

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

City Council B Session

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call noting the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 11 - Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Shaw, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

1. Briefing on the Pre-K 4 SA FY 2019 Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending on June 30, 2019 as adopted by the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Sarah Baray, Ph.D., CEO, Pre-K 4 SA]

Dr. Sarah Baray stated that voters approved Pre-K 4 SA in 2012 as a Workforce Development Initiative authorized by the Better Jobs Act. She noted that it was a Municipal Development Corporation led by a Board of Directors appointed by City Council. She stated that City Council was responsible for approving the Budget adopted by the Board. She noted that Pre-K 4 SA was fully self-supported and funded primarily through a 1/8 cent Local Sales Tax rather than the General Fund. She stated that Pre-K 4 SA partnered with East Central, Edgewood, Harlandale, Northside, North East, San Antonio, Southside, and Southwest Independent School Districts (ISDs). She reviewed the timeline for service delivery expansion and maintenance. She stated that the vision of Pre-K 4 SA was to change the education and workforce trajectory of San Antonio in one generation. She noted that the

program focused on leading with quality through a comprehensive approach and collaboration with School Districts and community partners.

Dr. Baray stated that high quality Early Childhood Learning provided children with foundational Academic Frameworks, Executive Function, and Oral Language. She reviewed economic research of Pre-K Programs and noted higher Returns on Investment (ROIs) than programs targeting older age groups. She stated that Pre-K 4 SA served 2,000 students annually with highly trained teachers, low student-teacher ratios, and a research-based curriculum. She noted the Parent Outreach and Engagement Program to develop parents as advocates for their children and provide family support. She highlighted Professional Learning Programs for educators across the city to improve outcomes and share data. She stated that Pre-K 4 SA awarded \$4.3 million annually to Public, Private, Charter, and Parochial Schools to increase access to and quality of education for 2,800 students. She noted that Grant Programs were built to support curriculum alignment across providers. She stated that Pre-K 4 SA invested \$16.9 million in partner ISDs in Fiscal Year 2018 and noted that Districts made money from the State by enrolling children in Pre-K 4 SA. She noted that Pre-K 4 SA had received the HEB Excellence in Education Award, 2018 San Antonio Education Award, and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation. She outlined improvements from below to above National Norms for Kinder Readiness in Cognition, Literacy, and Math for Pre-K 4 SA Participants.

Dr. Baray stated that Pre-K 4 SA's FY 2019 Budget anticipated revenues of \$43 million, expenditures of \$47.3 million, and an Ending Balance of \$2.5 million. She noted that the program was designed to deplete the Ending Balance through FY 2021 when their funding was up for review. She outlined the FY 2019 Budget Timeline from January to May 2018. She stated that the majority of revenues were generated from the 1/8 cent Local Sales Tax but additional revenues were secured through grants, sliding scale tuition, State and Local matches from School Districts, and planned use of the Ending Balance. She noted that half of the expenditures were utilized by the Education Center Services covering staff salary and benefits, meal service, classroom supplies, curriculum and instruction, family engagement, and other necessary contracts. She invited Councilmembers to visit the centers to observe service delivery.

Mayor Nirenberg asked of the planned depletion of the fund balance. Dr. Baray replied the fund was planned to grow in early years before full program implementation and to cover operation expansion in later years. Mayor Nirenberg asked if partner schools were tracking and providing performance data. Dr. Baray replied that they were.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the competitive grant process. Dr. Baray replied that they were one-year awards with a one-year renewal option with the goal of enabling recipients to fund full-day programs as well as support material needs and professional development.

Councilmember Viagran asked if disparities in resources were taken into account when awarding grants. Dr. Baray replied that they utilized an Equity Lens to target areas of higher need and lower accreditation.

Councilmember Courage asked of the participants in professional development workshops. Dr. Baray replied that they were designed for Pre-K through 3rd Grade Teachers to enhance skills and promote curriculum alignment. Councilmember Courage asked of the relationship with Region 20. Dr. Baray replied that they collaborated on professional learning opportunities. Councilmember Courage asked of coordination with certification programs at institutions of higher education. Dr. Baray replied that they hired a Dedicated Professional Learning Specialist to guarantee opportunities for aspiring teachers.

Councilmember Perry asked of funding sources outside the Sales Tax. Dr. Baray replied that they received a Child and Adult Care Food Program Grant for food service and State Funding through the School Districts. Councilmember Perry asked if they pursued other grants opportunities. Dr. Baray replied that they typically did not because they did not want to compete with the ISDs. Councilmember Perry asked if the program was sustainable if the Sales Tax allocation was not reapproved. Dr. Baray stated that it likely would not be sustainable. Councilmember Perry asked why ISDs did not provide their own professional development opportunities. Dr. Baray replied that the State did not provide adequate funding to address teacher needs at all levels and funding was increasingly needed from local sources. Councilmember Perry asked of metrics for improvement resulting from grant awards. Dr. Baray replied that they implemented metrics for grant recipients and were gathering student outcome data to review the impact of grants.

Councilmember Pelaez asked how prolonged success was measured after children age out of the program. Dr. Baray replied they were currently conducting tests of first graders who had participated versus students who had been waitlisted. She added that they planned to conduct future comparative evaluations. She noted that gathering data was challenging due to resistance from ISDs and disparities in metric selections. Councilmember Pelaez expressed his desire to see the Pre-K 4 SA model be absorbed under other leadership. Dr. Baray replied that they would assist ISDs to replicate the model if desired.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of teaching socio-emotional behaviors. Dr. Baray replied that the curriculum taught children how to handle conflict constructively. Councilmember Sandoval asked how to expand access to high-quality Pre-K Education to every 4-year-old in San Antonio. Dr. Baray replied that they needed to expand access and improve training and standards across the city.

Councilmember Brockhouse expressed the importance of supporting results-driven programming based on data and asked to avoid competitive language comparing Pre-K 4 SA

and ISD Teachers. Dr. Baray replied that there were high-quality teachers in many programs but the higher efficacy of Pre-K Teachers was supported by data and enhanced by access to professional development opportunities.

Councilmember Saldaña spoke of the importance of collaboration to support educational improvements and asked of the waitlist for Pre-K Services. Dr. Baray replied that the sliding scale waitlist could fill an additional four centers if they were available but the program was committed to preserving options for parents by helping to improve existing Pre-K offerings.

Mayor Nirenberg thanked Dr. Baray for the presentation.

2. Briefing of City of San Antonio Pre-K 4 SA and Head Start early learning programs [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Sarah Baray, CEO, Pre-K 4 SA]

Dr. Baray stated that cities invested in early learning to provide benefits to children, parents, and society. She noted that the return on investment was dependent on the quality and intensity of the program and highlighted longitudinal research demonstrating benefits to preschool participants. She stated that access to high quality programs decreased as family income decreased. She reported that out of 25,000 four-year-olds in San Antonio; Pre-K 4 SA served 2,000 and 6,000 did not participate in any Pre-K Programs. She reviewed Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) scores showing that Pre-K 4 SA achieved higher scores in Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support than the City of San Antonio's Head Start Program and the ISDs. She highlighted the role of Executive Function to connect behavior to outcomes and noted that they were beginning to measure it in students.

Dr. Baray stated that Head Start participants were measured according to LAP-3 Standards and performed above the average range in all measurement domains of Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Pre-Writing, Cognitive, Language, Self-Help, and Personal/Social. She compared Pre-K 4 SA and Head Start and noted that Pre-K 4 SA was able to offer higher quality programming because of differences in Focus, Oversight, Governance, Funding, Budget, Impact, Age of Children, Number of Children, Eligibility, Cost per Child, and Service Area. She reviewed the following components of Pre-K 4 SA: Education Centers; Professional Learning; Competitive Grants; and Family Engagement & Outreach. She stated that the goal of Pre-K 4 SA was to ensure that all Early Learning Programs met the highest quality standards to improve access and outcomes for all children.

Melody Woosley stated that Head Start supported the Department of Human Services (DHS) goal of ensuring tht children are safe, healthy, resilient, and prepared for school and life. She noted that Head Start and other child-based programs supported the Equity Lens

by serving vulnerable populations. She stated that DHS was awarded 45% of the Head Start Federal Grant for Bexar County to serve 3,200 in the Inner City in partnership with San Antonio and Edgewood ISDs. She noted that DHS created a Head Start Consortium with other community partners to support Head Start Services in other areas of Bexar County. She reviewed the following components of the DHS Head Start Program: Early Education; Family Support; Health & Wellness; and Administrative Oversight. She highlighted coordination with Pre-K 4 SA in terms of School District Collaboration, Family Support, Professional Development, and Policy Leadership.

Mayor Nirenberg asked of plans for anticipated Federal Funding cuts. Mrs. Woosley replied that funding for Head Start was not proposed for reduction. Mayor Nirenberg thanked Dr. Baray and Mrs. Woosley for their presentations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg announced that the Executive Session would be continued until the following day after the Business Portion of the City Council Meeting. He recessed the meeting at 4:28 pm and announced that the meeting would resume at 6:00 pm for Citizens to be Heard.

- A. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C. Legal issues related to the competitive matters of CPS Energy as a publicly owned utility pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:05 pm and addressed Citizens to be Heard.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Paul Gescheidle spoke of the significance of the Cenotaph and asked that it remain in place.

Lupe Rivera asked that the Cenotaph remain in place to honor History.

Lamar Henry spoke of the History of The Alamo and asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

Maggie Wright spoke of the History of Texas and asked that the Cenotaph remain in place.

Kerrie Hillyer spoke of the importance of preserving the History of The Alamo.

Krystal Ross spoke of the History of the Cenotaph and asked that it remain in place.

Charisma Villarreal spoke of the History of the Cenotaph and asked that it remain in place to honor Veterans.

Antonio Diaz spoke of the History of slavery and racism in Texas and expressed concern with monuments that celebrate colonialism.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez spoke of the importance of following laws and expressed concern with increasing utility rates.

Ed Ocampo expressed concern with arsenic poisoning around the city and asked for assistance investigating criminal activity.

Lane Woods spoke of the History of The Alamo and asked that the Cenotaph remain in place to honor Veterans.

Ramon Garza asked that the Cenotaph remain in place to honor History.

Lee White asked that the Cenotaph remain in place to honor Veterans.

Maria Torres asked that the Cenotaph remain in place to preserve History and honor the native that have passed away.

Rhett Smith thanked those who participated in Citizens to be Heard and spoke of the importance of the First Amendment.

RECESSED

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 7:06 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC
CITY CLERK