

Board Special Meeting

Work Sessions: Student Outcomes Focused Governance and Planning/

2021-22 Fall Planning Prep; Budget

April 28, 2021, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Meeting held remotely



Minutes

Call to Order

Director Hampson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Directors DeWolf, Dury, Harris, Hampson, Hersey, Rankin, and Rivera-Smith participated with Microsoft Teams or by phone. Director Harris joined the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Work Session: Student Outcomes Focused Governance and Planning/ 2021-22 Fall Planning Prep

This work session was staffed by Interim Superintendent Dr. Brent Jones and AJ Crabill of the Council of Great City Schools.

AJ Crabill facilitated a conversation with Board Directors to draft guardrails for the strategic plan based on community values. This conversation was a continuation of previous work on goals and guardrails at past work sessions and regular board meetings. Directors determined the draft guardrails to be sent to Superintendent Jones and senior staff for their feedback and revisions. Next steps were discussed including collaboration and iteration on the goals and guardrails between staff and Directors, as well as a shift to Directors talking about board structures, meetings, and committees based on draft goals and guardrails.

This meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m. This meeting reconvened at 5:21 p.m.

Work Session: Budget

Director Hersey called the meeting back to order at 5:30 p.m. Directors Hampson, Harris, Rankin, Dury, DeWolf and Rivera-Smith were present.

This work session was staffed by Superintendent Dr. Brent Jones and Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge.

Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge reviewed the agenda, she explained she will review the initial plan for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) dollars and restoration enrollment plan for schools. She reviewed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Estimated Financial Gap. Budget Director Linda Sebring spoke about the current status of FY21-22 recommendation. Instead of using the Economic Stabilization Fund the District is recommending use the ESSER funds. This would maintain the Economic Stabilization fund at 4.0% and would allow the funds to be used for the 2022-23 deficit. Ms. Sebring explained this would reduce the Gap to approximately \$20M in FY22-23. Ms. Sebring added this is one-time funds. Chief Berge stated the total ESSER dollars the District anticipates receiving is \$145M for ESSER I, II, and III combined. Chief Berge explained where ESSER I and II

funds were spent within 2020 and 2021 to this point. ESSER III dollars have not been spent yet and the District is looking at spending them over two years with completion of expenditure in 2023. Superintendent Dr. Brent Jones spoke about the \$10M for 2021-22 learning loss with including services for family support as families and students come back in 2021-22.

Director Rankin asked if the overstaffing District currently has due to lower enrollment is being continued as continuity of services and if enrollment comes back up that gap overstaffing will be temporary. Ms. Sebring explained the revenue and expenditures on slide 5 is outside of the enrollment loss and documents the structural deficit the District has.

Chief Berge spoke about how budget items may change as time goes on and she will be providing updates on a regular basis. Superintendent Jones spoke about engagement and how it is a core element of what Seattle Public School (SPS) is working on.

Chief Berge reviewed the ESSER funds usage from FY20-21 staffing. \$35M is recommended to be used to cover extra school and program staff in FY20-21 and \$19.4M of Economic Stabilization Funds will now be available to assist the FY22-23 deficit. Director Sebring spoke about the recommendation on keeping the minimum fund balance intact by using ESSER funds.

Enrollment Director Planning Ashley Davies spoke about the 2021-22 projection methodology. 2020-21 is considered an outlier year due to the pandemic. She reviewed the two models that were used when enrollment projections were being completed. At the start of June 2021-22 projections will continue and students will be moved off waitlist and any additional adjustments that need to be completed prior to the start of school. June projection is anticipated to be higher than what was expected in September. Chief Berge spoke about the major legislative changes after session ended last Friday. An increase in transportation funding allocation and increase of counselor allocation that will begin in the 2022-23 school year.

Directors gave feedback to ESSER fund spending plan.

Director Harris asked about Superintendent Jones about engagement plan. Superintendent Jones will be setting up time to meet with Director Harris to discuss this. Ms. Davies will share private school data with the directors.

Director Rankin asked about historical data and looking at enrollment at different times of the year. Ms. Davies explained the District does look schools by school for data including looking at the overall data. Chief Berge explained the entire allocation would be re-run once enrollment is complete.

Director Hampson asked about Reduction in Force. Ms. Davies explained it would be assignment information will be reviewed in May to give it as much time as possible for review.

Director Dury asked if community is being engaged. Superintendent Jones spoke about thinking about engagement around a bigger item for fall return. Chief of Community Engagement James Bush explained his team is working on getting a robust and clean return to school in fall plan out to the community for feedback.

Adjourn

This meeting adjourned at 6:38 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:

School Board Office Staff for the Student Outcomes Focused Governance and Planning/ 2021-22 Fall Planning Prep Work Session and The Office of Chief Financial Officer JoLynn Berge for the Budget Work Session