

FAMILIES AND EDUCATION LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Seattle Municipal Tower | 700 5TH Avenue, Conference Room 4080 | Seattle, WA 98104
Tuesday, April 17, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

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

II. Attendees

Members Present: Sandi Everlove, Erin Okuno, Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Allison Wood, Greg Wong

Others Present: Carmela Dellino (Seattle Public Schools), Michael Stone (Seattle Public Schools), Jill Geary (Seattle Public Schools), James Bush (Seattle Public Schools), Alesia Jessie (Seattle Public Schools), Jenny Allen (Seattle Public Schools), Pat Sander (Seattle Public Schools), Dwane Chappelle (DEEL), Monica Liang-Aguirre (DEEL), Clarence Dancer, Jr. (DEEL), Tiffany Preston (DEEL), Austin Miller (DEEL), Chelsea Kellogg (DEEL), Veronica Gallardo (DEEL), Leilani Dela Cruz (DEEL), Jolenta Coleman (DEEL), Vy Nguyen (Councilmember Lorena González Office), Chris Alejano (Mayor's Office), Melissa Lawrie (City of Seattle Budget Office), Erin MacDougall (Public Health – Seattle and King County), Sara Rigel (Public Health – Seattle and King County), Kaitlin Miller (Public Health – Seattle and King County), Melissa Westbrook (Seattle Schools Community Forum Blog)

III. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of January 9 and February 13, 2018 were approved.

IV. Reports

2018 Families, Education, Preschool and Promise Levy - Presentation and Discussion

Chris Alejano (Education Policy Advisor to Mayor Jenny A. Durkan) and Dwane Chappelle (DEEL Director) presented Mayor Durkan's *Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Plan* to the members of the Families and Education Levy Oversight Committee.

Introduction and Historical Overview

Since 1990, the City of Seattle has supported children and their families through the Families and Education Levy, and beginning in 2014, the Seattle Preschool Program Levy. The focus of the City's education levies has continually evolved over the years to better address opportunity gaps. The Seattle Preschool Program and Mayor Durkan's 2017 Executive Order to provide two years of college tuition through the Seattle Promise

College Tuition Program are two recent initiatives which have been implemented to assist in closing the opportunity gap among Seattle's youth.

Since November 2017, the Department of Education and Early Learning held 33 community meetings to obtain feedback from the public on what they believed should be prioritized in the upcoming levy. The following priorities rose to the top:

Closing Opportunity Gaps – Focus on underserved, disadvantaged, and/or students of color. Provide support for all age groups.

Early Learning – Universal access, affordability, and increase early learning provider compensation.

Expanded Learning Opportunities – Out-of-school time programming, before- and after-school, summer and weekly learning, transportation.

Systems Coordination – Preparation for post-secondary, career connections, pathway and transitions from prenatal to post-secondary, culture of collaboration among service providers, align systems and resources.

Wraparound Services – Mental health, social emotional supports, health care, family supports and outreach, family engagement.

Overview of the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Plan

The Mayor is committed to preschool and wants to significantly increase the number of children who have access to high quality preschool. Programs under the FEPP Plan will work to achieve educational equity by providing kids with:

- High-quality preschool that prepares kids for success in kindergarten. Early learning is important to getting children on the path to success academically, socially, and emotionally.
- K-12 and Community investments so students and families are healthy and supported
- College opportunities to attain a certificate, credential, degree and a pathway to good jobs.

Preschool

Preschool has been shown to be successful in closing the achievement gap allowing children to come to Kindergarten prepared, increasing academic success, and improving health outcomes.

Preschool has also shown to provide amazing benefits for the children who participate by:

- Boosting earnings: Kids who attend preschool have higher lifetime earnings.
- Preventing the achievement gap: In the SPP pilot, children of color saw greater gains in preschool than their white peers.
- Increasing academic success: Children who experience high-quality preschool are more likely to graduate from high school.
- Improving health outcomes: Studies show that early learning is associated with better long-term health.

K-12 & Community Investments

With the mandate that the State fully fund basic education, Mayor Durkan has reframed the City's K-12 focus on educational enhancements and targeted investments to close opportunity gaps. Furthermore, Mayor Durkan is committed to similar investments in K-12 as the previous Families and Education Levy, such as:

- Continued investments in K-12 even as the state adds additional funding for K-3 class size reduction
- New initiatives aimed at closing the opportunity gap and creating a pathway to jobs

As it pertains to K-12 and Community Investments, the FEPP Plan proposes to provide the workforce of the future with the tools needed to be successful throughout their lives by:

- Targeting highest needs populations
- Offering year-round and expanded learning opportunities by making sure opportunities exist for children to continue learning during spring break, winter break and the summer months.
- Providing social-emotional and mental health support
- Offering family support by connecting students and families with the necessary resources to navigate the K-12 system
- College and job readiness

- Increasing teacher diversity

K-12 & Health

Healthy students mean better attendance and an improved focus on learning. Supporting school-based health centers, mental health support, and mobile dental clinics help make that a reality. In the FEPP Plan, Mayor Durkan proposes maintaining current health investments, adding 2 middle school health centers, and 1 high school health center.

Seattle Promise

Increasing access to post-secondary opportunities increases social mobility and economic opportunity beginning in high school. Getting students on a path to a living wage job is a huge priority for the Mayor and Seattle Promise is the mechanism to achieve this goal. The investments in early learning and in the K-12 arena also play a role in supporting this venture to earning a degree.

In March, the City of Seattle signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Seattle Colleges and Seattle Public Schools to partner together to provide the necessary support to students while they are in high school. Examples of these supports include readiness academies to navigate the application process, Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and other college application processes.

Academic preparation: Academic preparation or readiness is one of the biggest indicators of college enrollment and completion.

Increased enrollment: Tuition supports increase enrollment rates in postsecondary institutions, demonstrated in Seattle through the early years of the 13th Year Promise program as well as other promise programs nationwide.

Persistence and graduation: Tuition alone, however, does not increase student persistence or graduation rates. Additional support services are necessary to ensure that students matriculate and obtain a diploma or credential.

Economic mobility: Students who obtain a degree or credential increase their likelihood of accessing a living wage career in Seattle.

Access: All students who graduate will have access to two free years of college, or access to a job apprenticeship or certificate program

Expansion: Seattle Promise will expand to all public high school graduates who graduate from any high school in Seattle

Wraparound Support: In addition to free tuition, students will be provided with additional resources for textbooks, materials, and/or other non-school related material.

Partnership: To strengthen the relationship between the City of Seattle, Seattle College and Seattle Public Schools to ensure students in Seattle are successful.

2018 Education Levy Timeline and Next Steps

Dwane Chappelle concluded the presentation with a review of the following timeline and next steps for the FEPP Plan:

- **Wed, April 18:** Mayor Durkan to release Education Levy Action Plan
- **Mon, April 23:** Select Committee on Education Levy Presentation
- **Mon, May 14:** Select Committee on Education Levy Presentation
- **Mon, May 21:** Select Committee on Education Levy Presentation
- **May - Early June:** Council to host two community-based public hearings
- **Mon, June 11:** Select Committee on Education Levy action
- **Mon, June 18:** Select Committee on Education Levy action

V. Questions

What will be done to ensure students in developmental classes will be ready for college-level courses?

- o Remedial classes can sometimes slow down the process for students to earn their degrees as they are often bogged down with trying to earn foundational credits before moving on to more rigorous college-level courses. However, our goal will be to work with middle and high school principals to ensure students have the necessary support early on to avoid having to take remedial classes.

Do you think students will opt for two-year degrees over four-year degrees and may choose not to pursue certain classes in high school because they know they will only pursue an Associate's degree?

- o At the moment, we do not know what the trend will be regarding whether students will choose to attend two-year colleges over four-year colleges in Seattle. We have not had a chance to look into those details, but it is something we will eventually examine.

Was there consultation with Seattle Public Schools when developing the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Plan?

- o In addition to the Mayor's vision for the FEPP Plan, we also had regular meetings with Seattle Public School leaders to distill what their highest priorities were for the upcoming levy. Our approach was to ensure there was diverse representation, specifically from Seattle Public Schools.

What will be the purpose of the Council's community-based public hearings?

- o The public hearings will provide Council with an opportunity to engage the community and hear their thoughts about the FEPP Plan proposal.

What is the fundamental difference between what we are doing now in the current levy and what the future levy proposes?

- o The investments in the current levy are more academically-related while the new investments will focus on what we heard from the community, board members, and school leaders.

Will the new levy shift away from funding classroom activities?

- o As before, we will continue to have a focus population serving the highest needs students in the highest needs schools but there will be a shift in the K-5 arena where a flexible funding approach will be used. The shift will relate more to the wraparound services (i.e. year-round schooling, mentoring, and tutoring) that are not completely embedded within the school setting.

What role will the Levy Oversight Committee play in the development of the upcoming levy?

- o The Levy Oversight Committee will be asked to provide their expertise regarding the proposal at a future date.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.