

# FAMILIES, EDUCATION, PRESCHOOL, AND PROMISE LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

WebEx Meeting

April 21, 2022

## MEETING MINUTES

### I. Call to Order

Dwane Chappelle called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### II. Attendees

Members Present: Imani Carey (on behalf of Councilmember Tammy Morales), Marques Gittens, SPS Superintendent Brent Jones, Susan Lee, Erin Okuno, Shouan Pan, Manuela Slye, Vivian Song Maritz, Linda Thompson-Black, Kimberly Walker-Harrison

Others Present: Chris Alejano (DEEL), Jolynn Berge (SPS) James Bush (SPS), Isabel Calloway (DEEL) Sheila Ater Capestany (KC DCHS) Dwane Chappelle (DEEL), Vik Cheema (DEEL), Lisa Chick (A4Ed), Loida Erhard (DEEL), Ismael Fajardo (DEEL), Brian Goodnight (CoS), Kamaria Hightower (DEEL), Kateri Joe (Guest), Monica Liang-Aguirre (DEEL), Mariko Lockhart (DEEL), Dena Morris (SPS), Isis Randolph-McCree (DEEL), Sara Rigel (PHSKC), Marissa Rousselle (DEEL), Alexandra Rouse (CBO) Amanda Stoddard (DEEL), Mei-Li Thomas (DEEL), Sheena Wu (A4Ed)

### III. Agenda

#### Regional Funders Panel

Dr. Dwane Chapelle, DEEL Director  
Erin Okuno, LOC Member/Moderator  
Jolynn Berge, Seattle Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance  
Sheila Ater Capestany, King County Department of Community and Human Services  
Lisa Chick, Alliance for Education President and CEO

|                            |           |      |          |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|----------|
| <b>Review &amp; Advise</b> | Recommend | Vote | Advocate |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|----------|

#### *Context Setting and Presentations*

Moderator, Erin Okuno provided introductions to each of the panelists. Erin posed the question: What does regional funding look like in relation to the FEPP Levy? How do we un-silo the funding that is making investments in resources and supports for children and families in the King County Region?

Jolynn Berge (SPS) shared an overview of the Seattle Public Schools (SPS) 2021-2022 budget resources by type and provided an explanation of the SPS operating levy revenue and how the “funding swap” of

2018 set limits for local levy tax authority. A point of reflection is noted that the operating levy revenue for Seattle is capped by law at \$3,000 per student.

Sheila Ater Capestany (KC DCHS) presented on the King County Best Starts for Kids Levy (BSK), Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA), and the MIDD Behavioral Health Tax Fund (MIDD Tax) that generate revenue to support and supply resources for children, youth, and families furthest from economic and education justice in King County. BSK is a 6-year \$872M dollar fund that was renewed by voters in Nov 2022 and covers investments that span prenatal-to-24-years-of-age BSK intersects with SPS through its school partnerships investments which supports school-based health centers, screening brief intervention referral to treatment (SBIRT), trauma informed and restorative practices, and out of school time programming. PSTAA is a state-funded sales and use tax generating \$350M that is stretched across 18 years. The MIDD Tax is a 0.1% county sales tax that funds youth mental health work.

Lisa Chick (A4Ed) shared that the Alliance for Education is a non-profit local education fund formed in 1995 to serve as a catalyst for change, convener of community leadership, and conduit for directing private resources and innovation toward critical needs supporting staff, students, and families in SPS. The A4Ed strategy focuses on investment, collaboration, innovation, and storytelling to support excellence in education and advance racial equity and educational justice for Seattle Public Schools, its primary partner. Investment strategies include educating and engaging corporate foundation and individual donors. Implement strategies focused on educational justice and racial equity and collaborate by playing a liaison role between district needs and philanthropic supports.

#### *Discussion Topic 1*

Moderator (Erin Okuno): It's clear to see how city, county and philanthropic investments intersect to support children in Seattle. What are opportunities that you see to blend and braid funding for students?

Sheila A C noted that who should be funding educational systems was a question that the County Council was asking early on, and that navigating the politics of education funding was a challenge. With funding coming from federal, state, county, local, and private sources it's important to know where all the funding sources intersect and how do we best leverage them all together. We have worked hard to figure this all out and pushing on the policy to ensure that dollars are allocated to where the need is.

#### *Discussion Topic 2*

Moderator (Erin Okuno): How does SPS integrate all the funding layers and ensure that the funds are getting to students in a school and outcomes are seen?

Jolynn B gave the example of PreK as a need that is not fully funded by the state. Additional dollars are paying for health and safety supports like health care centers, Right Now Needs Fund, additional nurses, and family support workers.

Lisa C noted that COVID has had an impact on everyone, especially related to youth and mental health outcomes. Mental health has been top of mind for the Right Now Needs Fund and thinking about what else we can do to support and address the needs of students in our public schools, by bringing resources that are helping students learn as well as creating more space for collaboration between philanthropy and public funders to address child/student mental health needs.

*Discussion Summary*

| <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Member Initials</b> | <b>Question &amp; Answer</b>  |
|----------------|------------------------|---|
| Post-Secondary | LTB                    | <p>Sheila, can you please discuss your priorities around higher education. Explaining about how BSK funds and Seattle Promise investments intersect.</p> <p><b>Response (Sheila):</b> BSK is looking at employment and internship opportunities for students while they are engaged in post-secondary learning across the county and that is where BSK and City of Seattle intersect. BSK is focused on getting students to HS graduation and through to adulthood whether that be skills training, supports for post-secondary education, or securing employment. Through King County Promise we are looking at taking approaches for more seamless and dedicated supports for students’ emotional support and positive cultural identity.</p>                               |
| Early Learning | SL                     | <p>Has there been investment made in early learning/child care teacher education?</p> <p><b>Response (Jolynn):</b> FEPP dollars and Head Start dollars are being blended and braided to support early learning expansion in SPS facilities.</p> <p><b>Response (Sheila):</b> The County is not directly funding preschool teachers but does support workforce development around equity issues for programs staff serving children Prenatal-to-5.</p> <p><b>Response (Lisa):</b> A4Ed is focused on K-12 and not engaged in early learning or pre-K.</p>  |
| Youth Leaders  | MG                     | <p>How are we cultivating youth development within the funding landscape?</p> <p><b>Response (Lisa):</b> It is a priority for the Alliance for Ed by funding the African American Male Achievement work through SPS.</p> <p><b>Response (Jolynn):</b> In the District’s participatory budget process, youth representation was a part of the process and youth decided to focus on restorative justice. School Board is looking for student advisors to serve on the school board.</p> <p><b>Response (Sheila):</b> BSK can have more of a youth voice and we do have a youth advisory board with a group of young leaders who have authority around policy making and budget decisions. The county council has been thinking about it and doing a little implementation.</p> |

PTA Funding MS

How do you ensure equity in parent-teacher association giving? What is the path forward to think about how schools are not hoarding funding resources?

**Response (Jolynn):** Work on revising school board policy 6114 to include revenue sharing when revenue is donated and the participatory budgeting group can reallocate the dollars to schools that have lower resources.

**Response (Lisa):** There has been long time inequity across the school district in regard to which schools can raise a lot of funds and those who cannot for various reasons. We have tried different solutions like partner school models. One example is SE Seattle Fundraising Alliance who does joint fundraisers and then shares funds across Seattle south end schools.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

#### **V. DEEL Follow-up to LOC Member Questions**

No questions identified for follow-up.