



Budget Stabilization Task Force

August 29, 2018

5:30 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.

Sunset Valley Elementary School

MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members: Adolphus Anderson, Cesar Benavides, K.C. Cerny, Michael Cranor, Jason Durst, Bradley Dusing, Griselda Galindo-Vargas, Kevin Garcia, James Haynes, Dulce Hernandez, Tanner Long, Melissa Medole-Kopp, Claire Milam, Larry Perez, Kazique Prince, Alba Donajhi Sereno, Deborah Trejo, Casie Wenmohs, Ken Zarifis

Staff: David Edgar, Cristina Nguyen, Laura Flores, Ali Ghilarducci, Andy Hoffman, Nicole Conley Johnson, Celso Baez, Fernando Medina, Paul Cruz, Jocelyn Connell, Christian Clarke Cásarez

Visitors: Amber Elenz, Arati Singh, Ryan Kellus Turner

1. Call to order: (5:47 pm)
2. Review Task Force Agreements
3. Public Comment: (5:50 pm)
 - No one signed up to speak this evening
4. Approval of minutes (5:51 pm)
 - Michael Cranor motions, Andy Anderson Seconds, All in favor (15 members)
5. Restate charter deliverables
 - Tri chairs reviewed the charge of the Task Force as well as the language from the district website regarding the purview of the Task Force. It was noted that the Task Force is being asked to not only look for budget reductions but to also identify areas of priority need where the district might consider reallocating in combination with reductions in order to better support the district's stated strategic goals.

Questions:

- Why are we reviewing this?
 - It is important that we are in agreement on what it is and is not that the Task Force is being charged with. We want to make sure we all have our sights on the

same end goal so that we are better able to arrive there in the agreed upon timeframe.

- Why are we being given a list of recommendations from the district? I thought the idea was for Task Force members to come up with their own recommendations.
 - The tri-chairs have requested that the district provide a list of options as a starting point. Given that the district has been facing a deficit for some time now, we want to understand the options the district has either considered or could consider. The list is not intended to limit the options we explore and members are encouraged to think beyond the options the district provides.
- When can we start offering our personal recommendations?
 - Anytime, recommendations can help inspire discussions and ideas within the committee.
- Is the committee moving forward with subcommittees?
 - That will be more organic. If there is interest in one specific topic a recommendation for subcommittee work can be made. (A little over half of members present indicated they would be interested in serving on a subcommittee)
- Why would we analyze AROI if we are not going to be able to include that in our recommendation?
 - The district is contracting with DMGroup who is helping the district standardize how it evaluates the relative effectiveness of its programs and initiatives. The Task Force can recommend that the district continue to deepen that work or it can suggest a different approach but to get to the level of moving forward with cutting a program or initiative, there would need to be a lot more internal vetting and feedback from those involved.

6. Revisit Criteria and Guiding Principles –Tri-Chairs

Questions:

- What is the rubric for the criteria? We need to all be in agreement about what constitutes a high or low level of impact on any given criteria.
 - Yes and no. We will likely have to provide a dollar range for rating financial impact, however for other criteria, it there is really no way to accurately quantify and we will have to rely on people’s informed opinions and perspectives. The criteria is intended as a tool to help us think, not to be an exact science.
- Can there also be a general “Are you for this idea?”
 - Yes, at the end of the day, it will likely come down to the fact that we evaluated each option on the basis of the five or more criteria, but ultimately it will be something like on a scale of 1-10, I support each option.

7. Clarify Scope

- Nicole Conley Johnson presents on the district’s strategic plan and how the BSTF is being asked to act as one of the many inputs district leadership will look to in making its recommendations to the board. BSTF members are not expected to be experts but to offer perspective drawing from their own expertise and vantage point and speaking on behalf of the stakeholder groups they represent.

Questions:

- Do we know what the state will do if we become an outlier? If we fall below the mark?
 - We have an idea, it's happened to other districts and even to AISD in the past. We can be confident that the way the state would run things would not be in alignment with our values and we cannot afford to let them come in and make decisions for us.

8. Closure, Homework, Next Steps (7:20 pm)

- Members are asked to leave written feedback on the following question to help staff and tri-chairs design subsequent meetings:
 - As a task force member, you are being asked to advocate for our students and staff by helping the district wisely spend over \$800 million. Knowing you are a team of advisors in this process, how can we work as a group to ensure that we are being successful advocates for all of our students? In other words, when this process is wrapped up, what will it look like for you to say that the process was successful?

9. Adjourn (7:26 pm)

- Bradley Dusing motions, Andy Anderson seconds, all in favor

Parking Lot Question:

What data can you present to us that shows what helps accelerate and/or decelerate the "core"?

Does the district have financial policies that guide the district in financial decisions? Are those policies something this committee can make recommendations on?