes such changes as opportunities for local school boards to “re-boot” when new members are added. With the addition of Director Vento, and the departure of Director Van Heel, along with recent operational changes, the Board is in a unique position to discuss team building, communication, and board operating principles.

During the School Board Workshop planned for January 12, 2013, the Board will have an opportunity to discuss team building. In particular, the board will assess the impact of how operational changes may have affected board internal communication, board culture, and opportunities for team-building.

Changes to the operation calendar of the board included:

- Revisions to the monthly meeting schedule.
- Board work sessions occur in tandem with regular board business meetings.
- One fewer monthly meeting of the board is scheduled.
- School Board members' role and participation as committee liaisons has changed.
- The Board participates in more external community engagement activities.
- There is less time available for updates, issues and policy questions arising from committee assignments.
- Fewer all-day work sessions occur, with only one summer retreat.
- Dialogue between varied groups and the School Board has changed.

Board members will make suggestion for how, what and who should be included in the January Workshop around this subject.