



**DRAFT**



**FAMILIES AND EDUCATION LEVY  
LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, January 13, 2015**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tim Burgess, Kevin Washington, Greg Wong, Cristina Gonzalez, Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Marty McLaren, Larry Nyland.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Holly Miller (DEEL), Leilani Dela Cruz (DEEL), Erin McGary-Hamilton (DEEL Consultant), Long Phan (DEEL), John Donaghy (Seattle Education Association), Isabel Munoz-Colon (DEEL), Sarah Wilhelm (Health), Kathryn Aisenberg (DEEL), Sid Sidorowicz (DEEL), Charles Wright (SPS), Jessica Knaster Wasse (Health), Sonja Griffin (DEEL), Sue Rust (DEEL), Forrest Longman (CBO), Brian Goodnight (Council Central Staff), Nate Van Duzer (CM Burgess staff), Carmela Dellino (DEEL Consultant), Kristi Skanderup (DEEL Consultant), Kaetlin Miller (Health), Pegi McEvoy (SPS), Pat Sander (SPS), Jerry DeGriek (Health), Regina Jones (Mayor's Office).

Tim Burgess called the meeting to order. Introductions were made and the minutes from the November 12, 2014 LOC meeting were approved.

Staff from the Office for Education and the Early Learning programs from the Human Services Department were congratulated on their recent elevation to the Department of Education and Early Learning. Holly Miller thanked the staff at OFE and HSD for the hard work they have done to form the department, with special thanks to Leilani Dela Cruz, Sid Sidorowicz and Kathryn Aisenberg.

Kevin Washington has been appointed co-chair for the Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) Advisory committee along with Erin Okuno. The SPP advisory committee meeting schedule has been consolidated into a two-day retreat on January 23 and 24, 2015 at Cedarbrook Lodge.

Staff from the Department of Education and Early Learning - Kathryn Aisenberg, Adam Petkun and Isabel Muñoz-Colón - were introduced to present the 2013-14 Families and Education Levy Annual Report.

T. Burgess asked if this shows the number of students in Levy-funded schools or number of students the Levy is touching. I. Munoz-Colon responded that schools apply for funding through a proposal in which the schools choose measurements and what they are going to focus on. I. Muñoz-Colón said there are 5-6 performance measures that a school chooses to measure and some of them may apply to all the students at a grade level.

Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis asked how it is taken into account that there were different students in the previous year. I. Muñoz-Colón said we look at the student growth percentile and who's meeting standards to be able to account for movement. One example is Graham Hill focused on earlier grade MAP.

T. Burgess asked K. Aisenberg to give a quick description on the difference between Innovation and Linkage school funding. K. Washington asked if these schools will continue to be part of the Levy-supported programs every year. K. Aisenberg said yes, with Eckstein as the exception; they moved from Innovation to Linkage status. Eckstein changed their composition with the creation of Jane Addams which resulted in a decrease in their level of funding. K. Washington asked if there is a plan for goals to be stretched for next year. K. Aisenberg stated that they would change on an annual basis.

L. Gaskill-Gaddis asked if we are adding any middle schools, and K. Aisenberg replied that there was a recent special Request for Investment (RFI) opportunity for middle school funding for Jane Addams but otherwise the middle school funding is complete.

Cristina Gonzalez asked if there were any lessons learned, outside of the financial investments. K. Aisenberg replied that Denny, Aki and Mercer are outperforming other schools. I. Munoz-Colon replied that many of the core strategies these schools implemented have trickled down and that there is a huge jump in success. H. Miller replied that Middle School investments have been long standing, with a 2- to 3-year course correction in the last levy. Schools were asked to create a plan for success. We planned for a synergistic effect of our investments over time. We have observed that schools learn from each other with professional development opportunities and have found that continuity and consistency make a big difference in success. T. Burgess requested having a "story time" at the next LOC meeting. H Miller replied by suggesting we could bring in principals from Levy-funded schools.

K. Washington asked, since we are unable to control staff turnover, over the last years are you able to tell if risk factors to success are when the top level of leadership changes or a few levels of staffing down? I. Munoz-Colon replied that research shows principals play a key role in a school's success. Principals have a system in place and when there is an erosion of key staff who have led success, the school erodes quickly or over time. K. Aisenberg added that it helps to mitigate the loss if we are notified as soon as possible. We can meet with the staff in advance and provide support for the transition.

C. Gonzalez asked what we are doing to incentivize improvement. Greg Wong asked if the disaggregated data slide was useful. G. Wong asked, in terms of levy investments, should we be looking at course corrections every 1-2 years as opposed to a snapshot? T. Burgess said with long-term investments we will see better results.

K. Washington stated that aggregated data slides do not show enough that would bring out disproportionality.

G. Wong asked if we can say Levy investments are making a difference, specifically with Opportunity Gap students.

H. Miller added that even in these categories of students we tend to work with lowest performing cohorts. We can do more work with looking at how that contributes to outcomes.

T. Burgess stated that with the opportunity gap ethnicity data, it looks like we have not moved the needle. Is that correct and if so, why? H. Miller responded that in prior years we had more data from the district on low-income status. L. Gaskill-Gaddis added that, like in No Child Left Behind, meeting standard does not tell you enough; you need to look at the growth of the group. T. Burgess asked what the change was that occurred at the school district to change the data we received. S. Sidorowicz replied that the data from the Free & Reduced-Price Lunch program changed when our data sharing went from proxy ID's to actual student ID's.

C. Gonzalez asked how we can communicate more formally to learn from best practices. H. Miller replied that we are presenting to the school board in March and are working with the Mayor's Office to make data more precise to distribute across the community.

G. Wong stated that some of this looks like data for the sake of data and that the presentation is off in comparison to previous years. H. Miller replied that the presentation needs to be revised to better tell the Levy story.

The meeting was adjourned.