



## Board Special Meeting

**Work Sessions: Budget; Social Studies, Ethnic Studies, Black Studies, American Indian Studies**

March 3, 2021, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

*Meeting held remotely*

### Minutes

#### Call to Order

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

#### Work Session: Budget

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

Chief Berge reviewed the agenda, she explained this meeting is for Directors to begin to look at potentials funding options for 2022-23. She reviewed the current status of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 recommended budget. Chief Berge explained the \$48M balance that needed to be solved, she reviewed the options discussed at previous work sessions, use half of the Economic Stabilization fund, Capital Fund transfer, reduction to district programs and reduction to schools. The updated three-year outlook leaves a \$65M problem in 2022-23. She explained the initial thoughts of what it can look like for solving the gap in FY22-23. Current projection for unreserved fund balance has been reduced to \$9M. the Economic Stabilization Fund is \$19M and the use of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funding is \$22M to back fill the for potential deficit in FY22-23. A possible ESSERIII or other ESSER II dollars may be available. Chief Berge reviewed other possible areas to explore, such as the strategic plan, central office reductions and operational efficiencies.

Director Rankin stated the Directors did not want to reduce staff in the 2020-21 school year and now the District is overstaffed based on current enrollment. Chief Berge confirmed the staffing will need to be adjusted to match the enrollment for next year.

Chief Berge spoke about the operation and program efficiencies. She reviewed the departments that are included, such as transportation, nutrition services, Special Education and English Language Learners (EL). Budget Director Linda Sebring spoke about the ways to potentially improve transportation efficiency. Ms. Sebring reviewed the nutrition services total meals served and related expenses. This has shown the District that when more meals were provided to community members the costs also increased. She reviewed the difference between fixed and variable costs for nutrition services. Chief Berge reviewed FY19-20 special education costs. She explained 14% of Seattle Public Schools (SPS) enrollment is special education students. SPS is still underfunded for special education students and is in a 40% deficit for special education. Chief Berge spoke about how SPS spends approximately \$23,500

per special education student. Chief Berge explained SPS 12.5% of enrolled student are English Language Learners (EL) the current deficit for this program is 62%. Ms. Sebring explained smaller programs that require extra support for basic operation she reviewed four schools included in this list, Highland Park, Broadview Thompson, Licton Springs K-8 and Orca K-8. Ms. Sebring spoke about the non-traditional schools that have a higher funding source that have specialized programs. Chief Berge added the State does not fund SPS for the specialized programs. Ms. Sebring reviewed the enrollment of the non-traditional school program. Small school demographics were also reviewed.

Directors Rankin noted Individualized Education Program (IEP) come with Federal funds however 504's do not and a legal designation comes with Federal funding. Chief Berge explained that federal funding is 20% and that is very low.

Director DeWolf commented he is interested in looking at efficiencies within transportations and he recognize non-traditional school importance.

Director of Enrollment Planning Ashely Davies spoke about data for the walk zone and McKinney Vento and foster students attending each Option School. Ms. Davies gave a summary of the Option School waitlist and highly capable cohort pathway schools.

Chief Berge reviewed some suggested FY21-22 decisions that could be discussed. This would be in lieu of \$740K elimination of Option School transportation. She requested direction from the Directors for possible outcomes for additional discussion at the next work session.

Director Harris is not prepared to make recommendations without any community engagement. Director Hampson does see the alternatives as good options to consider. Director Rivera-Smith does feel comfortable with the new efficacy options. Director Rankin explained these were reasonable things to look at and transportation services are a good place for savings. Director DeWolf is interested in exploring the new options of transportation and option schools. Director Rivera-Smith noted ELL students possible transportation options. Director Hampson questioned if any adjustments can be made where underspend be pooled if not levy dollars. Chief Berge explained mitigation dollars and 44 principals and assistant principals are funded above what the State provides for funding.

This meeting recessed at 6:16 p.m. This meeting reconvened at 6:17

### **Work Session: Social Studies, Ethnic Studies, Black Studies, and American Indian Studies**

Director Rankin called the meeting back to order at 6:17 p.m. Directors Hampson, Harris, DeWolf, and Rivera-Smith were present.

This work session was staffed by Superintendent Juneau, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Keisha Scarlett, Executive Director of Career and College Readiness Dr. Caleb Perkins, Director of Racial Equity Advancement Manal Al-ansi, Native American Education Program Manager Gail Morris, and Literacy and Social Studies Program Manager Kathleen Vasquez.

Director Rankin introduced guest speaker, Dr. Wayne Au, Professor of School of Educational Studies at University of Washington Bothell. Director Rankin shared Dr. Au's work in Social Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Social Justice. Director Rankin provided an overview of the objectives of the work session.

Dr. Au spoke about the history and current state of K-12 Ethnic Studies. He briefly covered Ethnic Studies' purposes and shared frameworks being used in different parts of the country. Dr. Au explained the struggles with implementation and the District's strengths and possibilities in the work of Ethnic Studies.

Chief Scarlett started the conversation about the District's work on a common understanding of how these areas of study are defined and the ongoing work to establish intersecting goals of decolonizing Social Studies. She introduced Ms. Al-ansi who spoke about the collaboration across Black Studies, American Indian Studies and Ethnic Studies to decolonize Social Studies using various levers. Ms. Al-ansi acknowledged the community partners who helped with the passage of the Ethnic Studies Board Resolution in May 2017.

Ms. Morris provided an overview of Native American Education. She explained that it is more of a department than a program because of all the various programs under Native American Education including Since Time Immemorial. Ms. Morris explained the government-to-government relationship unique to Native American Education.

Ms. Al-ansi explained the challenge of defining Ethnic Studies. She cited two organizations with two definitions of Ethnic Studies. While it is difficult to define, she explained that Ethnic Studies is not diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, liberal multiculturalism, or culturally responsive teaching.

Ms. Al-ansi provided an overview of Black Education and the definition of Black Studies which she explained is synonymous with Africana Studies.

Chief Scarlett provided an overview of the Chief Academic Officer's organizational chart reflecting the different leaders across the Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction (CAI) Department and emphasized the intersectionality of the work between the areas of study in the CAI Department and the Department of Racial Equity Advancement. Chief Scarlett introduced the work of Dr. Ghody Muhammad's equity framework and how this applies across these areas of study.

Ms. Vasquez provided an overview and explained the intersection of Social Studies with Ethnic Studies goals. She spoke about areas of work in the K-12 system that can be leveraged to help teachers and support students to be college and career-ready.

Ms. Morris explained the reason for the name American Indian Studies is because the program is under Title VI which is a federal program through the Office of Indian Education through a treaty obligation. The work is focused around the American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Tribes prompting the development of the Since Time Immemorial program. Ms. Morris provided a history of Since Time Immemorial and shared the current K-12 Social Studies and Native Education commitments.

Director Rankin asked how the framework Ms. Morris created for American Indian Studies can be used for Black Studies and Ethnic Studies.

Director Harris posed the following questions and asked staff to address them via Friday Memo.

- What is the hiring timeline for the Ethnic Studies Manager and Ethnic Studies Curriculum Specialists?
- What is the status of the Curriculum Specialist funding that was repurposed two years ago?
- What is the status of Ms. Morris' position transition from Manager to Director?

- What work is the District doing with universities schools of education in the state to support teachers in these areas of study and how is the District providing professional development?
- What is the status of the participatory budget to fund high needs?
- Please address the \$5M line item in the CAI budget that had been cut.
- Requested a copy of Dr. Muhammad's book for each Director.

Director Rivera-Smith asked what she can do to help eliminate the barriers and challenges preventing access to these areas of study.

Director DeWolf asked why there is no Ethnic Studies after the Board Resolution was passed three years ago. He expressed his preference of addressing the question at this meeting for the community and specifically the youth. Chief Scarlett acknowledged the adult dynamics that have been part of the challenge over the years. She recognized the individualized efforts in the classrooms but acknowledged the lack of lift in the systemic effort. Chief Scarlett also acknowledged the students who voiced their concerns last August at the meeting with the Superintendent and former Chief Academic Officer, Dr. DeBacker. She assured the Board that work is being done as expeditiously as possible to ensure that Ethnic Studies is accessible to students across the District. She shared current work progress across various departments including the African American Male Achievement Department and plan to build momentum from these efforts.

Director DeWolf addressed the youth and apologized for not making this a priority. He expressed appreciation for Ms. Morris for her work in improving the lives of students.

Director Hampson voiced concern about the lack of clarity around the concept of indigeneity and tribal sovereignty. She is eager to hear an update on supports for staff, students, and the community to ensure there is a roadmap forward with a reasonable timeframe.

Director DeWolf set today as a starting point in moving the work forward. The Directors acknowledged the efforts and expressed their appreciation for staff. Director DeWolf asked staff how the Board can help ensure Ethnic Studies is accessible to all students as quickly as possible. He suggested addressing in a Friday Memo if it is helpful.

Director Rankin lost connection at 8:12 p.m. Director Hampson adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

This meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

*This meeting was held remotely per the Governor's proclamation allowing public agencies to conduct meetings subject to the Open Public Meetings Act remotely 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 Academic Officer Dr. Keisha Scarlett for the Social Studies, Ethnic Studies, Black Studies, American Indian Studies Work Session.*