

**Superintendent's Advisory
Council**

Minutes March 7, 2017

1:30-3:30 p.m.

MISD Board Room

Members Present: Stephanie John-Lewis, Evelyn Jimenez, Amy Kerby, Mike Radow, Jamie Prescott, Debbie Hanson, Channing Martin, Rory Murphy, Ashleigh Dickinson, Sarah LeClerc, Cindy Goetzmann, Brian Giannini-Upton, Suzanne Riley, Jackie Brown, Dr. Goichi Shiotsu, Myra Lupton, Beth Dudycha, Emmett Maloof, Tracy Drinkwater, Dr. Gary Plano, Fred Rundle, Nova Williams, Craig Degginger.

Absent: Michael Aguilera, Tom Tivnan, Elaine McClellan, Mindi Oberg Wilson, Debbie Hanson, Mary Kay Woolston, Alison Stovall, James Bellitto, Jon Ho, Janelle Honeycutt, Julie Steel, Jerry Kavesh, Cindy Goodwin, Janae Serena, Dan Grausz,

Welcome/Introductions and Check-In

Dr. Plano asked committee members to describe their plans for the summer.

Review and Approve Minutes (October 27, 2016 meeting)

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Develop and Finalize Agenda

Superintendent Topics:

1. 2016-17 budget issues and challenges

Dr. Plano distributed the winter edition of *District News* that was mailed to Island residents and details the budget challenges. He referred to the graph on the front page, which displays the state's underfunding of our public schools. We are at a time that without additional resources coming from the state the district will need to adjust class size or potentially eliminate programs, he said.

Dr. Plano showed a slide presentation detailing preliminary reduction plans for 2017-18, including non-supervisory certificated instructional staff, building budgets, supervisory administration and classified time. Meanwhile the

Mercer Island Schools Foundation has fallen short of its funding goal the past three years, but if they can raise an additional \$350,000 this will keep the total estimated reductions at the projected \$2.1 million. This is an iterative process and many factors may cause the situation to change in the future.

2. Forecast of possible legislative impacts in 2017-18

Dr. Plano said there is no good news coming out of Olympia thus far. The District continues to hope the Legislature will avoid the “levy cliff,” and extend the rate for one more year. If not passed, the District will lose nearly \$900,000 for the 2017-18 academic year. He noted the District is now entering bargaining with the MIEA. We have to remain competitive and support our teachers, he said.

3. Immigration concerns and possible impacts

Dr. Plano share information he received from the Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD 121) . He noted that all school districts nationwide do not ask for students’ immigration or legal status under the law, but only proof of residency. He shared a story about how some families in the Puget Sound were dropping out of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program due to fears that undocumented families may be deported if they accepted such assistance. We have about 200 families receiving some sort of assistance such as free and reduced lunch. Dr. Plano confirmed that our Schools Foundation will offer a grant to MISD to pay for students’ participation in the program if such a situation warranted that to occur. Rory Murphy said some students have expressed concern about the upcoming band trip to Victoria, B.C. for example, and indicated some of our students who may not be US citizens may not attend the school trip.

4. Summer 2017 Capital Projects

Dr. Plano reviewed the document detailing this summer’s capital projects. He also described the upcoming demographic study refresh with new trends and enrollment projections.

5. I-90 and mobility issues

The School Board wrote a letter to the City last December, supporting the continued need for Islanders’ use of those HOV lanes and their impact on our schools. The City is now suing the Sound Transit and WSDOT. Of our staff, about 1/3 live on the Island, 1/3 travel West on I-90 and 1/3 travel East, making these decisions vitally important as the district looks to recruit and retain staff.

SAC Topics:

Superintendent search

Tracy Drinkwater, board vice president, said the board was working very hard on a succession plan, with an announcement expected maybe later this week or shortly thereafter.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.