

MINUTES

Superintendent's Advisory Council

October 25, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MISD BOARD ROOM

A. Welcome/Introductions and Check-In

Superintendent Colosky started the meeting at 9:05am and welcomed members of the 2017-18 Superintendent's Advisory Council ("SAC"). Individual introductions were made.

Those present included the following:

Name	Affiliation
Teachers:	
Susan Hamp	Island Park Elementary
Michael Aguilera	Lakeridge Elementary
Amy Kerby	Northwood Elementary
Casey Alin	West Mercer Elementary
Lauren Dolby	Islander Middle School
Evelyn Jimenez	Mercer Island High School
Classified Staff:	
Marcy Berejka	Islander Middle School
Mercer Is. Education Assn.:	
Mark Shafer, President	Mercer Island High School
Principal:	
Jamie Prescott	Mercer Island High School
PTA District Council:	
Janelle Honeycutt	PTA Council Co-President
Jennifer Flood	PTA Advocacy Council Co-Chair
MIHS Student Reps:	
Jon Ho	Class of 2018
Rani Woerner	Class of 2019
Parents:	
Debbie Hanson	MIHS PTSA Co-President
Suzanne Riley	IMS PTSA President
Nancy Weil	Lakeridge PTA Co-President
Leslie Poole	Island Park PTA President
Danielle Orr-Bement	Northwood PTA President
Kristy Sieckhaus	West Mercer PTA President
Mallory Lundell	MIPA Co-President
Community Members:	
Dr. Goichi Shiotsu	Mercer Island Rotary Club
Jon Conradt	Mercer Island Clergy Assn.
Jerry Kavesh	MI Schools Foundation
Myra Lupton	League of Women Voters

Emmett Maloof	MI Chamber of Commerce
Cindy Goodwin	Youth & Family Services
District Adm:	
Donna Colosky	Superintendent
Fred Rundle	Asst. Superintendent
Rosie Burns	Director, Human Resources
Kendall Taylor	Executive Assistant
School Board:	
Tracy Drinkwater	MISD Board of Directors

Absent: Dan Grausz, City Council representative

B. Review and Reaffirm Purpose and Role; Minutes (May 24, 2017 meeting)

The group reviewed the SAC's Purpose and Role statement from last year. No revisions were proposed. The group will be asked to reaffirm the statement for 2017-18 at the next SAC meeting.

The group reviewed Minutes of the last SAC meeting on May 24, 2017. Some discussion occurred about free and reduced lunch costs, and changes in District staffing since May, including the hiring of Superintendent Colosky and Lakeridge Principal Heidi Jenkins. The Minutes from May 24, 2017, will be revised to reflect that Sarah LeClerq was present.

C. Superintendent Update

1. Education Funding: Superintendent Colosky gave an overview of the state's education funding plan and its impact on the District's budget. She presented information from slide decks posted on the District's website, and found here: <https://www.mercerislandschools.org/Page/12676>
 - a. State Funding: The Superintendent described the state's education funding plan which was designed to comply with requirements from the *McCleary* decision, and is currently under review by the State Supreme Court. The slide deck included an overview of new salary allocations and limits, management of health benefits, and limitations on local levies. Some discussion occurred.
 - b. MISD Budget and Local Levy: The Superintendent presented a slide deck about the impacts of the new state education plan on the District's budget and local funding. The slide deck included an overview of new restrictions on local levies, the importance of local funding for District programs and curriculum, a timeline of changes in state and local funding, projected property tax impacts, distribution of local and state education taxes over the next two years, and funding per student in the District (2015-2020).

The Superintendent commented about the expiring Educational Maintenance and Operations Levy ("M&O Levy") and the proposed replacement M&O Levy that will be on the February 2018 ballot. Starting in 2019, the District will only be allowed to levy the lesser dollar value resulting from \$1.50/\$1,000 assessed property value or \$2,500/student. Unless revised by the legislature before 2019, that limitation will likely result in a local funding cap of \$2,500/student from the M&O Levy. The District is hoping for further clarification about the terms "basic education" and "enrichment" from the state. Some discussion occurred about various items, including the continuing need for, and appreciation of, support from the Mercer Island Schools Foundation, and clarification about the estimated \$.73/\$1,000 rate of the local levy in 2019.

2. Capital Projects: The Superintendent presented an overview of the District's capital projects, including those funded by the 2014 Bond, and those funded by the 6-year Capital Projects Levy passed in 2016. Such projects included improvements to Mercer Island High School (MIHS) and Islander Middle School (IMS), the new Northwood Elementary, as well as improvements to the MIHS stadium and track, the District's bus lot, and the elementary schools. A question was raised about what the District will do to restore the old front of IMS. The Superintendent will look into it.
3. Curriculum and Instruction Updates for 2017-18: Assistant Superintendent Rundle described new curriculum which will be fully implemented over the next couple of years.
 - a. Elementary Science: The District adopted a new comprehensive K-5 science curriculum called *Bring Science Alive!* which is based on the state's Next Generation Science Standards and has been well-received. Some additional comments were made by the elementary school representatives.
 - b. Elementary Writing: The District adopted new K-5 writing curriculum called *Being a Writer* to phase out the current *Writers Workshop* with better writing units and instructional strategies.

Some discussion occurred about costs of digital curriculum compared to traditional textbooks, and the ability to fund with the local technology levy.

- c. 6th Grade Language Arts and Social Studies (Ancient Civilizations): The District adopted new curriculum by SpringBoard, and Cengage, which was piloted last year.
 - d. MIHS Counseling: The District conducted a review of the counseling department in 2016 and implemented changes to provide more effective academic and college counseling to MIHS students. Instead of having one college counselor and four academic counselors, there are now five counselors doing both academic and college counseling. There are also two Youth and Family Services counselors for social/emotional concerns. Some discussion occurred about the new counseling table in the Commons during lunch, and positive feedback from the community about the changes. The MIHS student representatives gave comments about problems with class schedules and asked if the PSAT could be offered in 10th grade as well as 11th grade. Assistant Superintendent Rundle will look into the feasibility of this request. It was noted that MIHS will be taking all juniors to the National College Fair for the first time this fall.
 - e. English Novel adoption: The District will be adopting three new novels, *The Namesake*, *Purple Hibiscus*, and *American Born Chinese*, pursuant to the English Department's review of current curriculum.
4. Changes to Board of Directors: With the November elections, Directors Dingle and Myerson will be rolling off and new board members will be sworn in at the first board meeting in December.

D. Additional Questions/Discussion

1. Some discussion occurred about how the community can help with the upcoming M&O Levy. The PTA Council and Advocacy representatives noted that CMIPS (Citizens for Mercer Island Public Schools) meet every Wednesday at the MI Country Club, and anyone who would like more information should email Kathy McDonald.

2. Some discussion occurred about alternative paths for students who are not college-bound. It was noted that the District collaborates with WANIC (Washington Network for Innovative Careers) for additional courses and has an adult transition program for special education students.

E. Future Topics

Please email the Superintendent with any ideas and concerns to discuss at the next SAC meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

F. Adjourn/Check-Out

The meeting ended at 11:00 a.m.