

## Minutes

### Call to Order

1. This meeting was called to order at 7:00 am. Directors Hersey, Rivera-Smith and Hampson. This meeting was staffed by Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge. Director Hersey noted that the meeting was being held remotely consistent with the Governor's proclamations prohibiting the meeting from being held in person due to COVID-19. Director Hersey noted that the public had been provided remote access through Microsoft Teams and teleconference.
2. Approval of agenda - Director Hampson moved to approve the agenda. Director Rivera-Smith seconded. Agenda was approved.
3. Approval of meeting minutes – Director Hampson moved to approved January 11, 2021 Minutes. Director Rivera-Smith seconded, and November and December minutes were approved. The Board requested that any action items be highlighted in minutes even if they are on special attention items.

### Special Attention Items

#### 1.State & Federal Grants/ Title I Annual Reports (Stone)

Grants Director Michael Stone shared the yearly grant report which showed our total grants for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. 49M in Federal grants, 23M in State and 27M in local grants. This year's grants were trending as usual and Mr. Stone expects that to be the same for the following year. Ms. Stoned covered questions regarding detention centers funding, the different types of PTA funding that fall and do not fall under this report.

**Director Rivera Smith** inquired what the word “competitive” funding under Special Education safety net on the report meant by competitive. Mr. Stone said, he would check with his analyst and get back to her. Mr. Stone stated that our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) grant was 4.4M this year and offered to send a Friday Memo explaining the tiered breakdown between school.

**Director Hampson** requested that Mr. Stone follow up with a Friday Memo showing the PTA school breakdowns.

#### 2. Notification of Contract Exceeding \$250k: Academy for Precision Learning, Brightmore, Fairfax Hospital/NWSoil, Gersh Academy, Lakemary Center, Maxim, Overlake Hospital, Sunbelt Staffing, TERP and Yellow Wood (Campbell)

Patricia Campbell Executive Director of Special Education shared a list of contracts that would be going over the \$250K threshold. Ms. Campbell stated that the reason for the increase was due to receiving additional students, additional services and or additional staff help. Ms. Campbell also stated that Seattle Public Schools recoups the safety net funding from the State to cover the additional increases. Director Hampson requested to know if the exceeding contracts would need to go through the Board Action Report (BAR) process. Ms. Campbell did not think that they would since the contracts came through as one amendment. Ms. Campbell stated that she would double check and be sure to bring any forward as BARs if she found that they needed to.

**Director Hampson** requested that staff share policy thresholds relative to the prior approval level so that Board members do not accidentally approve an increase in contract when it should come through as a BAR.

**Director Hersey** requested that Ms. Campbell add a column on the report that shows us what funding is not being covered by the States safety net and what Seattle Public Schools is paying out of pocket to deliver the services. Keeping in mind student privacy.

### **Standing Agenda Items**

#### 1. Monthly Accounting Update (Fleming)

Accounting Director Amy Fleming shared December Financial statements stating that everything is trending as expected. We were down 1865 students in enrollment which we knew would happen. Support Services expenditures are down compared to last year which is mostly due to the lack of transportation. Ms. Fleming stated that because our enrollment is down, revenue state general revenue will be down by 21M, apportionment would start to be adjusted in January in our general fund monthly status report. Ms. Fleming highlighted the annual bond payment in the amount of 2.5M which was made in December. Our general fund balance sheets cash and cash equivalents were at \$210 million which Ms. Fleming stated were still strong. Ms. Fleming said that they also provided budget to actual expenditures for Head Start financial statement for their reference.

#### 2. Monthly Budget Update (Sebring)

Budget Director Linda Sebring shared 3 slides with the Board, the first slide showed a multi-year funding and expenditures for transportation over the last several years. Ms. Sebring shared with the Board how the state formula works stating that “it’s the lesser of our prior year’s eligible expenses or the state’s formula”. The formula is based on how many students are riding the bus, how long our routes are and how many destinations we transport students to. Ms. Sebring stated that even before Covid Seattle Public Schools was having a funding problem with transportation. The coverage of our prior year’s expenses have been trending down which means Seattle Public Schools has been increasingly having to cover the cost since 2015-2016. We use local property tax levy funding to cover the gap that the state formula does not cover. Slide two showed a breakdown of ridership data overtime and how less ridership reduces the district’s funding. Directors inquired about using Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL) to help with funding, possible stigmatizing FRL students who ride the bus, asking Legislators to include taxi and rideshares to the formula, especially in an urban area and safe walking routes for students. The final slide showed First Student contract cost increases over the years. There was much discussion on whether to cut transportation services to some Option schools or not. Director Rivera-Smith advocated for community engaging to not only help with ideas on how to deal with the funding shortfall but to also hear from the community that the Board decisions will untimely affect. Today’s transportation discussion was to gather Board inquires for the upcoming transportation work session.

**Director Hersey** requested that Chief Berge work with our communications department to create an infographic from the slides Ms. Sebring had shared so that they can share it with their constituents. Director Hersey also wanted to know the list of Special Ed and inferred FRL students at Choice and HC schools based on school information.

**Director Hampson** requested that they add information on what the impact on Choice and Highly Capable (HC) schools are having on our transportation problem, which routes are paying for themselves and which are not. Director Hampson also asked for information on the budget impact having a 2 or 3 or more staggered time schedules. Director Hampson also wanted to know the impact on our students who usually ride Metro buses and how Metro cutbacks on bus routes due to Covid means we might need to increase bus services to those students. In addition to the discussion Director Hampson suggested possibly looking at opt in and opt out models where they can create routes in the most effective way and flex the access to those routes and maximize ridership on those routes.

**Director Rivera-Smith** requested to add information on the work session regarding what schools the Choice students would need to go back to if we cut their transportation and the capacity and impact on those schools if student count was increased due to students having to go back to their neighborhood school. Director Rivera-Smith also inquired if the District is required to give HC students access to transportation. Chief Narver said that this particular discussion was under review.

3. Committee Annual Work Plan (Berge)

Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge outline what will be coming forward in March. Directors were asked to email Director Berger offline if they had any questions.

**Adjourn**

This meeting adjourned at 8:57 am.

**Minutes submitted by:** *The Office of Chief Financial Officer*