



DRAFT



**FAMILIES AND EDUCATION  
LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, August 11, 2015**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marty McLaren, Kevin Washington, Saadia Hamid, Jonathan Knapp, Elise Chayet, Greg Wong.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Leilani Dela Cruz (DEEL), Brian Goodnight (Council Central Staff), Erica Johnson (DEEL), Christy Leonard (DEEL), Holly Miller (DEEL), Sid Sidorowicz (DEEL), Nate Van Duzer (CM Burgess staff), Cashel Toner (SPS), Monica Liang-Aguirre (DEEL), Charles Wright (SPS).

Holly Miller called the meeting to order. H. Miller informed the group that Councilmember Tim Burgess is unable to attend tonight's meeting and that she would be facilitating. Introductions were made and H. Miller introduced Monica Liang-Aguirre as the Department of Education and Early Learning's new Division Director for Early Learning.

H. Miller asked the group if there were any changes to the May 12 LOC draft minutes. No changes were requested and the minutes were approved. H. Miller reviewed the agenda which included the Seattle Preschool Program Enrollment Update and the Comprehensive Evaluation Strategy for Seattle Preschool Program.

**Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) Update**

Sid Sidorowicz presented the Seattle Preschool Program Enrollment Update.

Kevin Washington asked if new 2016 providers would also be able to grandfather in 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds in 2016. S. Sidorowicz replied that they will be able to pre-enroll their 3-year-olds and carry them in as 4-year-olds if they are new providers for SPP.

Nate Van Duzer stated that the budget relied on tuition based on income levels and wondered if the breakdown roughly matched what we were initially thinking. S. Sidorowicz replied that we won't know until we select the applicants and that we will have more information by Friday.

Marty McLaren asked what the communication and understanding is with the higher income parents who would presumably be displaced next year as the program rolls out. S. Sidorowicz replied that for 4-year-olds there is no income threshold and private pay parents will likely be surprised to discover it will be cheaper for them in SPP due to the sliding scale. We had one parent that discovered they would pay more due to income level, but there were more hours

of care included in the rate. H. Miller stated that there are unintended consequences we are discovering as we go through this process, such as families who live outside of city limits and families that will end up paying more.

M. McLaren asked if we are keeping to neighborhood zone criteria. S. Sidorowicz replied that the Implementation Plan says you have more likelihood or chance to get assigned if you live in the same elementary attendance school area as a preschool provider. The second priority is the group that lives in the middle school attendance area. The third priority is people who live outside of the middle school attendance area. Greg Wong suggested that we use the word “weighted assignment” over “random.”

## **Comprehensive Evaluation Strategy of the Seattle Preschool Program**

Erica Johnson presented the Comprehensive Evaluation Strategy of the Seattle Preschool Program.

H. Miller stated that we are having active conversations with various potential partners to create new classroom space for Seattle Preschool Program classrooms outside of Seattle Public School buildings. We are well aware that the district is expecting severe space crunches due to increasing enrollment and class size reduction requirements.

G. Wong stated that coaches were a key component in creating quality programs and requested an update on the coaches. S. Sidorowicz replied that Sonja Griffin is managing the unit and she recently hired 3 new coaches. The coaches who were hired have experience in the community and are well known. A couple of coaches were already part of the Human Services Department, one of whom is High Scope certified. The coaches are going through training and certification and have a pre-service institute training on September 1.

M. McLaren asked how many coaches we were anticipating. S. Sidorowicz replied that there is one more opening for the next school year and that there is a phase-in of adding coaches, the ratio is one coach for every ten classrooms.

Saadia Hamid asked if there was any thinking around bilingual teachers who do not have A. A. degrees or certifications. E. Johnson replied that if it’s a teacher in a dual language program our program plan says we would support them in achieving certification levels that they would need to achieve a higher reimbursement. S. Hamid asked about bilingual teachers who do not have formal education but have been teaching forever. What supports exist for these teachers now that there is an education requirement, a requirement that did not previously exist? E. Johnson replied that if teachers have 10+ years of education and work experience there is another pathway called the waiver process. Leilani Dela Cruz stated that in the last several years the stakes have been raised higher and community colleges have created stackable certifications where students can start at a basic level and work their way towards a CDA, AA, BA, etc.

Jonathan Knapp stated that, in regards to data, he thought we were already working with the district to make sure we are finding out what is happening with students in kindergarten and

first grade to generate some immediate results. S. Sidorowicz replied that there are two aspects, enrollment and the process of getting SPS student ID's so through our normal data sharing agreement we will be able to find out WaKIDS, Attendance, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading scores to inform course corrections. Another separate question is will evaluators be allowed to enter classrooms and do some sort of sampling in the classrooms. We are not proposing that approach at this time.

M. McLaren asked for an overview of family child care centers. H. Miller replied that family child care centers are usually licensed by the state and can serve children up to 12 years of age, for a total of twelve children. They serve lots of kids and provides services in many cases before and after school. No other universal preschool programs are including them in their models due to inefficiency. We would like to create a process that supports providers who meet quality standards and fund them to deliver programs through different models of delivery. M. McLaren stated that the title "Family Child Care Pilot" seemed confusing and wondered if the title "In-Home Childcare Pilot" would convey the meaning more effectively. H. Miller replied that they are typically called family child care homes and that they would consider adding in the word "home" for clarification.

G. Wong asked if the point of the family child care pilot is to explore possibilities and inquired about efficiency, trade-offs and if it was scalable. He stated that the pilot should ask the question, should we even do this?

K. Washington asked who was providing the coordination of the evaluators. E. Johnson replied the city and the 3SI Group.

J. Knapp asked what the role of SEIU would be. H. Miller replied that the Mayor would decide who would be invited to the advisory committee.

M. McLaren stated that she had administrative concerns about building flexibility into service provisions so evaluators are not intimidated by the bureaucratic environment. She stated that she administered the PPVT and in her experience most of the children were not interested in doing the test a second time. She stated that she is concerned about evaluation requirements and that we need to have it well understood that the child's needs are always the priority.

E. Johnson replied that she believes that we will be able to see different patterns in the assessors and their approaches, and will learn many things in this demonstration phase.

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