

Citizen's Budget and Financial Advisory Committee
April 6, 2009
Administration Building
360 Colborne Street

Present: Kevin Huepenbecker, Mary Doran, Peter Hendricks, Jennette Gudgel,
Jim Engen

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Jim Engen filled in for Michael Baumann.

Before approving minutes from the March 16th meeting, Peter Hendricks inquired as to whether the committee had a quorum. It was unclear whether a quorum was present due to the uncertainty of an updated member list. Chair Kevin Huepenbecker will work with Kathy Brown prior to the April 20th meeting to verify a current member in good standing list. Approval of March 16th minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Due to the uncertainty of a quorum, the committee decided to consider this meeting to be a working group. This fit with the agenda of the meeting, which is to discuss and review the information presented to the committee during previous meetings. Kevin also suggested we develop follow-up questions as the committee considers final recommendations.

November 17th Meeting/Feb. 4th Memo: Enrollment

- Enrollment at the high schools has declined significantly since October 1st.
- It was noticed that non-traditional high schools (ALC's) had increased enrollment since October 1st.
- Steve Schellenberg reported that SPPS loses students in the transition grades, 6-7 and 8-9.
- Kindergarten enrollments began declining about 10 years ago despite a steady birth rate during this time.
- The underlying mobility of students was discussed.
- Some schools have a waiting list.

Follow-up questions:

- Why has enrollment increased at ALC's?
- Rather than a dropout rate (percentage), how many students are dropping out of district high schools?
- What access do high school students have to college level programs?
- What is being done to expand desired programs?
- What is the number of students that SPPS is losing in the transition grades?
- What is the underlying rate of mobility in our schools?
- Why are students leaving SPPS to attend charter schools?
- How many students are we losing to:
 - Charter schools?
 - Out of district schools?
 - Private schools?
 - Other?

January 5th Meeting: Placement

- The current application process was discussed.

Follow-up questions:

- What technology or software is lacking in order to offer an online application?

December 10th: State Demographer

- Discussed changing demographics in St. Paul and the leveling of the school-age population.
- In order to increase enrollment, SPPS needs to keep students in SPPS schools and reverse the flow to charter schools.
- It was noted that lowering the dropout rate would increase enrollment in the high schools.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm

Next meeting: March 16th – 7:00 pm