



Budget Stabilization Task Force

July 30, 2018

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Carruth Administration Center, Board Auditorium

1111 West 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703

MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Adolphus Anderson, Cesar Benavides, K.C. Cerny, Michael Cranor, Vanessa Dainton Santamaria, Christina Dunigan, Amir Emamian, Griselda Galindo-Vargas, Kevin Garcia, James Haynes, Robert Kibbie, Melissa Medole-Kopp, Claire Milam, Helen Miller, Kazique Prince, Casie Wenmohs, Teresa Razo

Staff: Travis Zander, David Edgar, Cristina Nguyen, Laura Flores, Ali Ghilarducci, Andy Hoffman, Jeffrey Herbert, Nicole Conley Johnson, Reyne Telles, Celso Baez, Kristen Hilsabeck, Fernando Medina, Eddie Curran

Visitors: Randy Saucedo, Sum Zern, Amber Elenz, Genoveva Rodriguez

- 1. Call to Order and Overview of Meeting Goals (5:42 pm)**
- 2. Review Task Force Agreements (5:44 pm)**
- 3. Citizen/Committee Communication (5:46 pm)**
 - Robert Kibbe, There are thousands of dollars of new technology being purchased but not being used. How and why are we allowing this?
 - Randy Saucedo, Why don't we look at ways to work with other local companies and organizations to increase revenue streams? (Left written comment with additional questions and would like to be contacted with responses.)
- 4. Approval of Minutes (July 16) (5:50 pm)**
 - K.C. Cerny - motion
 - Andy Anderson - Second
 - Robert Kibbe - Sustained

- Motion approved

5. Adopt New Calendar and Timeline (5:51 pm)

- Can we consider breaking final review into two meetings so that people who cannot attend the last meeting will have their opportunity to speak up?
- Can we try to keep these meetings scheduled on Monday evenings?
- Do we have a potential location for August meeting?
- How long will we be able to use this building?
- We should keep the location central.
- Can we use high schools for meetings?
- Ali suggested sending out alternative calendars to have committee members vote
- Let's plan ahead.

6. Approval of Contract and Vendor Subcommittee (6:00 pm)

- Christina Dunigan - Motion
- Robert Kibbe - Second
- All in favor

7. Share Definition of Equity Adopted by the District (6:01 pm)

- Educational equity means that each child receives what he or she needs to develop to his or her full academic and social potential.
- This topic will be discussed in further detail during next month's meeting.

8. Travis Zander - Data Dive and Peer Comparison (6:13 pm)

Questions and Comments from Members

- What percentage of the total budget is the general fund
 - 80-85% if you exclude debt services
- What percentage of service center expenses are dedicated to working on older buildings?
 - We can get a report of service requests
- Is most of the transportation cost fuel cost?
 - No, it is staffing
- Why is there a difference in average cost per student compared to peer organizations?
 - Staffing and student enrollment
- Resources are not going to where they need to go.
- How do you take cost of living into consideration? How do you compare budgets when cost of living is more expensive in Austin than in Houston? Can we look at a cost of living index to help us compare fairly (CEI index)
 - We don't currently take cost of living into consideration when talking about salary, but I can look at getting a report (see requests below).
- Would it be possible to exclude payroll cost in these general budgets to see where spending is highest and how that compares to cost of living?

- Yes, we can. Forecast 5 pulls information from PEIMS and TEA data.
- Can you help us break down the ratios? Student/teacher staffing ratio?
- Are student teachers and certified teachers included in the ratios?
-

Requests:

- Breakdown of transportation budget
- Breakdown of maintenance budget? (Service departments)
- Breakdown of payroll, campus vs central office

9. Travis Zander - 2018-19 Budget Data (6:52 pm)

Questions and Comments from Members:

- What bucket does testing materials come from? Is that instruction?
 - Function 11
- Do you know when we switched from one year to three year contracts?
 - 2014
- What is dyslexia support at Covington? Is it only at Covington?
 - Allocation for more support staff. Other schools offer similar programs.
- How much is spent on instructional coaches for secondary?
 - We cannot offer a report because much of that funding is campus based, we give autonomy to our principals to determine how to allocate
- Who created campus budgets? Do they come from the Associate Superintendents Office? Why were 2 APs cut from LBJ?
 - Funds are allocated based on enrollment, which means that schools sometimes get less funding and must then decide what cuts to make on their campus. Campuses are given autonomy to make those decisions.
- How do you know that enrollment is going to drop?
 - We look at enrollment forecasts and allocate funds based on anticipated enrollment.
- 2019 Budget by Organization... Martin spends 71% more per student than Lamar. Can we look at what drives that difference?
 - District funnels funds to support struggling campuses, IR or former IR, student demographics such as percent of English Language Learner, Economically Disadvantaged, Special Education. Campus utilization also impacts how much of money is going toward students vs. keeping the building running.
- Why is the organizational chart that is online blank? It only lists positions but no names?
 - We can provide that information for you.
- Can we get general information on the cost of operating a campus that is under enrolled?

- 15% additional cost if a school is below 75% enrollment. 15% is the statewide standard.
- If we are cutting staffing for teachers are we also cutting administrative staff budgets?
 - Yes.
- Please clarify, LBJ APs are great. Why were they cut? Enrollment is not dropping at LBJ. Can you help me understand why the APs were cut?
 - Cuts are based on enrollment. Chief Human Capital Officer will follow up with more specific data.

Request:

- Can we get a breakdown of the student body and cost for different groups? ELL, Special Education, etc.?
 - Campus websites include this data. The presentation on staffing will go into state allocations based on different student populations.

10. Small Group Work (7:43 pm)

11. Small Group Report Out

Questions and Comments from Members:

- Would like to have a better understanding of what is in the instructional core.
- Want to see district tackle affordable housing, affordable is a relative term
- Be cognizant of how enrollment can be affected with our decisions.
- 5-10 year plan
- Let's also work on an implementation plan to help the district
- Academic return on investment, a measure of authentic learning and not the STAAR test results.
- A strong focus on equity.

Request:

12. Closure, Homework, Next Steps

- Superintendent Paul Cruz, Thank you for your work and for participating in this task force because I know this is hard. I know it's not easy but its important. It is the direction of this district.

13. Adjourn (8:25 pm)

Claire - motion to adjourn

Michael - second

All in favor

(FIVE MINUTES EARLY!!!!!!!)

Parking lot: