

FAMILIES, EDUCATION, PRESCHOOL, AND PROMISE LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Skype Meeting
Wednesday, July 1, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Dwane Chappelle called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. Attendees

Members Present: Diane DeBacker (on behalf of Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Denise Juneau), Donald Felder, Chandra Hampson, Erica Johnson (on behalf of Mayor Durkan), Susan Lee, Vy Nguyen (on behalf of Council President González), Erin Okuno, Shouan Pan, Constance Rice, Kimberly Walker

Others Present: Lori Baxter (DEEL), Dwane Chappelle (DEEL), Leslie Daniels (DEEL), Monica Liang-Aguirre (DEEL), Aine O'Connor (DEEL), Tiffany Preston (DEEL), Marissa Rousselle (DEEL), Tiffany Washington (DEEL), Tim Wolfe (DEEL); Lisa Gaccione (City Budget Office), Brian Goodnight (Seattle City Council, Central Staff)

III. Reports

The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Dwane Chappelle, Director of the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL), followed by a roll call of the meeting's attendees. The roll call was followed by a review of Color Brave Space and of the meeting's agenda items.

Marissa Rousselle, DEEL's Communications and External Affairs Manager, continued the meeting with a review of the meeting outcomes, which included a discussion of the budget rebalancing legislation; a review of the proposed Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Implementation and Evaluation (I&E) Plan amendment; and a call for Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) members to vote on the recommendation of the FEPP amendment rebalancing DEEL's budget.

Overview of the FEPP Levy Ordinance and Role of the LOC

Marissa Rousselle continued with a review of the establishing Ordinance of the FEPP Levy, specifically, Section 7 of Ordinance 125604, which states that "[p]roceeds may be spent only in accordance with an Implementation and Evaluation Plan ("The Plan") approved by ordinance," and can only be amended by ordinance. The establishing Ordinance of the Levy also states the specified role of the LOC and indicates how the LOC must be consulted when there is a proposal to change Levy funding.

Budget and Rebalancing Legislation

Dwane Chappelle continued the meeting by informing the LOC of the recent changes to the City's budget due to COVID-19 and how all departments within the City are undergoing a process to rebalance the 2020 budget. He further stated that DEEL implements its mission with funding from the following sources: the FEPP Levy, the City's General Fund, the Sweetened Beverage Tax, federal, state, and private grants, and partnerships with other City departments. Of DEEL's \$105 million budget, \$8.5 million is from the General Fund.

Tim Wolfe, DEEL's Finance Director, continued with an explanation of the City's General Fund and how, due to the impacts from COVID-19, DEEL anticipates reductions to its General Fund and the Sweetened Beverage Tax. As such, DEEL is proposing to shift \$1.98 million from the General Fund budget to the FEPP Levy budget to offset the revenue lost. DEEL is seeking the consultation and recommendation of the LOC regarding the \$1.34 million of costs associated with the Early Learning staff in the Birth-to-12 area as this programming is currently not part of the Levy's I&E Plan.

Proposed Legislation – I&E Plan Amendment

Marissa Rousselle informed the LOC that the proposed legislation related to the Birth-to-12 Personnel Amendment gives DEEL one-time authority to fund Birth-to-12 personnel expenses, not to exceed \$1.34 million, with an expiration of December 31, 2020. DEEL believes this use of funds is in alignment with the FEPP I&E Plan's goals and outcomes for early learning. The reasons why the LOC's approval is needed is because (1) the programs served by the implicated personnel are currently not included in the Plan, i.e., the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), and (2) the Plan currently specifies investments serving children beginning at age 3, while CCAP serves children birth-to-12 years of age.

Amendment Vote

A majority of the LOC voted in support of the addendum to recommend Council approval of the budget rebalancing legislation. Eight members voted in support of the addendum, while two members abstained from the vote.

Timeline for the Birth-to-12 Legislation

The meeting concluded with a review of the next steps and tentative timeline related to the Birth-to-12 legislation, and a look ahead to the anticipated budget for 2021-2022.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.