



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH MISD BOARD APRIL 30, 2015

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the Special Joint Meeting to order at 5:02 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Councilmembers Debbie Bertlin, Jane Brahm, Mike Cero, Benson Wong, Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz, and Mayor Bruce Bassett were present. Councilmember Joel Wachs was absent.

School Board Directors Pat Braman, Adair Dingle, Dave Myerson, Vice President Brian Emanuels, and President Janet Frohnmayr were present.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

YFS Needs Assessment and Future Funding Issues

YFS Director Cindy Goodwin spoke about the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services Assessment of Services. She stated that YFS is funded through 2016 but that in 2017 there is a projected deficit of \$192,000, which is due to a thrift shop sales plateau, a significant reduction in general fund support, the school district facing funding cuts, and the fourth elementary school counselor. She noted that YFS will need to either reduce services at that time or find additional funding. She spoke about the goals of the assessment and the methodology, which includes using the services of BERK Consulting to assess the level, type, and trends in services YFS provides to the community, including community-based services and school-based mental health services. She noted the key findings which included wanting youth to develop into well-adjusted and successful adults, the lack of a clear entity that would be able to provide services if YFS was not here, the stigma around asking for help, the increase in anxiety amongst youth, the issue of confidentiality, and the request for enhanced services that would include parent engagement. She also spoke about the implications for service and the implications for funding.

Discussion followed about these findings and issues, including the rising complexity of social and emotional issues, the potential constraints by the state now being highlighted in the present legislative session to define basic education and whether such a definition to include mental health counselors is feasible, and the need to continue investing in the mental health and well-being of students. City Council members will review this further at their June 27, 2015, Mini Planning Session and asked YFS for a cost breakdown of its services and counselors.

Highlights of Healthy Youth Survey Results

MISD Executive Director Jennifer Wright presented the highlights of the Healthy Youth Survey and reviewed indicators and trends in 12 different areas. Discussion followed about the rise in anxiety and stress among students and the efforts by Communities That Care (CTC), along with questions about its effectiveness and how to measure the success of those CTC efforts. Tracy Drinkwater, representing Communities That Care, described its research-based approach and noted that current trends do show positive results.

Mitigation Fees vs. Impact Fees

MISD Chief Finance/Operations Officer Dean Mack spoke about the differences between Mitigation Fees and Impact Fees as applied to new property development. He stated that the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) authorizes mitigation fees while the Growth Management Act (GMA) authorizes impact fees. He noted the per unit cost of each fee, the exemptions, and the expenditure of money collected from fees. He reviewed the reports attached to the agenda, including a comparative summary, estimated fee calculations, a proposed impact fee ordinance, and a new Six-Year Capital Facilities Plan to be updated annually. He noted that the school district currently collects mitigation fees for new property development, however they see significant value in switching to City-imposed impact fees.

MISD legal counsel Denise Stiffarm stated that the law that applies to GMA Impact Fees requires that you show a reasonable relationship between the impact and what you charge to mitigate for that impact. She noted that every jurisdiction that charges school impact fees uses a student generation rate, which means using the actual building permit data, not the census data. She also answered questions regarding the legal aspects of calculating and implementing such fees.

Discussion continued about impact fees and the use of impact fee discounts, the history of impact fee ordinances, the process of imposing impact fees, and allocating the risk of legal liability. Ms. Stiffarm noted that interlocal agreements are often used to allocate legal liability between cities and school districts. The City Council requested a sample interlocal agreement and expressed an interest in further reviewing this information and the proposed impact fee ordinance at an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Joint Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

Karin Roberts, Deputy City Clerk