



## **BEX /BTA Oversight Committee**

November 12, 2021, 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Zoom Meeting

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Call to Order**

- a. Janet Donelson called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM
- b. Roll Call
  - i. Committee members present: Janet Donelson, Duncan Griffin, Daniel Williams, Rob Stephenson, Monty Anderson, Steve Tatge, Warren Johnson, Jennifer DuHamel, Michelle Moore, Sherry Edquid
  - ii. Committee members absent: Steve Goldblatt
  - iii. Staff present: Richard Best, Vince Gonzales, Melissa Coan, Becky Asencio, Jeanette Imanishi, Deborah Northern,
- c. Approval of Agenda: Warren Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda. Rob Stephenson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Approval of minutes from October 8, 2021: Steve Tatge made a motion to accept the October minutes. Duncan Griffin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2. Budget Update**

Ms. Coan reported on the BEX IV Program through September 30, 2021. She highlighted that the completed projects show savings, as was forecasted in prior reports. She referred to the document that details the budgets for Other Facilities Projects and reminded the committee that this data rolls up into the monthly summary that is reviewed each meeting. She conveyed that these are the first reports of the new fiscal year, 2021-2022. She noted that receipt of revenues for the BEX IV Program is as planned.

The committee and staff discussed ways to complete the seismic projects such as Design Bid Build, Job Order Contracting, or bundling several projects into one larger job with one contractor.

Ms. Coan reported on the BTA IV Program through September 30, 2021. She highlighted two variances and how they were resolved. She reviewed the Other Facilities Projects by category and described how smaller projects were added to a larger project and the corresponding funds moved into the larger project's program. She clarified that the Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling (HVAC) projects performed in response to Covid-19 were funded out of the district's General Fund. She reminded the committee that 2022 is the last year to collect revenue for the BTA IV Program. She noted that receipt of revenues for the BTA IV Program is as planned.

Ms. Coan reported on the BEX V Program through September 30, 2021. She highlighted that it is too early in the program to project savings. She conveyed that, unlike other BEX programs, BEX V includes many smaller facilities projects throughout the district. She concluded that the program remains in the black.

Mr. Tatge raised concern about the percentage of Contingency funds used in this program and the risk that poses during the current volatility within the construction industry.

### **3. Project Status Reports**

Mr. Best referred to the monthly photo report of current construction projects. He provided a brief description of each project and its status. He confirmed that supply chain issues have started to affect project schedules and budgets. He conveyed that a future committee meeting, in either December or January, will include a panel discussion about supply chain, labor shortages and other issues facing Capital Projects.

Mr. Johnson inquired about a bid schedule for Spring 2022. Mr. Best reported that document is currently in development and identified several industry organizations where it would be distributed.

### **4. BTA V Capital Levy Update**

Ms. Asencio reported that the School Board approved the BTA V capital levy proposal on November 3, 2021 and added an amendment to increase the allowance for work identified by the Clean Energy Task Force from \$1M to \$12M. She noted that the Clean Energy Task Force has its first meeting on November 16, 2021 and will make recommendations twelve months from now. She outlined next steps, which focused on communications about the levy. She reminded the committee that the vote is February 8, 2022.

### **5. Racial Equity/Board Policy 0030 Training**

Mr. Best introduced Deborah Northern, Capital Projects Equity and Inclusion Manager. Ms. Northern described her work educating project architects about the Seattle Public Schools Strategic Plan and Board Policy 0030 regarding Racial Equity. She highlighted the focus as connecting the built environment to equity.

Ms. Northern presented the district's mission and vision, and highlighted the unapologetic focus on students of color furthest from educational justice. She prompted the committee to think about the relationship between SPS commitments and the committee's oversight work. She presented student population demographics and highlighted its growing diversification. She challenged the committee to consider how to build a warm and welcoming environment for diverse students and families. Mr. Best added that 5% of SPS students do not have consistent shelter. Ms. Northern asked how a school building can support students experiencing this kind of trauma and stress.

Ms. Northern identified Covid-19 as a cause of additional complexities. She conveyed that the pandemic has exacerbated the impacts of racial inequity and illuminated structural inequities to be addressed. She confirmed for the committee that the pandemic has contributed to the decline in enrollment and elevated a challenge to rebuild trust with the SPS community.

Ms. Northern touched on the relationship between the choices people make and options that are available to them, such as the roles of education, money, and race on shaping a person's options.

Ms. Northern presented the Equity Manifesto and the Black Space Manifesto. She highlighted the power of changing the culture and norms within an institution to support deeper engagement in doing the work of racial equity. She used an example from the Black Space Manifesto, "deep listening" and invited the committee to explore how that norm could change how the work is done, who is included, and what new information and decisions might be reached.

Ms. Northern described leadership challenges and opportunities for change in different parts of the organization such as the committee itself, the Capital Projects and Planning department, Racial Equity Teams at the school and administration levels. She concluded her presentation with two vital considerations: How are we contributing to the conditions of justice and injustice in the community; How might we plan and design differently if educational justice, inclusion, and racial equity were the primary drivers of our work.

## **6. Adjourn**

Ms. Donelson thanked Ms. Northern for her thought-provoking presentation and adjourned the meeting at 10:34 AM.