



## **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH MISD BOARD APRIL 17, 2014**

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

Mayor Bruce Bassett called the Special Joint Meeting to order at 5:20 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, Deputy Mayor Dan Grausz, and Mayor Bruce Bassett were present.

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

### **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

#### **Construction Projects Update and Schedule**

Superintendent Dr. Gary Plano thanked everyone for coming. Dr. Plano gave a high-level overview of the issues involved with the various tenants and whether or not there were tenant issues associated with the August 31 deadline.

He mentioned that, at the time he wrote the briefing paper and shared it with City Manager Noel Treat, he was unaware of Country Village Day Schools' (CVDS) new plans. However, he stated that CVDS has formally requested a 60-day extension to their lease, which presently expires on August 31. He recapped that the Board took action in February to have all of the leases of their tenants end in August to ensure that enough time is allowed for site preparation and demolition of the old buildings. In its soils testing, the School District discovered an oil tank on the junior high school campus, which will need to be decommissioned and excavated, and all of the soil contamination removed. Dr. Plano discussed asbestos abatement on that site as well.

Regarding Little Acorn, the District and the City pledged support by having the District take the City's summer rentals in the space that Little Acorn will occupy in order to permit and license the space for a September 1 occupancy. City Manager Noel Treat mentioned that the City is going to accommodate Little Acorn in the annex building behind the Community Center and is hopeful that their new space will be ready by the end of August.

Superintendent Plano complimented the City for a great relationship and cooperation. He briefly discussed the rezoning process that the City is leading, and how the District is participating. The District has met with neighbors to hear their concerns about both rezoning and about the SEPA process. Dr. Plano commented that the District met with the Lakes community during this due diligence period and are listening to neighbors trying to navigate as best as they can.

Regarding the high school project, the District is hoping to go to bid this summer. The District hopes to bid on the middle school and elementary school projects in December. Director Dingle stated there will be unforeseen obstacles and cost overruns during the demolition of the North Mercer campus – the Board is concerned about keeping the elementary school project on time as they promised the community they would stick to the proposed timeline. The District wishes to help all of the tenants get appropriately situated during this process. Director Braman asked Dr. Plano to share what he knows about Youth Theatre Northwest's (YTN) status. He commented that YTN is planning to vacate their spaces during the summer months and use space at Islander Middle School. Dr. Plano thanked the Council for their support of YTN by working with them to build a theatre on the land where the recycle center once stood.

## Mary Wayte Pool—Interlocal Agreement 2015-2024

City Manager Noel Treat stated the City is committed to subsidizing \$126,500 (tied to CPI) per year to the Mary Wayte pool. The current agreement expires at the end of 2014. The draft extension agreement is for 10 years, which includes the City's contribution and the District agreeing to include \$3M for pool improvements from the 2016 capital levy. Dr. Plano reported that the \$3M will replace the major systems that can be replaced such as the roof, skin/siding, windows, part of the filtering system, and other heating infrastructure. There was discussion about elements of the interlocal agreement with respect to catastrophic failure and the District's commitment to a \$3M capital improvement. Discussion centered on clarifying intent. The District intends to spend \$3M on the capital improvement of the pool, following successful passage of the 2016 Capital Levy.

During discussion, Dr. Plano stated the District is optimistic that the life of Mary Wayte Pool can be extended another ten years. At that time, the City and District will need to make a decision on next steps and whether to stay in the pool business. He commented that Olympic Cascade Aquatics (OCA), the pool's operating manager, has done an outstanding job operating an old pool and should, hopefully, turn a profit this year.

Director Dingle commented that operating a pool is expensive but is an essential community resource. She thanked the City for all of their support and the commitment of OCA. Director Myerson shared that Mercer Island is very lucky to have a pool on the Island and that it is a wonderful opportunity for students and community members.

### Task Force on Youth Concerns

Superintendent Plano stated that District and City staff have been sharing a partnership for years with Youth and Family Services' counselors assisting MISD students. Recently there has been discussion about creating a task force to address youth concerns around depression, anxiety, and stress, and how those factors contribute to unhealthy choices. The task force would be comprised of parents and community professionals. Mercer Island Youth & Family Services Director Cindy Goodwin distributed a report to Board and Council members, which reflected recent data regarding expansion of community prevention efforts for underage drinking and marijuana use.

Ms. Goodwin stated the overall drinking rate among Mercer Island youth has gone down, but binge drinking has gone up. She said the District has great systems in place, but a further look at the health issues and the risk factors the community and district face is needed. Ms. Goodwin said YFS would not discontinue any work currently being done, and they will continue to monitor and document best practices. She asked Board and Council members for input.

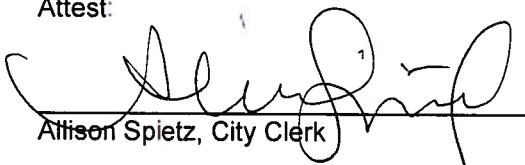
There was considerable discussion about the methodology of collecting the data and the fact the YFS does not have the expertise to come up with a report that would stand any kind of challenge. Deputy Mayor Grausz encouraged engagement with the University of Washington, or a school that has a strong department that specializes in this type of data. Director Goodwin agreed that there needs to be some professional facilitation and she will keep the group informed on progress in the future. As an Ad Hoc Committee, she said there will be a start and an end to the committee's task.

All members of the School District Board and the City Council were supportive of the Ad Hoc Task Force (thumbs up) and commented they were anxious to hear the results at the completion of the study.

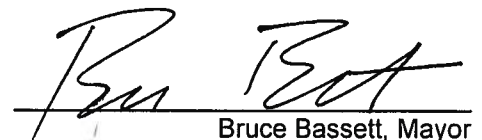
### ADJOURNMENT

The Joint Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Attest:



Allison Spietz, City Clerk



Bruce Bassett, Mayor