



DRAFT



City of Seattle

FAMILIES AND EDUCATION LEVY
Tuesday, May 13, 2008 • 4:00-5:30 p.m.
LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
7th Floor, City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Burgess, Tim Ceis, Cheryl Chow, Frances Contreras, Kris Hildebrandt, David Okimoto, John Pehrson, Carla Santorno

OTHERS PRESENT: Eric Anderson (Human Services Dept), Lin Carlson (Seattle Public Schools), TJ Cosgrove (Health), Betsy Graef (Council Staff), Sonja Griffin (HSD), Kathleen Groshong (Human Services Dept), Kacey Guin (Office for Education), Bea Kelleigh, (Human Services Dept), Lauren Lee (HSD), Patricia Lee (Council Staff), Holly Miller (OFE), Alan Painter (HSD), Sue Rust (OFE), Anne Shields (Health), Sid Sidorowicz (OFE)

Tim Ceis called the meeting to order and asked for introductions. The minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting of the Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) were approved.

Seattle School District Draft Strategic Plan

Carla Santorno presented the Seattle School District's Strategic Plan Framework. She noted that this was only an outline and that the details of the plan are forthcoming. The plan focuses on what needs the most attention and putting resources toward more strategic foci. C. Santorno distributed the District's dashboard metrics and noted that every district employee should be working toward these academic targets.

John Pehrson noted that the District's real challenge was improving in math and science and asked about strategies for helping teachers in these subjects. C. Santorno said that professional development was the main vehicle for improvement. She also noted that recruiting new teachers into the system and providing solid math coaches were additional strategies. In addition, the District's new project management approach will help to identify gaps in math and science.

Antonio Hopson said there is a national shortage of math and science teacher and asked if the District had considered bending the rules to allow individuals to get emergency certifications in these areas since many people in math and science fields who want to teach are not willing to go through the bureaucratic hoops. C. Santorno said the District had some success in recruiting pre-certified teachers from local universities, but that teachers must still adhere to state rules.

Tim Burgess asked if the district has had standards before. Cheryl Chow said the District has not had an educator at the helm in 14 years, so the answer is no, there have not been standards because the District has not had the leadership. T. Burgess asked why standards are not also being set for math and science in the elementary grades.

C. Santorno said students did not take the math WASL in 3rd grade but that there was a need to get better assessments in the early years, especially kindergarten. T. Burgess asked if the teachers' union had been involved in the strategic planning process and if they were supportive. C. Santorno said that they are at the table and tentatively on board.

Families and Education Levy Program Targets for 2008-2009

Sid Sidorowicz presented recommendations for the Families and Education Levy Program course corrections, indicators, and targets for 2008-2009.

Early Learning

T. Burgess asked what was preventing the Early Learning Network IDs from being assigned. S. Sidorowicz said that while the agreement was in place, it was difficult working through the bureaucracy to receive the actual data. C. Santorno said the District was willing and ready to provide these IDs and would speak with the data director.

Elementary Community Learning Centers

J. Pehrson asked why the Levy serves just three schools out of all the elementary schools in the District. H. Miller noted that funding for elementary community learning centers (CLCs) was extremely limited and these three schools were funded by the previous Families and Education Levy. S. Sidorowicz noted that other elementary schools have CLCs funded through other sources but that the Levy CLCs have been a model for program collaboration for the other sites.

Middle School Programs

Tim Burgess asked why Hamilton Middle School was selected as the fifth Innovation Site. S. Sidorowicz responded that it was next in line in terms of the numbers of low-performing students and 46-48% of the students are from the south end of Seattle.

The meeting adjourned prematurely at 5:15 p.m. due to a fire alarm.