



## **Budget Stabilization Task Force**

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**November 14, 2018**

**5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

**Martin Middle School**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Members: Adolphus Anderson, Cesar Benavides, Todd Bisang, K.C. Cerny, Michael Cranor, Jason Durst, Amir Emamian, James Haynes, Tanner Long, Claire Milam, Helen Miller, Larry Perez, Teresa Razo, Robert Thomas, Deborah Trejo, Casie Wenmohs

Staff: Ali Ghilarducci, Cristina Nguyen, Nicole Conley Johnson, Reyne Telles, Celso Baez, Andrew Hoffman

Visitors: Emily Sawyer, Eric Ramos, Karin Foster, Brian Benavides, Ann Phipps, Tania Tasneem, Catheryne McNamara

Call to order (6:01 pm)

1. Review Task Force Agreements
2. Public Comment
  - a. Emily Sawyer: Blanton and Martin parent, Martin belongs to the community. The innovation model and STEM program here is important for her but so is having her children go to school with kids who don't necessarily look like them. Bravery is required here. All students must attend rigorous, well-funded, schools, not just those students who show "promise" by some seemingly arbitrary standard. It doesn't matter if the intention of Magnets was to increase integration and improve opportunities in communities that need them, if the reality is that they increase segregation and compound privilege and advantage to those students who already have it the most.
  - b. Eric Ramos: Martin teacher, does not support changes to class schedules. Students will suffer. Not all students will be taught the same. Giving teachers less time but more students is not the way. Everyone should feel the deficit a little, the teachers shouldn't bear the brunt of the burden. Let's try to cut from the top not from the bottom.
  - c. Karin Foster: Anderson Vertical Team mother, is here to advocate for the teachers. Has issues with the survey. There is no mention to cuts to central staff, or contract services. Why is this survey so skewed toward cutting from the

classrooms, teachers and ultimately from the students. Let's look other places.  
There has to be other places.

3. Approval of Minutes (Nov. 7)
  - a. Jamie motion to approve, Tanner seconds, all in favor.
4. Finalize Recommendations
  - a. Conversation:
    - i. Robert reports on presentation to board on Monday November 12, 2018. We were not pressured by the Trustees to wrap up. They recognized that it is a huge endeavor and want us to have the time to produce our best work. I was able to report back to the Trustees that all of our conversations were consistent with not cutting from the classrooms, but looking other places first. The one comment that was telling, they were concerned that we included ideas based on political feasibility. They acknowledged that that was their responsibility. We were asked to do what was asked of us and make recommendations we think are best for kids and the district as a whole, and let the Trustees worry about the politics. The circumstances require us to be bold, not popular.
    - ii. Nicole: The Trustees were very happy to see that your criteria aligned well with their beliefs and their values. They were gracious in thanking the committee for their work.
    - iii. Discussion of elements to include in report:
      1. Official language, including conditions/guardrails, stacked bar graph with Y/N option allowing members to comment on both, Rationale, what we know, learned via best practices, anecdotal evidence, data, etc, what we still want to know but will take more time to explore but we should learn before the decision is made or implemented.
      2. There is a question about whether or not to include a criteria assessment. Members could all go through the options one by one and evaluate them on the each of the criteria but note this would be up to 200 items given we're working with 5 criteria and 40+ options.
      3. Is the criteria assessment really necessary if the report will include our rationale?
      4. Trustees did ask for it but so long as the rationale discusses the criteria, that could be sufficient.
    - iv. The group does not have quorum and discusses how to proceed
    - v. K.C. motions to defer to subcommittee co-chairs to reconcile comments, Mike seconds. Discussion:
      1. How much visibility will our work have in the community? If our work will have a lot of visibility, then I do think more work needs to be done.
      2. We owe at least the minimum to put more work in.
      3. K.C withdraws motion.

4. Community leaders and tax payers need to be a part of this conversation. It should not be left up to the Superintendent. We are not making decisions. We are making recommendations. We evaluated the information against our criteria. It will be the Superintendent who will have to take charge in taking the information to the community.
5. Q: How will the report be drafted? A: Ali will pull from subcommittee presentations and clarifying emails. If we need more information we will reach out to committee members or members of the subcommittees for more information on the thought process for the decisions the team made. Because some of the recommendations made were not clearly broken down and little information was given on the rationale, we will contact the subcommittees for more information.
6. Group reaches quorum and motion drops.
- vi. Motion to add back in the questions about staffing. Mike seconds the motion. Discussion
  1. Let's incorporate these questions to be voted on so that it better represents our feelings on the topic.
  2. There was an item in the survey from the revenue and programs subcommittee with language stating that staff workloads should be evaluated. This item was intended to act as a guardrail for changes to staffing ratios and planning periods.
  3. Recommendation that the conversation be tabled.
  4. Those items should be added back to the survey and we get to vote for again.
  5. The final report needs to show it was opposed by \_\_\_% of the committee to convey a stronger message to the Board of Trustees.
  6. Motion passes all in favor
- vii. Members proceed to go through options one by one, reconciling comments from the survey.
- viii. Group loses quorum at 8:15.
5. Closure, Homework, Next Steps
  - a. Plan is for Ali and tri-chairs to continue incorporating comments from the survey into the recommendations before putting the options back to the Task Force for an up/down vote. Final report will display the percentage of support each option ultimately has. Goal is to write the narrative for each recommendation in such a way to gain the optimum number of "yes" votes and to include language that ensures members concerns are voiced and validated.
6. Adjourn (8:38 pm)