

# Board Special Meeting



2445 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134

Work Session: Budget  
Monday, April 3, 2017 5:30-7:00pm  
Auditorium, John Stanford Center

## Minutes

### Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:33pm.

Directors Blanford (via phone), Burke, Geary, Harris, Patu, Peters, and Pinkham were present. The meeting was staffed by Superintendent Larry Nyland, Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance JoLynn Berge, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Clover Codd, and Director of Budget Linda Sebring.

### Work Session: Budget

Dr. Nyland reviewed the elements of the budget shortfall and the inadequacy of current funding proposals at the Legislature. He highlighted the Board's recent decision to restore many positions at the schools through Weighted Staffing Standards (WSS) restorations.

Ms. Berge reviewed the agenda and key outcome for the meeting: how to spend the remaining \$7.8 million currently available for restoration. She reviewed the worst-case scenario and the staffing recently restored, but noted that positions funded through mitigation processes have not been restored.

Ms. Berge then reviewed, in order of the presentation, each of the staff's recommendations for the use of the \$7.8 million.

Regarding the proposed \$500,000 restoration to Central Office, Director Harris asked whether there was more detail about what would be included in the \$500,000 and Ms. Berge noted that more detailed would be available after discussions took place with affected staff. Director Blanford reflected that Central Office funding often supports the District's equity work. Dr. Nyland explained the timeline for notifying affected staff and Ms. Berge noted that the equity work has been prioritized in initial Central Office reductions. Director Peters noted community concerns about prioritizing restoration to the schools. Ms. Berge noted the consequences of prior rounds of Central Office cuts and resulting critical audits and the balance needed between Central Office and school restorations.

Regarding the ELA Adoption, directors asked several clarifying questions.

Regarding the \$500,000 for other needs, Director Harris asked about the level of detail known, citing IB funding as an example. Ms. Berge noted the current funding for IB programs.

Director Geary asked why certain equity work was called out separately from the \$1.5 million for SMART goal work. Dr. Codd noted that Title II funding was being reduced for STAR

mentors and that the additional \$500,000 would help restore this work. Ms. Berge noted that the 2017-18 SMART goals have not been selected yet and that the slide only contains examples, but that funding needed to be set aside to implement them. Director Burke asked about the timing of SMART goal work and when funding was needed.

Ms. Berge then explained why other items were not on the list for restoration. Director Harris asked about the timing of the high school 24 credit work. Director Peters asked about the combined contingency reserves; Ms. Berge noted additional restoration funds from the Per Pupil Inflation funding could be directed to these reserves, but that the amount of these additional funds will not be known until the state legislature passes this budget.

Ms. Berge reminded the Board of other potential federal cuts and the potential for other legislative changes that might affect future budgets. Director Peters asked about the tradeoff between restoring Central Office and restoring potential Title I funding. Director Patu asked about a back-up plan for Title I funding. Ms. Berge explained that staff believe restoring funding for the District's core MTSS work provides better results than backfilling Title I programming. Ms. Berge also noted ongoing conversations with funding partners.

Director Harris noted the importance of highlighting the budget shortfall for the following school year, and the importance of highlighting unsustainable reductions. Mr. Nielsen noted conversations with legislators about these issues are ongoing, but that under some proposals in Olympia the future dollar figures are unknown.

Director Pinkham asked about Title VII Native Education funding and risks associated with Federal funding. Dr. Nyland responded that the District plans to continue native education programming.

Ms. Berge then asked for director feedback on the staff recommendation for \$7.8 million.

Director Burke noted his inclination to shift \$1 million of the SMART goal money to staffing contingency reserves. Ms. Berge noted the \$2.8 million for equity funding for high needs schools would provide some mitigation. Ms. Berge noted these staffing contingencies, Central admin, and ELA adoption would be the top three priorities for the next round of restoration funding.

Director Geary noted her agreement with the staff proposal. Director Blanford noted his support for the staff recommendation. Director Harris said she is terrified by the situation but noted her agreement. Director Peters noted her concerns with a lack of staffing contingencies and the restoration for the Central office, noting that she could not be in total agreement with the staff recommendation. Director Burke noted his agreement, but reiterated his desire to see full ELA adoption in the final budget. Director Patu noted her disappointment about the lack of Title I and Title II funding, but her pleasure with the equity funding, but stated she could not take a position on the full package. Director Pinkham noted his appreciation for funding for the high needs schools and his agreement for the staff proposal.

## **Adjourn**

This meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.