

FAMILIES, EDUCATION, PRESCHOOL, AND PROMISE LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

WebEx Meeting
Thursday, October 28, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Dwane Chappelle called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. Attendees

Members Present: James Bush (on behalf of Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Brent Jones), Donald Felder, Lisa Gaccione (on behalf of Mayor Jenny A. Durkan), Stephanie Gardner, Marques Gittens, Uti Hawkins, Susan Lee, Vy Nguyen (on behalf of Council President Lorena González), Erin Okuno, Shouan Pan, Kimberly Walker

Others Present: Chris Alejano (DEEL), Holly Campbell (DEEL), Dwane Chappelle (DEEL), Sean Flikke (DEEL), Monica Liang-Aguirre (DEEL), Glenn McCray (DEEL), Isis Randolph-McCree (DEEL), Marissa Rousselle (DEEL), Jonathan Swift (DEEL), Mei-Li Thomas (DEEL), Sarah Perez Hamilton (SPS), Mia Williams (SPS), Keisha Scarlett (SPS), Melody McMillan (Colleges)

III. Reports

The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Dwane Chappelle, Director of the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL). The meeting continued with a review of the meeting's outcomes, Color Brave Space, Levy Oversight Committee roles and responsibilities, and the approval of the September 23rd meeting minutes.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Director Chappelle also introduced the newest member of the FEPP Levy Oversight Committee (LOC), Marques Gittens. Mr. Gittens serves as the Education and Youth Development Manager at the Seattle Housing Authority and has extensive experience in education and running non-profit programs in the Tacoma area.

Legislative Updates

Marissa Rousselle, DEEL's Interim Director of Policy and Communications, began the report with an overview of the FEPP legislative timeline to update the LOC on the annual budget process and the LOC-endorsed legislative amendments. She stated that the budget process will continue through the end of November and there will be two (2) upcoming Council hearings for public comment. In response to the LOC's concerns about

possible reductions to federal funding for Seattle Promise, the LOC was informed that there are no current proposals by City Council to reduce funding at this time.

With regard to the amendments to the FEPP Implementation Plan, DEEL is currently drafting the legislation but expects to transmit the legislation to City Council in mid-November. DEEL also anticipates the Governance and Education Committee will vote on the proposed amendments on December 14 followed by the full Council's vote on December 20.

Jonathan Swift, DEEL's Director of Finance and Operations, continued the report by informing the LOC of the questions received from City Council regarding DEEL's proposed 2022 budget, many of which focused on the following:

- Use of FEPP underspend/undesignated fund balance
- Promise and Federal funding
- Culturally specific and responsive investments (non-FEPP)
- School based health centers and mental health services

Additionally, Mr. Swift informed the LOC that their recommendation to Council to hold resources aside for future risks in 2023 and beyond is still in deliberation. However, DEEL expects to receive some direction in 2022 in terms of what the specific plan will be for future years.

Kingmakers of Seattle

Chris Alejano, DEEL's Interim Director of K-12, updated the LOC on the Kingmakers of Seattle Program at Seattle Public Schools. The report began with an overview of the FEPP Levy Investments and Strategies, specifically the K-12 and Community investment area, which includes culturally specific and responsive programs like Kingmakers of Seattle. Highlights of this report included:

- A review of the total investment (\$5.4M) DEEL has budgeted for the 2022 school year as it relates to culturally specific and responsive investments.
- A review of the \$1.5M that represents Levy specific investments.
- The balance of the other investments from different funding sources and the reallocation of funds used to support a variety of other culturally specific and responsive initiatives.
- \$788,000 allocated for Kingmakers/Mentoring investments.

There was a request from LOC members to view a breakdown of how the \$788,000 is dispersed among elementary, middle, and high schools in Seattle. The LOC was informed

that one of DEEL's strategies is to work with its partners to keep track of who they serve and matching them to their records, to see, for example, all the 3rd graders that are served as well as their reading scores. It was also mentioned that at times, it is sometimes difficult to break down the money because a lot of programs serve a wide variety of grades.

Seattle Public Schools – Office of African American Male Achievement

Dr. Mia Williams, Executive Director of Seattle Public Schools' (SPS) Office of African American Male Achievement (AAMA), provided an overview of AAMA and how the efforts of Kingmakers of Seattle has evolved over the years. After viewing a brief video of the Kingmakers program at SPS, LOC members were given a glimpse of what the program looks like within the school setting and how students take on leadership roles and active participation within their classrooms. Additionally, LOC members were informed of the 4Cs approach used within the Kingmakers program, which focuses on:

- Culture
 - Rituals, routines, and practices that honor students' strengths
- Conditions
 - Policies, structures, and systems that support welcoming and safe learning spaces
- Competencies
 - Skills and knowledge that educators need to reach and teach Black boys and teens
- Community Connection
 - Direct supports and networking opportunities for students to thrive

Additional highlights from this presentation included the following:

- A review of student asset-based constructs and how they are measured within student climate surveys (e.g., peer friendships and brotherhood, affirmed black identity, black educator representation and relationships, joy of learning, student voice and leadership, culturally responsive instruction, and welcoming, safe and joyful learning environment).
- A review of Culturally Specific and Responsive indicators of success such as:
 - Student program participation rates
 - Improved school attendance rates
 - On-time promotion to the next grade level
 - Passing core courses
 - Reduced disciplinary incidents

- On-time graduation and enrollment in a post-secondary pathway
- The addition of 6th graders to the Kingmakers of Seattle program
- A review of data showing that despite COVID-19, the SY 2020-21 served the largest number of Kings to date.

Several questions asked by LOC members during this portion of the meeting included the following:

- How does the program decide which priorities and practices to focus on and how are priorities set in the Kingmakers program?
 - The Kings and families decide what the priorities are each year. Also, findings are gathered from Listen and Learns as well as from a website that allows families to report concerns.
- How long are students typically in the Kingmakers program and do students remain in the program as they transition from middle school to high school?
 - Students are able to remain in the Kingmakers program when transitioning to high school, if the program is available and offered at their new school. In the past, some students have been unable to continue their participation in high school as some high schools did not offer a Kingmakers program.
- DEEL hired a consultant to create a Kingmakers of Seattle curriculum. Is that curriculum being used in the current programming?
 - The curriculum is still being followed but the transition to virtual learning due to the pandemic has resulted in modifications to address student needs.
- How does family engagement play in the programming?
 - There are connections with families through the facilitators. Also, events are held where families are invited to attend.

The presentation concluded with an overview of the ongoing work within the Kingmakers program during the 2021-2022 school year. This work includes the expansion of programming to two new high schools (Franklin and Cleveland STEM); ongoing professional development and a 5-day Summer Institute for facilitators; a Kingmakers process evaluation; and an asset-based measuring workgroup.

Looking Ahead and Next Steps

The meeting concluded with a review of upcoming LOC meetings, upcoming Council meetings in November and December, and LOC next steps and action items.

IV. Reports

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

DRAFT