

Board Special Meeting

Oversight Work Session: Equity, Partnerships & Engagement; Work Session: Budget

October 28, 2020, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

Meeting held remotely



Minutes

Call to Order

Director Hampson called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. Directors Hampson, Harris, Hersey, Mack, Rankin and Rivera-Smith participated with Microsoft Teams or by phone.

Oversight Work Session: Equity, Partnerships & Engagement

This work session was staffed by Superintendent Denise Juneau, Dr. Keisha Scarlett, Chief – Equity, Partnerships & Engagement, and Kirk Mead, Director of Stakeholder Engagement.

Dr. Scarlett expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share the work of the division. She noted there had been a special request by the Board to feature Family Engagement in the work session and shared that she would alternate presenting with Kirk Mead who would speak to the Family Engagement portions.

Dr. Scarlett shared the division functions, noting close partnership with the Office of African American Male Achievement. She also noted that the division's grounding priority is Inclusive and Authentic engagement, ensuring unrepresented students and families are represented in district decision making. She listed the departments that are included in the division: School Community Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement and the Department of Racial Equity Advancement (DREA). She added that the developing Ethnic Studies program would also be included in the division.

Dr. Scarlett presented the Capacity-building Model and the Black Space Manifesto which are guiding frameworks for the division. She shared the functions of each department in the division, highlighting DREA as they work to operationalize Policy 0030 (Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity) in partnership with multiple departments and schools, lead policy development, coaching, Racial Equity Teams in partnership with Seattle Education Alliance (SEA) Center for Racial Equity.

Dr. Scarlett shared the organization chart for EPE, noting that the division is small in number (although growing) but big in scope because of work across other divisions. She presented the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats/Risks (SWOT) Analysis, noting that it is a young division with eight staff with less than two years in SPS. She then listed several accomplishments of the division.

Kirk Mead shared the organizational chart and the SWOT Analysis for Family Engagement. He noted that the department is not structured or funded for direct services but provides coaching and consultation for building-based implementation. Mr. Mead then listed several Stakeholder Engagement and Family Engagement accomplishments, noting the power of meaningful partnerships and increased Capital Investments reflected in the addition of new staff members.

Dr. Scarlett shared the EPE Division Goals and Objectives, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), Budget Overview and Benchmarking comparisons for budget and staffing with other districts. She noted it was difficult to compare across the region and country since many districts do not have a comparable division.

Dr. Scarlett spoke to policies that are guide and are central to the work of the division. She noted that the 2019-20 annual report for Policy 0030 is on the EPE website and that the structure of the report reveals de-siloed, cross-division efforts.

Dr. Scarlett shared Internal & External controls for the division, noting that the Equity and Race Advisory Committee (ERAC) is the only committee codified on contract language and that ERAC supports procedure and policy development.

Dr. Scarlett shared Major Outside Service Contracts and Key Information Technology Systems that are key for the division.

Director Hampson then moved on to questions from the Directors, calling on them in reverse alphabetical order. Each director made comments and posed questions for Dr. Scarlett and Mr. Mead. The following are questions that requested follow-up or more information:

Director Rivera-Smith noted that some of the slides presented were not in the online board materials and requested an updated packet. Dr. Scarlett confirmed that the updated packet would be provided as soon as possible.

Dir. Rivera-Smith asked which school sites had the Creative Advantage program. James Bush, Director of School Community Partnerships noted that the program is not in every school but will expand to different regions as funding becomes available. Mr. Bush stated that the full list is available on the website and confirmed he would send a full list of Creative Advantage sites to the Board.

Dir. Rivera-Smith asked what tools were being used to measure and evaluate successes in family engagement and asked where that data was represented. Mr. Mead noted that they are still compiling feedback from community conversations to date and that Special Education is still gathering data from their listening sessions, but no central location but can report out at this time. Dr. Scarlett noted that there is recent baseline data from school leaders, but that there are different metrics for different initiatives. She shared that this is an opportunity to think about Strategic Plan priority on Authentic Engagement, noting that for the first time that Engagement will be a top line goal reported as part of the Strategic Plan to Board and community. She stated that Engagement does not only belong to EPE, noting that School Improvement Plans (SIPs) also include Family Engagement goals. The engagement goals of EPE are capacity building goals. Mr. Mead recalled that data had been compiled on three community convenings over the summer and offered to share that report. Dir. Rivera-Smith stated that she believed the Board had already received that report, but that if not, she requested it be sent.

Dir Harris asked for a budget proposal on the developing Ethnic Studies program, requesting a menu of options. Dr. Scarlett stated that they are working on budget collaboration and plans to provide hard numbers in an upcoming Friday Memo.

Director Hampson asked about Policy 4110 and revisions to its accompanying Superintendent's Procedure. Superintendent Juneau noted that she would check into it since no one on the call was able to speak to the revisions.

The Equity, Partnerships and Engagement Oversight Work Session concluded at 4:56 p.m.

Work Session: Budget

Director Hampson called the Budget Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m. Directors Hampson, Harris, Hersey, Mack, Rivera-Smith, and Rankin participated with Microsoft Teams or by phone.

This work session was staffed by Superintendent Juneau, Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge and Budget Director Linda Sebring.

Director Hersey spoke about how community members can still participate in community feedback for the draft legislative agenda and priorities. King County Equity Now explained efforts that have been made by the youth led for black education program. Student Angelina is the current the co-president of NAACP Youth Council and a Senior at Rainier Beach High School, reviewed a list of.

Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge spoke about the draft legislative agenda for operations and fiscal. She reviewed stable support and access to learning. Director Hersey reviewed four community priorities. Board Directors discussed the list of priorities.

Director Harris does not agree with our legislative agenda. In her opinion the Board Directors do not engage with the lobbyist and liaisons enough. She would like that discussed prior to a new contract being issued for the Seattle Public Schools (SPS) lobbyist.

Budget Director Linda Sebring spoke about estimated general funding ending balance. She explained in 2019-20 the ending fund balance ended as it was expected to. She reviewed the early forecast for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22. She reviewed potential solutions for the FY21-22 shortfall such as spending down the economic stabilization fund, make reductions to District programs, use the capital funding flexibility or make reductions to school funding allocations. Ms. Berge spoke about the final numbers for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Cares Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund. This allows us to tell the Legislature SPS has used all funds available and shows we still need additional funding. In 2022 the BTA IV and Enrichment levy will be going out and more to come as we move along. She added the assessed evaluation is changing and has dramatically slowed down with a .9% increase. Directors discussed the upcoming levy, School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) funding and additional questions about federal relief.

Ms. Berge explained the transportation shortfall can be easily fixed with legislative assistance.

Director Hampson spoke about participatory budgeting being opened up to community participation. She explained the purpose and outlined the opportunities available. Director Hampson spoke about the possible stakeholders' groups that could be involved. Ms. Berge reviewed the community meetings and is hoping for an outcome tonight for three areas for the community to discuss and participate in. Directors discussed additional community organizations that directors can reach out to participate.

Ms. Berge explained the potential subjects for the participatory budgeting activities. Director Hersey spoke about items that remained on the list from the last discussion. Directors discussed which three of

on the Participatory Budgeting Activities and potential subjects list on slide 18 should be focused on during the community participatory budget process.

Director Mack stated the importance to look at budgeting goals the District is trying to meet and utilize those dollars most effectively for our students, their mental health and safety. She would like Safe Schools: restorative justice and counseling support combined. Director Hampson explained they are currently separated because they hold a different place in the conversation that will be held.

Directors continued to discuss potential options for the Participatory Budgeting Activities and potential subjects. All Directors gave feedback and Ms. Berge will have the list of three items at the next work session after Director Hampson and Hersey review the top items considered by all Directors.

Director Hampson spoke about the potential repurposing areas that directors had contributed previously. Director Hersey explained they may be on the list due to significant underspend or we are already offering it and going above what the State is requiring of SPS to do. Directors discussed potential repurposing areas.

Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 7:44 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 of Equity, Partnerships & Engagement Dr. Keisha Scarlett (EPE Oversight Work Session) and the Office of Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge (Budget Work Session)