Board Special Meeting

Executive Session: To review the performance of a public employee. RCW 42.30.110(1)(g); Work Sessions: Budget; BTA V Levy

January 20, 2021, 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Meeting held remotely

Minutes

Call to Order

Director Hampson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Directors DeWolf, Hampson, Hersey, Rankin, and Rivera-Smith participated with Microsoft Teams or by phone. Director Harris joined during the Executive Session.

Executive Session: To review the performance of a public employee. RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

At 4:30 p.m., Director Hampson announced that the Board was immediately recessing the Board Special Meeting into executive session to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), and the session was scheduled for approximately 30 minutes, with an anticipated end time of 5:00 p.m.

Director Hampson called the executive session to order at 4:33 p.m. Directors DeWolf, Hampson, Hersey, Rankin, and Rivera-Smith were present when the session was called to order and Director Harris joined shortly after. Staff present were Superintendent Juneau, Chief Human Resources Officer Dr. Clover Codd, and Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Cashel Toner.

At 4:58 p.m., Director Hampson announced that the executive session to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) was now expected to go an additional 5 minutes, with an anticipated end time of 5:05 p.m.

At 5:05 p.m., Director Hampson recessed out of the executive session.

The Special Meeting reconvened at 5:05 p.m.

Work Session: Budget

This work session was staffed by Superintendent Juneau and Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge.

Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge spoke about the outcomes of this meeting. She explained the feedback requested of the Board Directors. She reviewed the Participatory Budget process next steps. Including possibly needing a year-long steering group and additional background for the engagement group participants in the budget process. She explained the restorative justice, dual language and Ethnic, Black and American Indian studies next steps. Director Hersey spoke about possible coordination with City of Seattle for additional budgeting and for some of these next steps. Director Hampson added critical conversations that will be impactful to Seattle Public Schools (SPS) families.
Budget Director Linda Sebring reviewed the Fiscal Year (FY) budget development calendar. She spoke about the FY21-22 Estimated financial gap. The current recommendations for FY21-22 is use of economic stabilization fund, Capital Fund transfer of authorized revenue, reduction of district programs and reduction to schools. Chief Berge spoke about the update on Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations (CRSSA) and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER). She explained how the legislature may not be giving SPS any additional dollars. The State of Washington will be receiving $824 million for K-12 educational purposes. The ESSER II funds have been designated to in the following ways, 10% can be reserved for state level targeted purposes, while 90% will be provided to districts through the Title I methodology with funds needing to be spent by September 2023. Directors and staff discussed next steps for CRSSA and ESSER funds.

Chief Berge reviewed the elementary staffing, which includes current staffing of librarians, counselors and nurses. She spoke about the option school yellow bus transportation. Currently SPS has fifteen option schools. Directors asked staff questions about the presentation. Chief Berge requested feedback from Directors on the 2021-22 budget solution. Director DeWolf, Hampson are good with the recommendation shown on slide 8. Director Harris opposes the recommendations. Director Rankin expressed concerned about the 6-8 English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum and had no recommendation support or opposition. Director Rivera-Smith questioned if the economic stabilization fund amount could be increased. Chief Berge confirmed it can be increased if Directors wanted. Director Hersey is in support of recommendations. Chief Berge will prepare school staffing based on the recommendations.

This meeting recessed at 6:18 p.m. This meeting reconvened at 6:25 p.m.

**Work Session: Building, Technology, and Academics/Athletics V Levy**

Director DeWolf called the meeting back to order at 6:25 p.m. Directors Hampson, Hersey, and Rivera-Smith were present. Directors Harris and Rankin joined at 6:30 p.m.

This work session was staffed by Superintendent Juneau, Chief Operations Officer Fred Podesta, Director of Capital Projects and Planning Richard Best, K-12 Planning Manager Becky Asencio, and Executive Director of Technology Carlos del Valle.

Mr. Podesta introduced the general areas of the presentation. Mr. Best provided background on levies, highlighting the differences between, Building Excellence (BEX) and Building, Technology, and Academics/Athletics (BTA) levies. He referred to the policies, reports, and other data sources that inform the development of a levy project list.

Directors and staff discussed the timeline for the levy development and concerns about sites which just missed being included on prior levies. Staff verified that Board Resolutions are part of the information that informs project lists and clarified items which are not eligible for a capital levy.

Ms. Asencio provided an update on status of the planning process. She reported three sites were already under consideration for major work in the BTA V levy, based on design work started in BEX V or significant need. She defined terms for building systems and described the assessments in progress by consultants, which will provide data for identifying the project list.

Director DeWolf requested a separate conversation to focus on Memorial Stadium occur outside of this meeting.
Directors and staff discussed the challenges of projecting enrollment during the Covid-19 pandemic, with specific attention to capacity issues at Green Lake and B.F. Day elementary schools. Staff confirmed that the project list will include improvements in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and that a more in-depth ADA audit of all sites is planned.

Mr. del Valle provided an overview of the categories and types of technology projects and personnel that will be proposed for inclusion in the BTA V levy.

Directors and staff discussed balancing the funding needs for both internal systems and student-facing tools and curriculum, as well as professional development for staff and families. Staff clarified when curriculum is eligible as a Capital Technology purchase and expressed interest in working with the state legislature for flexibility in this area.

Ms. Asencio described the types of projects funded by the levy for Academics and Athletics. She confirmed that Capital Projects works with the directors of other departments to identify those needs.

Director Harris asked for a Friday Memo regarding how the athletics project account for gender disparities and Title IX.

Ms. Asencio conveyed the estimated amount of the BTA V levy as $500 - $550M, based on the rate of prior levies. This number does not reflect the cost of anticipated project needs. It is strictly a continuation of prior BTA levy rates.

Director Rivera-Smith requested that the levy rate for BTA IV be shared via a Friday Memo.

Mr. Podesta concluded the staff presentation by outlining the next steps in the preparation of the levy.

Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

This meeting was held remotely per the Governor’s proclamations prohibiting public agencies from conducting meetings subject to the Open Public Meetings Act in-person to curtail the spread of COVID-19. Public access was provided remotely online and by teleconference.

Minutes submitted by:

School Board Office Staff for the Executive Session, the Office of Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge for the Budget Work Session, and the Office of Chief Operations Officer Fred Podesta for the BTA V Work Session.