

Board Special Meeting

Work Session: Budget

December 9, 2020, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Meeting held remotely



Minutes

Call to Order

Director Hampson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Directors DeWolf, Hampson, Hersey, Mack, Rankin, and Rivera-Smith participated with Microsoft Teams or by phone. Director Harris joined the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Work Session: Budget

This work session was staffed by Superintendent Denise Juneau, Chief Financial Officer Jolynn Berge, Budget Director Linda Sebring, Capital Programs Finance Manager Melissa Coan, and Research and Evaluation Director Dr. Eric Anderson

Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge spoke about the outcomes for this work session. Budget Director Linda Sebring spoke about the 2021-20 draft budget development calendar. She also spoke about the estimated general fund ending fund balances for 2019-20 and 2020-21. The \$148M for 2019-20 is a set dollar amount, the 2020-21 is a projected balanced. The unassigned fund balance for 2020-21 reflects \$10M. In a prior work session, the unassigned balance for 2020-21 was \$20M. She presented projections from four-year forecasts previously approved as part of the budget. She also gave an update on participatory budgeting activities. She explained the three areas of focus. A summarized report is scheduled to be provided to the Board ahead of the January 6, 2021 Work Session.

Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge reviewed Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 potential solutions to fill the estimated \$48M gap. She presented four options for potential solutions. Ms. Berge also presented a three-year outlook and options as well as potential solutions.

Directors asked Chiefs additional questions about the FY2021-22 potential solutions and the three-year outlook and options.

Ms. Sebring spoke about Weighted Staffing Standards (WSS) teachers and non-staff funds. She provided a model detailing administrative support for K-8, middle school, and high school. Ms. Berge provided some district level ideas to save costs. The total was approximately \$13.2M. Chief Berge would welcome any ideas from the Board so they can begin working on what those dollar values would be. She also discussed school level options that would total around \$48M. Chief Berge suggests looking into requesting the City of Seattle waive wastewater and stormwater fees. That would save Seattle Public School district around \$3M annually. Ms. Berge also presented strategic plan staffing 2020-21.

Capital Programs Finance Manger Melissa Coan gave an overview of possible transfer from Capital Fund 2021-22. She reviewed the current uncommitted dollars available in the Capital Fund Balance. Ms.

Coan stated the Capital Eligible Program (CEP) projected balance of \$4.8M by the end of FY2021 does not include Community Schools Fund Balance.

Directors asked additional questions about possible transfer from Capital Fund. Director DeWolf would like to focus on what would have the least impact on student's learning. Director Harris would like a better explanation when discussing what would be cut in schools. Director Hersey would like to explore all options and make sure we are in coordination with educators and students. Director Mack would prefer to use the dollars from the Capital Fund. Director Mack asks when the (WSS) Weighted Staffing Standards Committee would have their final recommendation. Ms. Berge explained they would have a recommendation by the January 6, 2020 Work Session, but that date may move. Director Rivera-Smith asked what the ceiling for pulling from capital. Ms. Berge will follow up.

Research and Evaluation Director Dr. Eric Anderson discussed the School Equity Tier Methodology. He explained the method uses data for six student groups and the three measures calculated for each student group. Dr. Anderson reviewed recommended updates to Equity Tiers for 2020-21 and the impact of the recommended changes.

Directors asked additional questions about the School Equity Tier Methodology. Director Mack asked if there was a potential impact to the city of Seattle's levy funding. Chief Berge and Dr. Anderson explained there is no impact. Director Harris asked for a side-by-side comparison of the City of Seattle's Tiering system and Seattle Public Schools. Dr. Anderson explained the City of Seattle's tiering method was used for recruitment. Director Rivera-Smith asked what fiscal impact is if we change equity tiers. Chief Berge explained there is not a fiscal impact. Director Hampson asked about foster students being included in Equity Tiers. Dr. Anderson says he will follow up. Director Rivera-Smith asked for clarification on the process for equity tiering. Chief Berge explained the tiering goes into the budget approval in July.

This work session concluded at 6:19 p.m.

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

Director Mack called the second work session to order at 6:19 p.m. Directors Hampson, DeWolf, Harris, Hersey, Mack, and Rivera-Smith were present.

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

Mr. Podesta introduced the development of Guiding Principles as the way the School Board balances the competing priorities of a levy.

Mr. Best presented background information on Building, Technology and Academics/Athletics (BTA) levies. He provided an overview of past BTA levies, including the funding amounts and types of projects. He highlighted that design for Sacajawea and Aki Kurose were funded in the Building Excellence (BEX) V levy and that the district anticipating funding the construction of these projects with BTA V. He concluded his comments by indicating Board priorities he was already aware of, such as health centers, community gardens, and ADA accessibility.

Directors and staff discussed points of clarification regarding Memorial Stadium, the scope of improvements for Special Education that are funded by levies, the definition of "educational adequacy"

as determined by the district's Education Specifications, and the lessons learned about equity through the establishment of a replacement schedule for playgrounds.

Director Mack referred to "Discussion Draft" document in meeting packet. Board Directors discussed the categories of priorities employed in the BEX V Guiding Principles to verify that they were still relevant and to identify any changes for the BTA V levy. Changes were recommended for multiple categories to make the language more precise and specific to the current needs and priorities of the district.

Director Mack presented each Focus Area in more detail and invited Directors to provide feedback on the naming and scope of each one. Board Directors reiterated changes indicated earlier in the discussion and highlighted new priorities, such as ADA accessibility, flex-capacity, educational adequacy, climate resilience, health centers, outdoor education, and preserving existing architecture.

Mr. Podesta confirmed that Board Directors could send additional feedback to staff via the School Board email list and cc him. He agreed to provide Directors' comments to Capital Projects consultant Tina Christiansen to be included in the next draft of the Guiding Principles. He highlighted that the meeting had not addressed the Board's preferences for community engagement regarding the priorities and principles. Director Mack concluded the discussion by directing the Board to the timeline for next steps and adoption of the Guiding Principles.

Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 7:38 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:

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.