



**DRAFT**



**FAMILIES AND EDUCATION LEVY  
LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tim Burgess, Elise Chayet, Hueiling Chan (LOC Nominee), Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis, Cristina Gonzalez, Saadia Hamid (LOC Nominee), Regina Jones, Jonathan Knapp (LOC Nominee), Greg Wong

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Leilani Dela Cruz (DEEL), Brian Goodnight (Council staff), Sonja Griffin (DEEL), Erica Johnson (DEEL), Forrest Longman (CBO), Eden Mack (Seattle Council PTSA), Holly Miller (DEEL), Sue Rust (DEEL), Rachel Schulkin (DEEL), Sid Sidorowicz (DEEL), Cashel Toner (SPS), Sarah Wilhelm (Health)

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM by Tim Burgess. Holly Miller thanked the LOC members for attending two meetings in February.

The Seattle Preschool Program Implementation Plan will be submitted on Friday for Council review and transmitted on Tuesday in the ordinance legislation package. It was prepared using feedback from seven public meetings, the Advisory Committee, and the Interdepartmental Team consisting of City, state Department of Early Learning (DEL), Seattle Public Schools (SPS) and others.

Rachel Schulkin discussed the goals of the Plan and said racial equity is driving the process. Use of the City of Seattle's Racial Equity Toolkit influenced the recommendations. Sid Sidorowicz said City Council directed us to develop our specific toolkit and we presented it to City Council as the structure for the plan. H. Miller said throughout the community engagement process we asked about race and social justice impacts, and these are threaded throughout the document, adding depth and richness of effort.

S. Sidorowicz discussed the outcome funding framework. Erica Johnson said the RFP closed this afternoon for development of a Comprehensive Evaluation Strategy to identify evaluation experts. The evaluators will identify a set of tools and measures for kids in preschool.

Elise Chayet asked if any of the tools have a health assessment built into them. Sonja Griffin said the set of tools, such as ASQ, are for developmental screening. E. Johnson said Teaching Strategies Gold is an observational assessment. With the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT), people sit down and talk to the child, show pictures, and write down responses. She said through the evaluation strategy we will need all of the information about the child so we don't have unrealistic expectations.

E. Johnson discussed school readiness. There will be a competitive RFI process to identify provider agencies to deliver preschool services. Our goal is to make the RFI process as simple as possible to get the answers we need. There are three tiers of contracting priorities.

H. Miller said agencies have to show how they meeting eligibility standards. E. Johnson said there will be a separate process for direct negotiation between Seattle Public Schools and the City. Greg Wong asked if we have a sense of SPS interest yet, and H. Miller said we're beginning to get a sense of it. We are working with the school district and DEL on getting SPS in Early Achievers. At the last meeting we talked about the district taking a 4-year planning approach, and it will take a year to ramp up. Cashel Toner is thinking about what that ramp up will look like within the constraints mentioned. We also want community members involved.

E. Johnson discussed provider contracting priorities. Tier 1 is focusing on areas of high need. Tier 2 priorities target services toward meeting the needs of preschool children from low-income families. Tier 3 priorities address evidence of high quality practice as measured through Early Achievers and/or the availability of dual language programs. Lucy Gaskill-Gaddis asked if Early Achievers Level 5 is the top level and said that's a strong standard. E. Johnson said programs can still participate at Level 3 or 4. T. Burgess said everybody will have to meet Level 3 for eligibility, and E. Johnson said an agency is eligible if licensed (or exempt from licensing) and Early Achievers Level 3. E. Chayet asked if these priorities are not mutually exclusive so someone could be Priority Tier Levels 1, 2 and 3. E. Johnson said there will be a separate level of operationalizing this. It will be based on a point system. We will run scenarios to maintain integrity of these values. S. Sidorowicz said the first programs we implement are in Priority 1.

Leilani Dela Cruz discussed child participation. A Web-based application system will be available in Year 2. In Year 1 we will use paper applications that will be available in multiple languages. A variety of community locations will be leveraged as application hubs. We will have a Human Services coordinator on staff to provide assistance and training. L. Gaskill-Gaddis asked whether we are getting providers and then getting kids, and how would the two meet. E. Johnson said they meet through us. L. Gaskill-Gaddis said some providers already have kids that are not necessarily supported by this program. L. Dela Cruz said we wrote in a provision for grandfathering so we don't displace children.

L. Dela Cruz said children who are eligible are not automatically enrolled. There is an order for selection if demand exceeds supply. One is more weight is given to children living in the same SPS elementary school catchment area as the SPP classroom. H. Miller said the middle school catchment areas are larger and, within each, are many elementary schools. We will draw from the larger MS zone in order to assure we get mixed income. G. Wong asked if we have looked at what the demand will be and what happens if we have more applicants than slots. Are we looking at income requirements? E. Johnson said we are using data to make sure applicants reflect the demographics and mixed income of the local communities where preschools are sited. We might not get beyond the first level of priorities and there are still operational details to work out. L. Dela Cruz said we are still working to refine the algorithm for selection. In other programs, such as Boston, we have models to draw from. R. Schulkin said the catchment area for Aki draws from North Beacon Hill into the Rainier Valley and down to South Shore.

T. Burgess asked if you go through this selection process and end up with 100 kids and 28 slots, how will you decide which 28 get in and what the ratio for mixed income will be? Is it 50:50 or 10:90? E. Johnson said all of the community and interagency input has been for us to focus on ensuring the applicant pool is representative of local demographics and then randomly select from there. S. Sidorowicz added that if a provider is an ECEAP provider, and converts to SPP, and certain percentage of the classroom will have to continue to be ECEAP eligible. There is an inherent bias for anybody contracting thru those other programs to have low income children enrolled because of financial eligibility requirements. T. Burgess added that even if you do that, will end up doing some random selection.

Eden Mack said she supports being clear about mixed income classrooms and random selection. South Shore preschool is changing eligibility standards and Director Sherry Carr was specific that SPS preschools need to be targeted to low-income families. G. Wong said it is a matter of supply and demand.

For tuition and tuition collection, DEEL will develop a collection system incorporating a sliding scale structure. The purpose of the sliding scale for tuition is to make the program as inclusive as possible. The base rate will not increase by more than 2.4% annually. T. Burgess asked if that is to accommodate for inflation. H. Miller said you would have to adjust enrollment and look at the balance of impact of adjustments. T. Burgess said when we do the renewal, we'll make adjustments. S. Sidorowicz said the provider rate is growing year to year within 4 years.

S. Griffin discussed the importance of professional development and said our training will be aligned with other trainings. There will be pre-service training, curriculum training, specific content training, and additional training to align with the Washington State Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals. Coaching will be intensive and play a critical role. All classrooms will have their own coach. The UW is developing a one-year program on coaching. E. Chayet asked if all of the coaching is focused on teachers or is there any focused on families. S. Griffin said there might be coaching for the program supervisor or director, and teachers. H. Miller said the coach will train parents so they can make decisions about reinforcing instruction at home. S. Griffin said that's a model the school district is using in their Parents as Partners training at South Shore. Families attend at night to learn what their kids are learning during the day. Saadia Hamid asked whether they are center-based or community-based or only educators receiving coaching. S. Griffin said they are specific to classroom teachers.

E. Johnson discussed advising and tuition assistance. Jonathan Knapp said the previous page talks about compensation on par with public school teachers and asked if there is a difference. E. Johnson said no, but we're not tied to SEA/SPS negotiations between staff and the board. The value is they will be paid well and have benefits. G. Wong asked if tuition assistance will go to existing teachers and is there progress developing alternative routes. E. Johnson said we are working closely with Seattle Colleges and they are interested in developing an applied BS degree. She said we're hearing from the community that they are more comfortable with community colleges.

S. Griffin said the teacher waiver requirements have been proposed. To apply, a teacher must have a minimum of 10 years of experience and education. T. Burgess asked about the mix;

could you have one year of experience and nine years of education. S. Griffin said typically we see 1-2 years of education and 10 years of experience. T. Burgess asked whether the program plan specifies the CLASS assessment scores for teachers, and E. Johnson said yes, it will.

Cristina Gonzalez said the 2015 budget seems small. S. Sidorowicz said what you see are calendar budgets translated to school year. C. Gonzalez suggested adding a footnote. E. Johnson said we'll do another version. C. Gonzalez suggested adding percentages on the side.

L. Gaskill-Gaddis said thank you for offering this opportunity to learn about SPP. It's complicated and you've thought a lot about how to administer it. H. Miller acknowledged the incredible work that E. Johnson, R. Schulkin, S. Griffin, L. Dela Cruz, and S. Sidorowicz have done.

S. Sidorowicz said the Partnership Agreement discussions with the school district have begun, and we've begun drafting an MOU with DEL

E. Mack noted that the SPS Board process is lengthy to approve an agreement. H. Miller acknowledged that we have learned that it takes 3 months. E. Johnson said that's why we're still in process and to have the Partnership Agreement approved by the end of February, we would have had to know all Implementation Plan details in November, before the public meetings even started. E. Mack asked if a draft of the Partnership Agreement is going to be presented to the School Board on Friday. S. Sidorowicz replied no, it's not even a draft yet.

C. Gonzalez asked for H. Miller's thoughts on what are the most exciting and upcoming challenges. H. Miller said the different challenges operationally, logistical issues around enrollment, and putting into operation priorities to reach the right kids. She thinks the most about maintaining the program quality, putting this in place and maintaining standards. We know what it takes to get kids prepared for school. Getting all of that going in an aligned fashion is a big lift and doesn't allow for a lot of distractions. We have received very sincere, understandable calls for compromising on quality. S. Griffin is our quality assurance manager. T. Burgess said that's really important because there will be pressure to expand faster than we can and pressure to lower standards. If you follow what's happened in other cities, we dare not do that. H. Miller said we may be called on to make some tough decisions going forward, and she would rather slow this down and make the right decisions. That will pay us better dividends. We have to renew the SPP Levy in four years.

Thank you, adjourned 6:03 PM