



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH MISD BOARD

FEBRUARY 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

School Board President Stephanie Burnett called the joint meeting to order at 6:15 pm in the MISD Administration Building Board Room located at 4160 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island, Washington.

Mayor Dave Rosenbaum, Deputy Mayor Daniel Becker and Councilmembers Julie Hsieh and Ted Weinberg were present. Councilmembers Lisa Anderl, Craig Reynolds, and Wendy Weiker were absent.

JOINT MEETING BUSINESS

Mutual Challenges – Building Infrastructure

MISD Superintendent Fred Rundle highlighted the partnership between the District and City and noted challenges faced by both agencies resulting from failed bond measures. He shared results from the Strategies 360 survey, noting that community members viewed a bond measure more favorably when more information was provided to them, suggesting this is an opportunity. He also offered brief comments on tax sensitivity in the community, reinvesting in existing infrastructure and safety. President Burnett noted that, when the Board refocuses on facilities, she would like to see conversations around what the community wants and what they are willing to pay in partnership with the City. Director Bradley also commented on the desire to work collaboratively with the City to present a united plan.

Councilmember Hsieh expressed support for collaboration and also increased engagement with the community. Mayor Rosenbaum indicated that the City Council held its annual planning session in January, during which Council discussed the need to assess the full cost of rehabilitating City Hall, as well as the opportunity to integrate operations into the newly purchased "9655 Building," and possibly reconfigure operations at the Luther Burbank Building and other City facilities. He noted that a community survey will be released in February to gain community perspective on the failed City bond.

City Manager Jessi Bon added that aging infrastructure extends beyond buildings, noting the City's significant investment in water and sewer projects. She also highlighted the extensive collaboration between District and City staff, adding that, while this can be elevated, it's important to make the community aware of these efforts.

President Burnett stressed her desire to rekindle regular meetings between the Mayor, City Manager, School Board President, and MISD Superintendent.

MISD Enrollment Overview

Superintendent Rundle offered comments on declining enrollment, noting that incoming classes at the K-6 grade levels are lower than outgoing senior classes.

Councilmember Weinberg discussed the lack of affordable housing on the Island that makes it challenging for young families to come to the Island.

City Manager Bon spoke about the Growth Management Hearings Board decision determined the City's Comprehensive Plan did not properly address affordable housing as required by the Growth Management Act. She noted that City staff are currently looking at the work plan to address this. The City Council will discuss this further at their meeting on February 17 and should be ready to share more with the District this spring.

Mayor Rosenbaum committed to keeping the District informed to aid in the District's planning.

Superintendent Rundle highlighted the continued opportunity for the nonresident enrollment of City staff member children in District schools.

Legislative Priorities

Director Julian Bradley offered comments on the Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs initiative in the legislature that might help boost school funding by \$100 per student, advocacy efforts on school funding and to push back on unfunded mandates and working groups forming in the legislature to look at the structure of school funding. He shared that funding based on a per pupil basis is challenging in an era of declining enrollment.

Senior Management Analyst Robbie Cunningham Adams spoke about the pending House legislation that would establish a statewide definition for e-motorcycles and e-bikes and create a work group to develop clear regulations to promote safe and appropriate usage.

Mayor Rosenbaum shared that focusing on categorizing different classes of e-bikes will be a focus for future legislative efforts.

Police Chief Michelle Bennett noted that the School Resource Officer (SRO), in partnership with District staff, is key in educating students to improve safety and ensure compliance with the City's new e-motorcycle ordinance. She encouraged adding information on e-bike rules to the information shared with families at the start of the school year.

Councilmember Reynolds noted the school district has the option of banning electric vehicles on school property.

Director Maggie Tai Tucker suggested requiring families to watch a safety video and provide affirmation in order to acquire parking privileges for e-bikes. Student Board Representatives Lucy Dorer and Brody Newcomer stressed the importance of education and the need for parking regulations.

Councilmember Hsieh reiterated the opportunity for students to testify in front of the legislature.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Joint Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Attest:

Dave Rosenbaum, Mayor

Andrea Larson, City Clerk