



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH MISD BOARD

OCTOBER 24, 2019

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Debbie Bertlin and MISD President Brian Giannini Upton called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Debbie Bertlin, Deputy Mayor Salim Nice, Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Bruce Bassett, Wendy Weiker, and Benson Wong were present. MISD President Brian Giannini Upton, Vice President Deborah Lurie, and Directors Ralph Jorgenson, Tracy Drinkwater, David D'Souza were present. Also present were Superintendent Donna Colosky, Assistant Superintendent Fred Rundle, and Executive Directors Erin Battersby and Ty Bergstrom.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

The City Council and MISD Board conducted a joint meeting to discuss:

- City-District Partnerships
- Kindness Initiative
- Legislative Priorities
- Recognition of Outgoing Elected Officials
- Sister-City Student Recognition

The group discussed services that are shared by the District and the City and documented by various interlocal agreements. Shared services include school-based mental health counselors from Youth and Family Services ("YFS"), school safety efforts, and the maintenance and use of athletic fields. Some discussion occurred about providing YFS counselors at each school and planning a community-wide "kindness" initiative next year. Additional comments were made about supporting school safety through the school resource officer program, and the City-District shared services related to athletic fields. Additional comments were made about inclement weather and overall appreciation for the collaborative relationship between the District and the City.

The group also discussed legislative priorities. President Giannini Upton described the District's legislative priorities. Comments were made about the new state-run school employee benefits board ("SEBB"), and education-funding issues. Additional comments were made about the City's legislative priorities, which included transportation funding, sustainable local funding, maintaining local control, protecting our health, and preserving and protecting the environment. Discussion occurred about the Growth Management Act, population growth, and the related impacts on the community, including schools, transportation, and services. Comments were made about school enrollment and projections, long-range facilities planning by the District, long-range planning by the City, and continuing collaboration between the City and the District. Additional comments were made about the "kindness" initiative and promoting civil discourse and mutual respect.

The group recognized the various outgoing elected officials, who are leaving the Board and the City Council after the upcoming elections, with comments of appreciation and a round of applause. The group also recognized the Sister-City Association, and the relationship between Mercer Island and its sister-city, Thonon-les-Bains, France. Comments were made in recognition of the many years of student exchanges between families in Mercer Island and those in Thonon-les-Bains, France. A large delegation of French exchange students was present for recognition.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bertlin and President Giannini Upton adjourned the Special Joint Meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Debbie Bertlin, Mayor

Attest:

Deborah A. Estrada, City Clerk