

AOC Metrics Subcommittee: August 27, 2013

Present: Mark Wubbold, Jim Cox, Stan Penkin, Alina Harway, Carol Smith (RACC Liaison), Oscar Arana

1. New Metrics Sub-committee Chair: Alina Harway elected

2. School Metrics Framework reviewed and finalized.

Discussion of whether we need to track total FTE teachers (art and others) for context? Carol shared that if school teachers were declining for some reason, while arts teachers continue to increase we understand new political information. Nice data to have in the back pocket. Committee decides to include.

Discussion of what current reports show help the committee realize some questions may be unanswered within current framework. Oscar suggests that the context piece is missing (funds per art teacher) and asks if there is a way to see spending by total expenditures on art teachers. Carol cautions that this data may be difficult to get..

Committee discusses importance of addressing this question, so we can identify whether 'backfilling' is an issue or not.

Jim recommends we use average FTE cost to do rough math. He provides the example that if a school in prior years paid for 9.0 FTE and we assume that \$100,000 is the average total compensation cost for FTE teacher, we can expect that they paid \$900,000 for arts teacher that year. If they increase to 9.85 the future year, but received significantly more than \$85,000 in arts tax fund distribution, then our rough math is useful to flag this for further investigation.

ACTION ITEM: Double check the \$100K figure with the revenue department. (Stan)

Committee agrees upon the following School Metrics framework:

- **Total FTE arts teacher, by discipline, unduplicated** (per school)
- **Total student population** (per school)
- **Total school district general fund** (per district)
- **Total FTE teachers** (per school)
- ***
- **Total arts distribution funds** (provided by the Revenue department)

ACTION ITEM: Make a separate document with finalized school framework for committee. (Alina)

3. Examination of School Data & Steps for future data collection

3.1 Questions asked during discussion

- How should we collect school data?

Committee decides to continue with informal asks from AOC Chair and to use Mayor's office or Commissioner Fish's office if we run into challenges gathering the information. Later, a formal request can come on city letterhead, if needed. (Down the line, the city will need information for the dispersion -- so there's weight behind the ask.)

Jim suggests that we keep things very simple – PPS chart is impressive, but may be hard for other districts.

- When do we collect school data?

Carol identifies October as schools official enrollment numbers – this is the date recommended that we set for school data numbers.

- When will we need to report on the data we're asking for? What data will be included?

Stan suggests his belief that the committee will need to provide a report to city council sometime November – December. Possible we may begin with a presentation of our baseline and viewpoint on what is supposed to happen and return for proper evaluation in following years.

The committee acknowledges that, at this point, we can report on: how much revenue was distributed, what the total teacher staffing numbers are, what the admin figures are to-date.

Mark suggests that there is an ideal time to share this report. We need to consider: if data is hard to collect, if councilors need time to react, etc. – when is this report done? Carole recommends that we want this report to show impact and cautions against bringing the report prematurely. Jim suggests that we have until the end of the school year to evaluate.

Action Item: Speak with Mayor and Commissioner Fish to get a sense of reporting timeline. (Stan)

- What is the purpose of this report?

Mark states that we will need to consider how to present our findings. We want to help school districts do this right. But we will report what we see. Stan reminds the committee that when something doesn't look right, we can ask for more information to provide the opportunity to add further information that we could share along with our report on data numbers.

The committee discusses the intent of the arts levy policy language and purpose of AOC's evaluation. Jim reminds us that the language talks about 1 arts teacher per 500 students – but it's also not supposed to be backfill. What is a reasonable expectation on the school district? If there are leftover funds after 1:500, shouldn't the administrators spend that on arts teachers in middle schools and high schools? Or, if there are leftover funds after 1:500, can't the school administrators spend it on anything? (The way this is written, are administrators required to do any more?)

Carol identifies language from the original IGA with Portland Public Schools, Centennial, DD, Parkrose, Reynolds, and Riverdale that shows that schools were intended to keep on arts track, into later grades and years. (Original IGA school districts ordinance, pg 1 of 3.)

Stan suggests that that our report will need to be about numbers and intent as this relates to the IGA, and not about philosophy. Stan also stated his feeling that the AOC should at some point evaluate outcomes as it relates to student success. While it will be years in the future before this can be evaluated, he would like to establish this as a guideline goal for future AOC Committees.

3.2 Review of data received to date

Committee reviewed school district materials received and found that many pieces of data remain to be collected.

Parkrose, Reynolds, Riverdale

Data has not yet been received from any of these three districts.

Carol shared that school administrators/schedules are having difficulties, as the landscape has changed. (50% of funds disbursed.) Stan reminded us that Reynolds has reached out and is working on it. He will touch base with the others

Action Item: Send a reminder to each of these three school districts (Stan)

*Committee agrees that, if by October 1 we haven't received data from **Parkrose, Reynolds, and Riverdale** by informal ask, the mayor/commissioner's office will need to ask for it.*

Portland

Committee notes that we still need from Portland Public Schools:

- General fund figures
- Total FTE teachers (per district)

Action Item: Send request for further information to PPS representatives (Stan)

Centennial

Committee notes that we still need from Centennial:

- General fund figures
- Total FTE teachers (per district)
- Information on other arts disciplines, if there are any other than music

Action Item: Send request for further information to Centennial representatives (Stan)

David Douglas

Committee notes that we still need from David Douglas:

- General fund figures
- Total FTE teachers (per district)
- Information on other arts disciplines, if there are any other than music

Action Item: Send request for further information to DD representatives (Stan)

All school Districts

Committee would like updated (actual) staffing/enrollment figures for 2013-14 school year.

Action Item: Check in with school districts to determine when the best time is to ask for updates (likely October.) (Stan)

Revenue Department

Committee notes that we need figures from the Revenue Department on the arts fund distribution, by district.

Action Item: Send request to Revenue Dep't for arts fund distribution (Stan)