

Board Special Meeting

Public Comment: BEX V Levy and Educational Programs and Operations Levy

October 18, 2018, 7:00pm
Auditorium, John Stanford Center
2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134



Minutes

Director Harris introduced Directors Mack, Burke, and Patu on the dais. She called the session to order at 7:01 p.m. Director Harris introduced the purpose of the session and renewed the rules of Public Testimony, as projected on the screen. She advised that the session would adjourn 10 minutes after the last speaker. Six speakers gave testimony in the order that they arrived at the session and signed up.

1) Chris Jackins identified 9 points against the BEX V Levy. In addition to giving oral comment on those points, he also provided them in a printed one-pager to the directors.

1. Levy amount is twice the dollar amount of the previous levy (BEX IV)
2. The levy should restore the African American Academy and the Indian Heritage High School.
3. The levy would destroy historic schools and evade landmarks.
4. It should give Federal ADA requirements priority.
5. It shrinks playgrounds at schools.
6. The current levy spending is wasteful - demolishing new buildings within 13 years.
7. Citywide enrollment has dropped.
8. School neighborhoods should not be impacted by late night lighting and adult use of school fields.
9. The levy includes \$10M for debt service.

2) Amber Zeddies, a parent and PTA president at Lafayette described how her school has been overlooked and advocated for putting it on the levy projects list. She conveyed that Lafayette has been overlooked for a rebuild and other projects. While the school does not have the same capacity challenges, it does educate a significant number of students receiving the Free and Reduced Lunch program. She cited the following condition issues:

- Crumbling building,
- Multiple issues that impede education and safety
- No sprinkler system
- Electricity problems
- Tiles falling from ceilings
- Sinkholes in the playground
- Portables

- Restroom and plumbing problems
- ADA ramp is failing, splintered and falling in
- Utilities need improvement for AV and science lab
- Not welcoming, moss, weeds, poor lighting

Ms. Zeddies invited the superintendent and the Board and all interested parties to tour the school and see the problems for themselves.

3) Colleen Weinstein, a parent at Jane Addams, cited inequity between allocating funding for empty schools versus no funding for Jane Addams school of 900 students. She described a hazardous and incomplete site with an aging playground which was inappropriate for Middle School students. The students cannot use the outdoor area. She shared that the parents at the school have taken on the landscaping and have a masterplan for their work. Ms. Weinstein asked that Jane Addams be included in BEX V to complete its remodernization.

4) Aida Mahmulyin, a parent at Sacajawea, stated that the school had been passed over for a full remodel. She said that the playground is unsafe – her student has fallen and been injured 6 times since school started in September. She has documented the injuries. She cited no ADA access at Sacajawea, which makes it difficult for disabled students and guests to participate at the school. Ms. Mahmulyin specifically identified the asphalt as requiring improvement because of safety issues.

5) Greg Cummins, a neighbor of Garfield, commented on the lighting and turf replacement at the school. He suggested that the lighting budget could be spent on parking space. He described the turf as in fine condition. He added that other schools in the district seem to need more attention and suggested reallocating the turf budget to those sites. He also cited the issue of the visual of poles and lighting, indicating that the school had been fine without these for decades. Mr. Cummins suggested that the district wait and see, by starting with fixing other schools in the district and reconsidering this project at a later date. He advised that the district be careful with the levy funds and perhaps don't do the turf and lighting at Garfield.

6) Kevin Huang, a Garfield parent, cited the lighting project at Garfield. He indicated that the neighborhood did not know about it in advance. He added that the field was in fine condition and did not require tax payer dollars. He asked to know who made the decision and why they decided on this field. He stated that it doesn't benefit the children, but that adding bathrooms could benefit the students and shared his daughter's complaint of waiting for a restroom. Mr. Huang reiterated concerns for increased transparency about the budget asking: who is doing the budget and where is the budget.

Director Harris asked if there was anyone present who wanted to testify. She released the meeting into a break until 7:30. She noted that if no one arrived and signed up to testify in that time, then the meeting would adjourn. As no one arrived, Director Harris did adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.