
Ad Hoc Committee: Model K follow-up

Paige Richards

Wed, Nov 26, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Good Morning **Members of the Secondary School Ad Hoc Committee**,

I hope each of you finds time for rest and connection with family and friends over the holiday season. I have spent a significant amount of time reflecting on the recent developments in our work, and I feel it is important to address them directly as your facilitator.

I recognize that recent revisions have delayed the release of the survey and, consequently, the return of results. While I wish the timeline had not been extended, I am grateful that the WSD honored the committee's request for further review. WSD's flexibility demonstrates its commitment to empowering this committee and ensuring your collective voice is reflected in this process.

This development of Model K has raised serious concerns. I want to be absolutely clear: upon reviewing the proposed model and the results of the virtual vote, Drs. Marble and Means contacted me immediately to express their *unequivocal opposition* to any elementary school closure. They also reiterated that the Board's current policy—transitioning 6th grade back to the elementary level—remains WSD's plan. The WSD does **not** support Model K.

While the WSD's stance is unambiguous, the structure of this process has always centered on empowering the ad hoc committee to examine complex scenarios. Therefore, if the committee wishes to continue exploring Model K, you may do so—but only with the full understanding that **the decision belongs to you** and that **you must assume full ownership** of its implications.

As facilitator, I believe it is necessary to suspend the virtual vote immediately. For the integrity of our process, the vote must occur in person. The committee deserves to hear directly from WSD leadership regarding their opposition to Model K and how it conflicts with existing WSD policy. This opportunity was not afforded to WSD leadership after the meeting on November 18. Additionally, I need the opportunity to convey in person my concern that the proposal exceeds the scope of the committee's essential question. I believe that the scope of the process has been over extended. While I could have vetoed the proposal initially, doing so would have contradicted the committee's empowerment thus far. Therefore, I ask that you respect my decision to table the virtual vote.

If, after an in-person discussion and vote, a majority of the committee still wishes to pursue Model K, the committee must be prepared to take full responsibility for communicating that decision to affected stakeholders and the broader community. It is not the WSD's responsibility to communicate or defend a decision made by the ad hoc committee.

Thank you for your understanding. I will be unavailable to respond to emails until the afternoon of December 1. Because this is a process issue—not a WSD matter—please direct any questions or concerns to me individually, not to WSD staff.

Thank you,
Paige

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