



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH MISD BOARD MAY 17, 2018

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

City Mayor Bertlin and Board President Drinkwater called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers at 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor Salim Nice and Councilmembers Tom Acker, Bruce Bassett, Wendy Weiker, and Benson Wong were present. Councilmember Dave Wisenteiner was absent.

President Tracy Drinkwater, Vice President Ralph Jorgenson, and Directors Brian Giannini Upton, and Deborah Lurie were present. Board member David D'Souza was absent.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Sustainability Initiatives and Commitments

The group discussed various sustainability initiatives and commitments, with reference to the documents attached to the agenda. City representatives gave comments about the 2018-19 City Council Goals and Work Plan, the STAR framework for measuring sustainability, and efforts to reduce the community's carbon footprint, encouraging the District to create a 6-year sustainability plan in partnership with the City.

Safety Planning and Collaboration

The group discussed various efforts related to safety planning and collaboration, with reference to the documents attached to the agenda. Individuals made comments about the strong partnership between the City and the District regarding safety efforts, including comments about the Interlocal Use Agreement for emergency use of IMS, the previous joint letter to the community about student safety, and emergency and safety drills.

Transportation

The group discussed various efforts regarding transportation, with reference to the documents attached to the agenda. Individuals made comments about MIHS student parking issues, noting the student petition to the City for more student parking. Superintendent Colosky described the increase in student parking at Northwood Elementary, the parking pass process, and ORCA passes. Some discussion occurred about the loss of street parking from the 1996 SEPA, and various options for students. Additional comments were made about Safe Routes to schools, the City's project list, pilot programs with ride-sharing (through Lyft/Uber) and bike-sharing, and transportation efficiencies.

Budget Projections

The group discussed various budget projections and concerns, with reference to the documents attached to the agenda. City Manager Underwood gave comments about the letter from the Board, which she shared with the Community Advisory Group, regarding the funding of mental health counselors, and described the City's biennium budget process and its need to balance the budget. Executive Director Bergstrom gave an overview of state education funding and impacts, and the District's budget planning assumptions and identified needs. Discussion occurred about levy funding, projected City deficit, and historical data about the funding of mental health counselors pursuant to a chart distributed by Councilmember Bassett, who asked the District to increase its share of funding. Additional comments were made about the City's unused levy capacity, and the recurring topic every year of funding mental health counselors because there is no dedicated funding mechanism despite a growing need in the community.

In closing comments, President Drinkwater made a request by the Board to City Council for a softball game challenge at Island Park field during July's Summer Celebration.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Joint Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Attest:

Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

Allison Spietz, City Clerk