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DEEL LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 14, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present: Kevin Washington, Shouan Pan, Allison Wood, Hueiling Chan, Larry Nyland, Council President Bruce Harrell, Erin Okuno, Greg Wong and Sandi Everlove
LOC Members Absent: Richard Burke, Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Cristina Gonzalez, Sadia Hamid, and Ruth Kagi

Others Present: Dwane Chappelle (DEEL), Sid Sidorowicz (DEEL), Monica Liang-Aguirre (DEEL), Cameron Clark (DEEL), Holly Campbell (DEEL), Kathryn Doll (DEEL), Sonja Griffin (DEEL), and Leilani Dela Cruz (DEEL), Brian Goodnight (Council Central Staff), Waslala Miranda (CBO), James Bush (SPS), and Phyllis Campano

Dwane Chappelle greeted everyone and called the meeting to order. D. Chappelle then approved the December 13 meeting minutes.

Monica Liang-Aguirre gave the Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) Update presentation.

Greg Wong asked if the tuition amount has stabilized and if it's predictable now. Sandi Everlove asked if there's an increase in full pay or in pay overall. M. Liang-Aguirre and Leilani Dela Cruz answered that it's about the same as last year: 20%. M. Liang-Aguirre reminded the group that in the beginning of the year it was 70% for free tuition, but the number has now decreased due to changes in enrollment.

Erin Okuno noted it would be interesting to see where the program is serving first and second generations for Latino and Asian populations. M. Liang-Aguirre agreed and stated DEEL would research it.

G. Wong asked if DEEL knows why some students are leaving. M. Liang-Aguirre answered there are no alarming trends. Allison Wood asked if it's evenly distributed by sites. M. Liang-Aguirre answered DEEL is unsure.

Kevin Washington asked if the dynamic would change if the application response dates were pushed up. M. Liang-Aguirre stated there are multiple reasons, including decline rates, and that she'd go into it further detail during the presentation. Larry Nyland noted part of the reason could be as time progresses, residents become more aware of the preschool sites around them.

E. Okuno asked if DEEL knows why students of color are enrolling more after the program's start date. M. Liang-Aguirre stated DEEL is researching who applied early and why that was the case. M. Liang-Aguirre stated it appears to be the parents that are most

looped into the system and DEEL's outreach; it seems to be about whom DEEL have done a better job reaching and who is more likely to respond by a given deadline. Sid Sidorowicz asked if it's because of income eligibility: that the 3-year-olds who are enrolling later are more likely to be children of color. L. Dela Cruz answered yes: since DEEL prioritizes 4-year-olds and enrolls them first and then enrolls lower income 3-year-olds. M. Liang-Aguirre noted that DEEL is researching whether DEEL's SPP policy is inadvertently privileging Seattle's over income 4-year-olds over lower income three-year-olds. M. Liang-Aguirre added that it appears the children who need the program most, are enrolling later and getting fewer days of the program. G. Wong noted that one of the targets of the program is to have income diversity. G. Wong agreed that there are more low-income children who need the services, but noted the goal of having a diverse income to truly have a universal program. M. Liang-Aguirre agreed, adding DEEL also wants all students to start in September, at the beginning of the program. G. Wong added the preference was to give priority to four-year-olds and that the current three-year-olds will be a good portion of next years' four-year-olds. G. Wong also noted it will be interesting to see how the four-year-old demographics change over the next two years.

K. Washington asked if parents are giving a reason when declining. M. Liang-Aguirre stated often it's geographic, so DEEL is offering parents more preferences this year to hopefully eliminate multiple rounds of applying. L. Dela Cruz noted there was a group of parents who declined unless they were selected for the one and only site they wanted. K. Washington asked if those sites offered something specific or if there was another reason why they only wanted one particular site. L. Dela Cruz stated DEEL has not asked why.

S. Everlove asked if students are going to other preschools or not filling out the enrollment forms as speaking another language since there are higher enrollments with SPS, versus SPP, with some of the language groups; in particular with Somali and Spanish speaking students. M. Liang-Aguirre stated DEEL is unsure. L. Dela Cruz offered there are other programs like Head Start, Family Child Care, ECEAP, etc. and that certain cultures prefer some of these different programs; they tend to attract students with a second language preference. E. Okuno noted if a family is attached to Head Start or another program, that they would stay with that program instead of transitioning into an SPP classroom. L. Dela Cruz concurred. A. Wood noticed that there's an opposite trend with Chinese families and is curious if DEEL's outreach could be an explanation as to why ties are stronger with certain communities. L. Dela Cruz agreed that could be a reason and added another reason could be that one of the providers that is now in the program is a Chinese dual language site. G. Wong noted there is a higher Vietnamese increase with SPP than with SPS as well.

L. Nyland asked how the City is finding new facility spaces. M. Liang-Aguirre answered that Cameron Clark with DEEL is assisting and that DEEL is looking into all options. L. Nyland added portables work well and M. Liang-Aguirre noted DEEL hasn't initiated any work with portables. L. Nyland mentioned there are 45 churches that have partnerships with schools and that they are another possibility. Council President Harrell asked if the providers that bid on the RFI spaces were existing providers. L. Dela Cruz said that process was open for anyone to apply. L. Dela Cruz noted DEEL did prioritize preexisting providers and those facing displacement, or those having facility barriers that keep them from becoming SPP classrooms. B. Harrell was curious if decisions were based on the

highest bid; L. Dela Cruz stated DEEL handled the entire RFI process and there was no bidding process. K. Washington asked if the current providers look stable and if DEEL expects any changes over the year. M. Liang-Aguirre answered that SPS does not expect any changes, but things change year to year. M. Liang-Aguirre added DEEL does not know of any sites with issues, other than those in SPS buildings. S. Sidorowicz added there are some known site issues in the Pathway program.

S. Everlove would like more information on the FCC Pilot. M. Liang-Aguirre stated Cameron Clark can provide information after the meeting and that she can also give a presentation on it in a few months.

E. Okuno noted it is very unpleasant to pay by phone for SPP parents and asked if there will be a credit card payment option through the new Parent Portal. K. Washington asked if DEEL's interfaced with the parents to see if there's a desire for parents to pay online. M. Liang-Aguirre answered that DEEL has. L. Dela Cruz noted that there are numerous structural and permission barriers at this time. K. Washington noted DEEL should be able to use one of the other Departments' systems, if DEEL is unable to use their own. S. Sidorowicz answered that the different systems are complex and that there are different security issues, including some with the application that will need to be resolved first. S. Sidorowicz added DEEL cannot use Utilities' sites since they are on separate systems and supported by their own fees; however, he stated DEEL will get to online payments.

E. Okuno noted she sees the efficiency in doing applications online, but paper applications are preferred by families of color (due to the relationship aspect). M. Liang-Aguirre stated DEEL will be doing online applications only, but will offer to help the families in person fill out the application online.

S. Everlove asked if the SPP Outreach consultant will be utilizing the community health clinics. M. Liang-Aguirre answered that she would connect with S. Everlove after the meeting.

L. Nyland noted there can be issues with maximizing first choice and M. Liang-Aguirre noted that DEEL is not ranking, instead parents are asked to select all of the sites they are willing to go to.

K. Washington asked what "financial reasons" refers to and if certain providers are not joining SPP due to being unable to meet the requirements. L. Dela Cruz explained there are different reasons why providers are not joining: some of the sites collect more income with their current programs than they would if they converted to SPP, the teacher wage requirements are too high, and there are increases in site locations' rent.

S. Everlove asked if the SPP+ outreach plan is different and if the teachers will have special training. M. Liang-Aguirre answered yes, that SPS is responsible for enrolling the families and letting them know it's an option; there will be 6 slots reserved for IEPs and the rest will be enrolled by DEEL; the classrooms will have a fulltime SPP teacher (a general education teacher), a part-time special education certified teacher, and a paraprofessional.

K. Washington noted on the map one can see where there are currently no SPP locations and that it may be easier to get existing providers into these locations, than a newer provider. L. Dela Cruz concurred and added that with newer providers DEEL must ensure they're qualified, which can take longer than using a provider DEEL already knows and has evaluated. L. Dela Cruz also noted some of the locations on the map do not actually have any preschools. S. Sidorowicz noted there also may be private providers who are not interested in SPP. E. Okuno stated if a map of the demographics SPP is trying to reach was overlaid on top, then the areas showing no SPP sites may also be areas not currently targeted at this time, but ones hopefully reached in the future. M. Liang-Aguirre noted Pathway sites are also not included.

S. Everlove asked if DEEL can disaggregate the children attending two full years versus one, and those who are under 300%. M. Liang-Aguirre answered yes, and DEEL will have those results next year. Sonja Griffin agreed that data on children under 300% is important. E. Okuno added there are grandfathered-in children as well. S. Everlove noted the value of data: to see if SPP is working and if so, using data to support the importance of continuing the program. K. Washington asked if DEEL can show data from the provider aspect: that the providers who've participated are doing better than those that did not. K. Washington added provider data would be helpful with recruitment. L. Nyland noted DEEL should have WaKIDS data on the kids for all of the above: no preschool, 1 or 2 years of preschool, free or reduced lunch, etc. S. Everlove added that published studies carry more weight and asked if UW can publish a study with the results from the SPP pilot. L. Dela Cruz noted a third-party evaluation is underway and that DEEL will discuss the UW suggestion.

G. Wong asked if there will be a presentation on the quality, curricula, and training pieces. S. Griffin stated she would gladly give a presentation on this.

D. Chappelle thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.