ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSITY COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SCHOOL BOARD REPORT
OCTOBER 12, 2021
**Regular School Board Meeting**

Good morning, Interim Superintendent Cartwright, Chair Osgood, Board Members, and staff. My name is Carlton Crawl and I Chair the Small Business Advisory Committee, managed by the Economic Development & Diversity Compliance Department.

At the September 23rd meeting, I shared an overview of my annual meeting with Interim Superintendent Dr. Vickie Cartwright. The meeting focused on the shared goals and objectives of EDDC and SBAC for FY 21/22. The over-arching goals are to:

1. Grow the number of certified suppliers awarded contracts and procurements, and
2. Increase the District's percentage of local spend.

As a part of the annual meeting, Mr. Ballou used Dan Gohl and the Office of Academics as an example of a department that has worked with EDDC to study their spend and sought to diversify the outcomes. In less than one year, Academics has achieved a five (5) percent increase in spend with diverse suppliers. Dan will share this achievement with the Goal Setting Committee to help other departments achieve gains, particularly Transportation, Human Resources, and Information Technology.

Anecdotally, Shaheewa Jarrett Gelin expressed that in her experience as a business leader, both public and private sector organizations tend to be comfortable doing business with the same big firms and lack confidence in smaller firms. Additionally, some consider it an inconvenience to do business with small firms while others consider it a status symbol to use large firms. SBAC agrees that these are some of the intangible challenges involved with economic development.

We, as a committee, applaud the direction of the program and believe that change requires a continued push from the top down.

In closing, Robert emphasized the importance of communicating with our Board Members regularly for direct input on the direction of the program and goals.

Thank you for your time.