

Charter Commission Education Committee

January 5, 2022

1. Call to order - 18:3

Participants: Commissioners Houston, Eglinton; Absent: Chann

2. Minutes of 12/15/21 unanimously approved

3. Discussion on first proposals for full Charter Commission.

* Eglinton: heard it would be difficult to change the official name of the Portland Board of Public Education to Portland School Board and is okay with dropping that proposal.

They then discussed the proposal for formation of a joint collaborative School Board and City Council Committee which would conduct meetings before the actual budget process begins. Eglinton has proposed 4 people from each group - avoids a quorum from either group. This group would meet and, through a usual public process, provide narrative guidance covering a 2-year cycle of what the City and the Schools are trying to achieve, prioritizes goals, defines why and what they want to do and identifies restraints. Topics might also include CIP as well as the annual budgets. The group could conceivably propose a range for the respective budgets to shoot for, but would not recommend dollar amounts. The purpose of having this committee would be to increase parity, flexibility and transparency.

It may not be necessary in the charter language to specify scheduling frequency of this committee's meetings, but it should ensure that it meets before the City and Schools begin their budget processes.

The full Charter Commission has two meetings scheduled on 1/19 and 1/26 which have bumped the Education Committee from 1/19. Houston will try to schedule another Ed Comm meeting between 1/19 and 2/2 (their next regular one) and have Atty. Katsiaticas develop some language for them so they can have a public hearing on it (on 2/2) before taking to the full commission. Eglinton says the School Board also has some recommendations for the Ed Committee. They seem to be feeling pressed for time before their interim report which is due in March.

** Participatory Budgeting - Houston reports that there is overlap between the Ed Comm's proposal and that of the Procedures Committee. He and Commissioner Waxman will see how they relate and they might have a joint Ed and Procedures Committee meeting on this.

4. Public Comment

Emily Figdor, School Board Chair, - current process does not work, collaboration not possible due to inherent subservience of the School Board to the City Council. Asks if this proposal of the Ed. Committee would replace the School Board and City Council finance committees' meetings. Doesn't see it as feasible if it's layering another of more meetings and preparation time. If it would replace the current process it would be more doable, especially starting discussion with programmatic needs rather than tax impact.

5. Work Plan - already covered in above discussion.

6. New Business - Houston raises the question of their proposal's possible wording and any necessary language changes in regard to the relationship between the City Manager and Mayor discussion and also the proposals submitted about changing the number of School Board and City Council members. Houston & Eglinton agree that their proposed joint committee could exist under any of the governance models that have been brought forward.

Eglinton refers back to the School Board's recommendations for the committee. He wants to see those and make them available to the public as well.

7. Adjourned at 18:56