

Board Special Meeting

2445 – 3rd Avenue South, Seattle WA 98134



Work Session: Budget
Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 3:35 PM – 4:10 PM
Board Office Conference Room, John Stanford Center

Minutes

1. Call to order 3:35 PM
Directors present: Patu, Geary, Blanford, Peters, Burke, Pinkham, Harris
Staff members present: Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen; Superintendent Larry Nyland

2. Work Session: Budget

Deputy Superintendent Stephen Nielsen thanked everyone for attending the work session. Mr. Nielsen explained the purpose of this meeting was to discuss one time resources. Mr. Nielsen summarized the two topics for discussion: mitigation for schools and where the Directors would like staff to move ahead. Mr. Nielsen asked the Directors if they had any questions on the mitigation for schools and if any additional clarification was needed.

Directors asked if a vote will be taken in this work session. Mr. Nielsen confirmed that no vote will be taken. Direction can be given, if so decided by the Directors.

Directors asked from what the 2015-16 equity factors are comprised. Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Michael Tolley spoke about how the factors are comprised from school segmentation and academic performance and student demographics.

Directors asked if low and high for Tier I referred to equity. Mr. Tolley explained the high meant the school had high free and reduced lunch. Mr. Tolley summarized the criteria used to identify schools included looking at classrooms. Mr. Tolley explained the WSS model does not take into consideration all school needs.

Directors asked if schools do not receive funding as part of the first mitigation funding, are there additional funds available. Mr. Tolley spoke about the mitigation dollars available. Mr. Tolley suggested to put one-time funding toward schools versus being put toward staff, and if given the opportunity to invest in schools.

Directors asked when mitigation goes out and if enrollment goes up then what happens. Mr. Tolley explained Center School has been mitigated every year – it is a small school – and smaller schools have more mitigation needs.

Directors asked what the budget deficit is now. Budget Director Linda Sebring provided an explanation. Directors asked if the numbers they are looking at today are for the 2016-17 school year. Mr. Nielsen explained that is correct.

Directors asked whether mitigation funding has historically been from one-time funds. Mr. Tolley explained it has been done for years.

Directors asked for a recommendation from staff on what they are suggesting. Mr. Tolley explained the recommendation is to invest in our schools. The priority is to invest additional funds for mitigation at a level to at least cover the identified Tier I schools.

Director Peters stated she would like to consider other ideas, like funding a middle school math adoption to address needs for equity issues. Director Peters suggested putting some additional money towards school mitigation. She further suggested giving International Baccalaureate (IB) programs \$750K. Finally, Director Peters suggested giving each school a \$50k allocation.

Directors asked if the IB program was part of funding referred to within these documents. Mr. Nielsen explained Tier I one includes Rainier Beach, which has an IB program and would be funding to help with this program. Rainier Beach is listed in full mitigation.

Directors spoke about looking at SMART goals regarding professional development needs. Directors discussed whether professional development builds capacity and if the District sees a return on investments at the school level. Mr. Nielsen spoke about a small part of professional development on page 7 under leadership training. This is training for lower level problem solving that helps solve problems before they escalate.

Director Harris commented that information like this makes her frustrated, and receiving information 24 hours prior to a vote is not acceptable.

Director Harris made a motion to fund smaller requests. Director Harris stated that she appreciates professional development and our people, but a change is needed for accountability.

Directors wanted to know what previous promises have been made and not kept. And what are the new promises. Dr. Nyland spoke about dual language immersion, K-8 schools and Montessori programs, and that these programs can't function on normal school funding.

Director Blanford spoke about how he would object to spending money with the expected turbulence in our financial position that we are expecting and the implications for our classrooms.

Director Geary spoke about investments in big, cutting-edge things, that we are trying to close the achievement gap for our kids, and we still want to support the work being done for the past 2.5 years, and offering support for our most frail communities is important. Director Geary stated that no compliance has been mentioned.

Director Patu would like to put \$7.5M in additional mitigation funds and would like to see middle school math, and funding for three IB programs, and believes it's our responsibility for them even if this is one-time funding.

Directors asked for clarification regarding the high and low spread on the SMART goal costs. Directors discussed funding \$3.4M, the lower of the number on the second column on the right and then \$3M for dual math adoption.

Director Burke expressed a special interest in SMART goal 9; investing in funds that will help with leading the discussion.

Directors asked if we don't make a decision then what happens. Mr. Nielsen explained if they don't pass this item, then nothing will happen. The one-time funding is embedded in the overall budget.

Directors and Staff agree this is a difficult way to do business.

Director Pinkham made a motion to table the motion from Director Harris, seconded by all.

3. Adjourn

4:17PM