

FAMILIES, EDUCATION, PRESCHOOL, AND PROMISE LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Skype Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Dwane Chappelle called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Attendees

Members Present: Stephan Blanford, Diane DeBacker (on behalf of Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Denise Juneau), Trish Dziko, Donald Felder, Nicole Grant, Chandra Hampson, Erica Johnson (on behalf of Mayor Durkan), Susan Lee, Erin Okuno, Shouan Pan, Constance Rice, Rachael Steward, Michael Tamayo, Kimberly Walker

Others Present: Lori Baxter (DEEL), Dwane Chappelle (DEEL), Leslie Daniels (DEEL), Dana Harrison (DEEL), Monica Liang-Aguirre (DEEL), Aine O'Connor (DEEL), Tiffany Preston (DEEL), Tiffany Washington (DEEL), Tim Wolfe (DEEL); Lisa Gaccione (City Budget Office), Brian Goodnight (Seattle City Council, Central Staff); James Bush (Seattle Public Schools), Nicole Turner (Seattle Public Schools)

III. Reports

The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Dwane Chappelle, Director of the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL). The welcome was followed by a review of the meeting results, Color Brave Space, and a group-check-in in which Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) members were asked to share the topics they would like to either discuss or hear about before the end of the meeting. Some of the topics mentioned included the following:

- Is Seattle Promise still on track?
- When will DEEL be opening up the grant process for community organizations?
- Will there be any changes in the DEEL measures success?
- What is the impact of reduced funding on existing and future grantees?
- Updates on Emergency Child Care
- How much of FEPP is being repurposed for COVID-19 response?

Early Learning Emergency Child Care Update

Monica Liang-Aguirre continued the meeting with an overview of the City's response to emergency childcare. On March 30, the City launched Phase One of its emergency childcare plan. This phase involved working with Seattle Preschool Program and Pathway

providers to provide emergency childcare to children (ages 3-12) of first responders, healthcare, grocery, and pharmacy personnel. Phase Two was launched on April 13 in partnership with County, childcare resources, and CCAP providers. This phase expanded eligibility based on the Governor's definition of essential personnel and was also expanded to serve infants and toddlers. Regarding childcare stabilization, DEEL recognizes that nationwide childcare is in crisis, but also serves as an essential function, which is why DEEL is formulating policy recommendations to mitigate long-term impacts to CCAP providers due to COVID-19.

K-12 School Updates

Dana Harrison, Interim Director of DEEL's K-12 and Postsecondary Division, provided an update to the LOC on the K-12 and Postsecondary sphere within DEEL. The highlights from this update included the following:

- DEEL's Upward Bound and Seattle Promise staff have been working directly with students and their families to ensure they stay motivated and connected during this time. DEEL's staff have also been providing support to families in accessing the learning opportunities provided by their school's partners. This includes working with students in accessing technology and navigating new online learning platforms and providing support to families and students on interpreting new messaging from public health officials and the school district.
- Seattle Promise is still on track. The deadline for enrollment was back in February and over 1700 applications were received. Plans for spring and summer programming are continuing but with remote options.
- DEEL has been working closely with the City's Human Services Department, the school district, and the YWCA to implement a new program for homelessness and housing support services.
- The Opportunity and Access funding process was initially released back in March but was suspended due to COVID-19 school closures. This funding opportunity is currently on hold but DEEL is working to reopen this process soon.
- Plans to release the elementary school-based health center funding opportunity is currently on hold. The plan is to release this opportunity sometime in May.
- Summer 2020 has been identified as part of the transition from FEL to the FEPP Levy, and DEEL is working with a number of providers to determine how their services will be modified to include enrichment and academic experiences over the summer.

- For the 2020-2021 school year, DEEL is working to determine contingencies should school operations be different during the fall.

Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy Budget

Tim Wolfe, DEEL's Finance Director, provided an update to the LOC on the FEPP Levy budget, the implications from COVID-19, and how DEEL has been handling contract adjustments. Citywide, there has been a pause on all nonessential discretionary spending in contracts, which also includes a hiring freeze and a current year budget reduction. Additional highlights from this update included the following:

- During the 2019-2020 school year, DEEL has been amending contracts to align with modified services that are still being provided at this time.
- For the 2020-2021 school year, there are different scenarios being planned for COVID-19 recovery.
- Some funding processes have been delayed this year due to COVID-19 and may result in delayed services in Fall 2020.

DEEL's Future Work

Dwane Chappelle concluded the meeting with an overview of DEEL's future work and contingency planning for September 2020:

- DEEL is developing contingency plans for Summer/Fall 2020 for all its programming.
- The key is developing plans that are responsive to the current situation, goal-oriented, and nimble to adjust, as necessary.
- Part of contingency planning must include a plan for a resurgence of COVID-19 and another statewide stay-at-home order.
- There are two contingency plans for September 2020. Plan A (Schools "Open" in September) is based on the assumptions that operations will likely be different from pre-COVID-19, FEPP funding will be impacted, opportunity gaps will be wider than before, and some preschools may no longer be in operation. Plan B (Schools closed or partially closed in September) assumes there will be a virtual or part-time virtual format, FEPP funding will also be impacted, opportunity gaps will be wider than before, childcare will still be a large need, and some preschools will no longer be in operation.

The meeting concluded with the LOC approving the minutes from November 2019 and March 2020 meetings.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.