

Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee on Investing in Educational Excellence

Meeting #7

October 27, 2005, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
John Stanford Center Auditorium

Welcome

The decision has been made that the committee will continue working past the original end date of December 15, for not more than another couple of months. On November 1 the committee will float its first ideas to the community. On December 6 the committee will present preliminary recommendations that will allow impact for 06-07 (in January District staff will be working on central budgets and that work can interface with the committee).

Education Funding Lawsuit

Guest speakers Jerry Painter and Faith Hanna of presented an overview of the current potential litigation to sue the state for not providing ample funding. The last time there was similar litigation was in 1977-78 when standards definitions were different than they are today. We are now asking the state to determine the costs of what they've required school districts to do (phase 1). There is a legal definition of basic education and districts are all fulfilling it because it's set so low. The Washington Learns study is compiling multiple studies of costs for the 21st century. They have been talking to school districts about joining the potential suit. The Seattle Education Association voted to be in the membership network, but needs Seattle School District with it. This also is a civil rights issue so appropriate groups are coming on board. The Washington Learns report is due in November '06.

Communications/Community Subcommittee

The November 1 meeting will have a different format than the previous two community meetings. In addition, eight focus groups are being conducted. By December 5 we should have some specific community feedback for the draft report.

Academic Subcommittee

Tomorrow the Finance Subcommittee will get a memo from the Academic Subcommittee outlining summary of ideas. The academic plan does not address choice because choice takes care of itself if school quality is addressed. We need to be explicit that the basics are first priority.

Finance Subcommittee

Four main ideas are being looked at: 1) facilities square feet (reduction and revenue benefit), 2) transportation, 3) real estate revenue generating options, and 4) fee-based revenue generating activities.

Draft Report

Product of the committee at this point is ideas (not recommendations). The draft report must emphasize all students, needs, what the dollars don't cover, and strategic vision.

Adjournment

The next meeting on November 3 will be a first pass at creating ideas based on input from the November 1 community meeting. The committee needs to develop criteria for judging ideas.