

TSCC Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2020

Via Telephone conference call

Commissioners Barringer, Ofsink, Norton, Wubbold, and Quiroz were present as were Executive Director Craig Gibons, Budget Analyst Tunie Betschart all via telephone conference call.

Absent: None

Chair Barringer convened the TSCC Regular Meeting at 12:02.

The minutes for the June 15, 2020 TSCC Regular meeting were deferred to another meeting because the commissioners had not received them for review

The minutes for Multnomah County, Multnomah County Library and Prosper Portland Public Hearings were approved subject to corrections sent previously.

Budget Review:

The conversation moved to Portland Public School District's 2020-21 Approved Budget and the Community Budget Review Committee's (CBRC) report.

Following are some points of interest that were discussed:

- Budget reflects pre-COVID-19 revenue assumptions which is now overstated.
- \$12 million in cuts but does not detail how those cuts will be taken.
- The uncertainty around how schools will re-open this fall
- If not being specific about cuts it is hard to evaluate what is really being done.

The discussion moved to questions to ask at the TSCC Hearing with PPS. After considerable conversation about the order of the questions, which to eliminate, and how to edit others, it was decided to ask the following questions:

- The current year budget did not anticipate the district's additional expenditures caused by the pandemic. What changes have you made to this year's budget and do they impact the district's ending fund balances? How will that alter the Beginning Fund Balances now stated in the budget you have approved for next year, positively or negatively?
- The Approved Budget was prepared prior to all the changes brought about by the pandemic and the economic downturn. Considerable time has passed and some new information has been made public. When will you be able to tell district patrons what and where the \$12 million in identified cuts will occur?
- Next year's state support for school districts is uncertain and yet to be determined. As the largest district in the state, what influence do you have with the legislature on this issue? How are you monitoring the

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- development of state funding for next year and the following years? When do you anticipate having more certainty in the forecasts?
- Please brief us on the plans to reopen the schools in the fall. What services to students are being reconfigured in response to the pandemic? What services are being emphasized and what services are being trimmed in this effort? Has the district identified any funding reallocations yet?
 - When do you anticipate the district make the first formal adjustments to the budget next year? How will the board and the public be involved in the decisions about those adjustments?
 - How will the district monitor revenues and expenditures and respond timely if revenue collections go off track or if unanticipated service requirements continue?
 - In the Proposed Budget, the district included a comprehensive approach to equity issues, funded, in large part, by new state revenues. How are these same equity issues being addressed in the reopening plans and in light of reduced state funding? Is the district reprioritizing these efforts? Is the district changing the metrics or the goals?
 - How has the pandemic impacted homeless students and the district's work with these students? Is the district involved with Metro and its homeless services project? How has this all impacted the district's team of counselors and their duties? How will the district backfill the work previously done by School Resource Officers?
 - Facility maintenance and school modernizations have been a focus of this budget for several years now, along with custodial staffing challenges and changes. Looking backward and forward:
 - i. How has the pandemic and the under budgeting and over expenditures on bond projects impacted future project design, funding, and bond planning?
 - ii. Are the pandemic's infection protection standards changing your custodial staffing plans?
 - Have there been any significant central staffing changes in the last five years?
 - Our current circumstances are challenging. What if we don't get back to normal in fiscal year 2021? What will school look like for the next few years?

Revisions to the certification letter were next to be deliberated. The paragraph about the mid-year review was added. Commissioner Norton suggested adding wording to the 3rd paragraph to indicate the district was granted an extension in order to meet timely submission to TSCC and also suggested the wording "the 2020-21 estimates were judged to be reasonable for the purposes shown" to be removed from the letter. This would be neutral like Corbett School District's certification letter.

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The next discussion was concerning the Multnomah County's second hearing on their budget. The hearing is estimated to take about 30 minutes. The purpose of the hearing is to increase the appropriations. It was suggested that the questions revolve around the funding they are anticipating receiving and will take about 20 minutes. The following questions will be asked at the Multnomah County hearing:

- What portion of these expenditures are required to meet the standards for Phase 2 reopening of the County? (Margo Follow-up: What is the anticipated reopening schedule?)
- What portion of the funding is secured and what portion is still pending? (James follow-up: what is that funding dependent on?)
- Harmony: Is this effort scalable? What happens if all the required funding does not materialize? (Follow-up: what are the priority expenditures and why?)

It was determined that there would be public comment taken at the hearing. Chair Kafouy would be asked to present any comments on the modifications being made to the budget.

Executive Director Gibons said he had some other business he needed to discuss with the commissioners. He was contacted by a citizen via several phone calls and followed with an extensive email by a person who is angry at PPS for creating an athletic facility in her neighborhood that is over-flow from Lincoln High School Remodeling. This was originally going to be a temporary facility and has become a permanent arrangement. She has contacted the school and has not received any communication back from Portland Public Schools, so she reached out to TSCC. The use of bond funding is in question. This was a modernization bond so it will be quite broad as far as the use of the funds. A decision was made to put this aside until more information could be obtained from the district, then act on the information received. Mr. Gibons will contact Cynthia Le and go from there.

Executive Director gave a brief analysis of the TSCC Budget. (See attached) There was discussion about some of the expenditures moved to supplies, IT service, the use of the cloud, and TSCC's server. It is assumed that TSCC will continue to maintain data on the cloud as it is working well.

Mr. Gibons will send a poll out to determine the best date and time for the next Regular Meeting of the TSCC in July.

Chair Barringer closed the meeting at about 1:33 p.m.

Minutes reviewed and approved at July 22 Meeting following inclusion of Commissioner Norton's edits.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CG', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Craig Gibons