



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

## SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH MISD BOARD

### OCTOBER 16, 2014

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#### **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Councilmembers Debbie Bertlin, Jane Brahm, Mike Cero, Tana Senn, Benson Wong (arrived late), Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz, and Mayor Bruce Bassett were present.

School Board Directors Pat Braman, Adair Dingle, Dave Myerson (arrived late), and Vice President Brian Emanuels were present. President Janet Frohnmayer was absent.

#### **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

##### **Youth and Family Services: Task Force Update; Funding Challenges; Needs Assessment**

YFS Director Cindy Goodwin spoke about prevention and that all kids have potential. She reviewed the Mercer Island Healthy Youth Initiative by providing a Task Force overview, discussing the Task Force findings, and talking about next steps.

Facilitator Sherry Burke shared the Task Force findings by discussing the eight indicators of thriving youth. She explained and gave data about the five categories of root causes, which included family functioning, help-seeking stigma, definition of "success", "work hard, play hard" attitude, and institutionalization and internalization. She also spoke about the risks that are often hidden on Mercer Island.

Director Goodwin spoke about next steps, which included researching communities that are dealing with the same issues, having professional prevention staff create a draft Healthy Youth Initiative Action Plan, and engaging stakeholders and refining the action plan with stated one-, three-, and five-year goals.

Superintendent Dr. Gary Plano noted that a much richer amount of research could be correlated with what students are reporting on the Healthy Youth Survey. He is worried about the number and types of unsafe actions that students are engaged in over time.

Deputy Mayor Grausz asked where YFS thinks this is heading and would like to come out of this meeting with some feeling of hope. He asked what is working and what is helping families.

Director Goodwin stated that the majority of our youth are thriving, that drinking rates have lowered, and that counseling services in the schools are being used. She noted that community conversations need to continue.

Director Dingle asked about the funding of the counselors and would like to focus on approaches that are known to be effective, such as having a full time counselor at each school.

Director Goodwin spoke about funding and that costs are going up but revenue is not. She noted that the City needs to look at how to fund human services and that a needs assessment needs to be done to make the best decisions for public funds.

Finance Director Chip Corder spoke about the funding deficit, about the options to make up the deficit, and noted that revenues are not growing at the same level as expenditures.

Dr. Plano stated that part of the School District's allocation model for the future is to conduct a needs assessment, which will look at the entire allocation.

Deputy Mayor Grausz asked about working with local colleges on student internships that could allow a reallocation of resources in the schools.

### **Alternative Fuels**

Mercer Island School District Director of Transportation Todd Kelsay spoke about school bus fuel alternatives. He discussed alternative fuel options including biodiesel, compressed natural gas, diesel/electric hybrid, and propane autogas, and spoke about the pros and cons of each. He presented a cost analysis and spoke about the proposed path forward, stating that propane appears to be the likely main fuel alternative for school buses in the United States. He recommended, going forward, that the School District continue monitoring other School District's propane pilot programs. He stated that, if those pilot programs are successful, the School District would purchase a single Type A small bus for the 2016-2017 school year and really analyze how it performs. He spoke about building a joint fueling station with the City and that, if the program is successful, the School District would begin to replace all of their buses on the depreciation cycle beginning in 2018.

Mayor Bassett asked how the City will proceed over the next several years. Maintenance Director Glenn Boettcher stated that the City is targeting a couple of vehicles for the next biennium and that the City needs to figure out how to fuel up on the Island due to afterhours needs and police response.

### **Building Projects**

The School District's Construction Project Manager Brandy Fox gave an update on each of the three projects including the construction at the high school, the demolition of the North Mercer facility and creation of the new elementary school #4, and the construction at Islander Middle School. She noted that weekly construction updates are being posted to the School District's website. She explained that the elementary and middle school will be full LED, will have small green roof components, and will have the capacity for 100 kilowatt arrays of solar panels.

### **Community Solar**

Mayor Bassett described the community solar program and related state incentives to develop alternatives for community residents and our schools. Brandy Fox spoke about the roof options at the High School. Deputy Mayor Grausz discussed some of the legal requirements and noted that a decision will need to be made by the School District within the next couple of months. Dr. Plano and his staff believe that this project is feasible in terms of budget capacity and structural capacity, and that he plans to bring more specific information to the School Board for a decision.

### **Boil-Water Advisory Debrief**

City Manager Noel Treat stated that he and Superintendent Plano agreed to delay a debrief on the boil-water advisory until a thorough inter-agency debrief is conducted with staff. He noted that the City is continuing to try to determine the source of contamination to prevent a recurrence. Deputy Mayor Grausz questioned how the City and School District can work together to better communicate and that the City would like to explore ways to improve its communications network. Superintendent Plano spoke about the District's agreement with the PTAs regarding the shared use of Constant Contact databases and pledged to work on helping the City get access to those databases. Councilmember Senn spoke about using this as an opportunity to educate and remind people to be prepared in an emergency. Mayor Bassett asked everyone to support local businesses and dine out.

Superintendent Plano publicly recognized four Mercer Island High School students that have been named as National Merit Semifinalists. Principal Vicki Puckett thanked the School Board and City Council for recognizing these students and their achievements. The semifinalists introduced themselves, David Emanuels, Lauren Hsue, and Louis Lam, and their parents, and briefly stated their academic interests. Principal Puckett noted that the fourth semifinalist, Carlin Chuck, was not in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Joint Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

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Bruce Bassett, Mayor

Attest:

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Karin Roberts, Deputy City Clerk