

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room
1:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Committee Members

Ms. Jackie Goldberg, Committee Chair
Dr. George McKenna
Ms. Mónica García
Mr. Scott Schmerelson
Mr. Nick Melvoin
Ms. Kelly Gonez
Dr. Richard Vladovic

District Staff

Ms. Megan Reilly, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Alexander Molina, Deputy General Counsel

NOTES

The meeting convened at 1:15 p.m.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Committee Chair Jackie Goldberg highlighted the items on the agenda. She stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the School Safety Committee Task Force report and to get feedback from the Committee and from the public.

PARENT PARTNERS IN LEARNING

There were no parent partners to address the committee.

LABOR PARTNERS IN LEARNING

The following labor partners addressed the committee:

Mr. Gil Gamez introduced a former District student who was a victim of robbery while on a school campus. The former student spoke about his experience. Mr. Gamez shared a video of an opinion piece by Ms. Anna G. Fonseca, an LAUSD teacher. Ms. Fonseca gave her comments in opposition of defunding the Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD). Mr. Gamez shared remarks regarding the defunding of the LASPD.

Mr. P.J. Webb, President, Los Angeles School Police Management Association, shared remarks regarding the LASPD.

Mr. David Tokofsky, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles, shared remarks in support of the LASPD and spoke about the School Safety Task Force.

SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE REPORT

Mr. Roberto A. Martinez, Local District Superintendent, spoke briefly about the members on the Reimagining School Safety Task Force. He highlighted the work plan and the efforts taken to be able to understand the role of school police. He spoke about stakeholder engagement. District staff compiled a list of survey questions by looking across the nation at other surveys completed by students and families. He said they are working to refine the questions. The surveys will go to all high school students, families, and employees. In addition, they are establishing stakeholder committees that will include students and parents. He discussed the budget considerations for the Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD). He discussed some of the program changes such as budget reductions to some LASPD programs and services. Some of the programs and services affected due to the budget reduction are investigative services, campus services, the communication center, youth services, and the mental health evaluation team. In addition, he highlighted programs, services, and positions that could be eliminated.

Mr. Martinez spoke about learning about school police departments from other communities. He shared a list of some of the cities to who the task force has spoken to. In addition, he shared preliminary ideas. He discussed the reallocation of funds for daily, high quality, culturally relevant instruction, social wellness, and mentorship and empowerment.

ON CALL SCHOOL SUPPORT CENTER LOCATIONS

Ms. Goldberg stated the following report by the Independent Analysis Unit (IAU) was initiated by her office. The IAU staff were tasked with determining if officers are not to be on school campuses, could an officer arrive in an emergency within 3 to 5 minutes.

Mr. Glenn Daley, Director, Independent Analysis Unit, stated most of the work of the IAU consists of major studies with in depth analysis of broad issues. At the same time, they try to keep developing and piloting methods that they can apply to current and future analyses. Mr. Daly stated the IAU staff were asked to map point-to-point drive times within the District. The method staff will illustrate is for suggesting possible locations based on the drive time criteria. Decision makers should consider other criteria. He stated the IAU is answering a specific technical question and demonstrating a method. They are not expressing any kind of opinion about the desirability or feasibility of locating services away from schools.

Ms. Megan Besecker, Policy & Program Analyst, stated the motivating question for the analysis is where can services be located optimally throughout the District, especially for on-call student support services. Some key considerations for service site placements are drive time, response

time, capacity to meet need, and feasibility. With respect to drive time, staff looked into where to locate services so all schools could be reached within a set drive time and, based on that condition, how many service sites would the District need. Staff was able to answer this question with the use of Geographic Information Sciences (GIS) Analytical Tools, in particular, the Location Allocation Tool. Ms. Besecker briefly discussed the software and the factors used. Once all the factors were input, the program computed an algorithm and selected a set of locations. She spoke about the GIS generated maps and the criteria considered: setting the method with the minimum number of locations and maximum coverage, inputting a 3 minute or 5 minute drive time limit from the service site to the school location, and selecting two approaches to site placement. Staff included only secondary school locations, and selected geographically distributed service sites and school-based service sites.

Ms. Besecker presented maps showing the geographically distributed services sites and school-based service sites based on a 3 minute or 5 minute drive time limit. She stated the purpose of the presentation is to illustrate hypothetically, what is possible. The IAU is not expressing an opinion nor making any recommendations where service sites should be located. The minimum number of service sites needed to ensure that all schools could be reached within either 3 to 5 minutes range from about 30 to 70. She stated the maps could be improved. Other factors to account for are response time and need for services, incorporating richer drive time data that can be adjusted for traffic conditions, and considering site feasibility and other service delivery constraints.

Ms. Goldberg shared comments regarding the 3 to 5 minute response times. Ms. Leslie Ramirez, Interim Chief of Police, shared comments regarding the analysis of site placements and spoke briefly about the drive time and response time. Ms. Goldberg expressed her thanks to the IAU for their work.

Dr. Vladovic stated he has been reflecting about the four votes that eliminated the Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) direct support services to students and staff, and spoke of a burglary that took place at one of the schools in his Board District. He brought forward many questions they need to address such as what the District should cut or eliminate, and the true costs; whether services would be replaced or not; and, determining how the \$25 million in cuts will be spent. He spoke about safety for all students, families, and staff. He shared his experience as a Principal and decisions he had to make regarding the safety of students. He said the decision to cut funding for the LASPD was wrong and there should have been replacements or ideas in place.

Mr. Schmerelson had questions regarding the School Safety Task Force report presented by Mr. Martinez. Mr. Martinez responded regarding the data of the comparison between the cities referenced and, whether or not the cities have school police departments. Mr. Schmerelson requested written data. Mr. Martinez said they would present the data to the Board in the coming months. Dr. Alfonzo Webb, Senior Director, Office of School Culture, Climate & Safety, spoke about the impacts of the various departments across the nation.

Mr. Alex Molina, Office of the General Counsel, responded to a question from Mr. Schmerelson regarding the District's liability and legal responsibility if there is an incident on campus.

Mr. Melvoin said he would like to see written data. He shared remarks about the direction of the work so far. His biggest concern is there is no articulation of what the District wants for the role of the LASPD against which to judge the cuts. According to the work plan presented, there is a lot for recommendation such as stakeholder engagement, and the consideration of new ideas and approaches, and yet staff went straight to the cuts. He said the approach is happening in the wrong order. Staff needs to identify the role and purpose of the LASPD, and based on that, determine how the District funds programs. He requested more clarity over which cuts are recommendations and which cuts have already been made, and asked why cuts were made before the recommendations were presented to the Board. In addition, he expressed concern that there are no specifics about the reinvestments that would be made to support the articulating needs of Black students. Mr. Martinez responded to the task force and the Board concerns and questions from Mr. Melvoin regarding the survey and the plan to make sure the District is hearing from the community. Dr. Webb stated the survey is forthcoming.

Chief Ramirez spoke about some of the impacts that are occurring even though the cuts have not been implemented. She stated the Department now has 59 vacancies as officers have chosen to seek other career paths. Chief Ramirez responded to a question from Ms. Garcia clarifying the 59 vacancies.

Ms. Gonez shared remarks regarding the process in general and the cuts that were identified. She would like more clarity on the identified cuts. She stated it would be ideal to get the feedback from stakeholders to determine some of the goals around reimagining the LASPD, and then determine the cuts. Mr. Martinez responded to a question from Ms. Gonez regarding why they are presenting on the proposed cuts now rather than waiting for stakeholder engagement. Chief Ramirez, Dr. Webb, and Mr. Martinez, responded to questions from Ms. Gonez regarding the particular cuts identified and whether they were they recommendations from the task force as a whole or just from district staff, and, whether the task force provided feedback on the recommendations from Chief Ramirez.

Ms. Garcia requested a written response as to when the 59 vacancies are going to be closed and the total budget amount. In reference to the IAU presentation, she asked Chief Ramirez to explore the 42 community of school locations. She stated she does not understand if officers are not on campus, why are they not able to be deployed to school campuses. She requested a written response. She shared remarks about the decision made to defund the LASPD. She asked what comes of the harm the District does to communities when the District is not able to achieve the goal of teaching kids to read. She requested legal counsel respond in writing. She shared remarks regarding investing in kids.

Dr. McKenna expressed his concern about the inference that the response time is practical and realistic. He shared remarks about the decision made to defund the police. In addition, he shared remarks about the comparison between other school districts and their school police, and the role of the LASPD. He requested that someone from the task force do a forensic analysis of the UCLA survey that is continually referenced regarding the disparity between the African American child population and African American incidents with police.

Ms. Goldberg expressed concerns about the task force timeline. She inquired as to when the survey will be completed, when the staff will have the results, when will staff have an analysis, and when will staff present the findings to the Board. She stated she does not want any cuts related to student programs. She shared remarks about community schools. In addition, she shared remarks regarding the patrols to protect school property and expressed concerns as to why the police magnet programs are part of the LASPD budget and not under the magnet school budget, and asked a similar question regarding the LASPD sports program. Mr. Martinez responded to questions from Ms. Goldberg regarding the task force timeline, the survey, expanding the number of people on the task force, and the magnet school budget. Chief Ramirez responded to a question from Ms. Goldberg regarding the current number of officers in the District.

Mr. Schmerelson shared remarks about school police officers. Mr. Melvoin shared remarks about stakeholder engagement, the role of the task force, and the LASPD budget. Ms. Gonez shared remarks regarding the task force, school safety, and the LASPD budget. Dr. Vladovic asked for staff to submit in writing the security plans for special events and student activities such as sport events. He also shared remarks regarding the drive time. Ms. García shared remarks about school safety and meeting the needs of all students. Dr. McKenna addressed remarks made by Board Members. Ms. Goldberg shared remarks about past decisions made by the Board, and public safety.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public speakers called in to address the board beginning at 3:25 p.m. The callers concluded at 4:12 p.m.

The following speakers were present in the Board Room and addressed the committee on the subjects indicated:

Alex Alonzo	Support of Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD)
Kahlila Williams, Student	Task force recommendations
Ahmani (last name not audible), Students Deserve	Task force recommendations
Brigitte Amaya, Bus Riders Union	Task force recommendations
Sylvester Ani, Students Deserve	Task force recommendations
Dranae Jones, Students Deserve	Defunding school police
Kareena Kirlew, Black Lives Matter LA (BLMLA)	Defunding school police
Rebecca Solomon, UTLA and Parent	Defunding school police
David Tokofsky	Task force recommendations
Canek Pena Vargas, Teacher & Parent	Defunding school police
Maraky Alemseged and Aiden Daria, Students	Task force recommendations
Michael Hopson, BLMLA	Defunding school police

Cindy Pineda, Parent
Aliyah Fields, Student
Erica Huerta, Teacher & Parent

Defunding school police
Task force recommendations
Task force recommendations

Ms. Goldberg introduced Ms. Megan Reilly, Deputy Superintendent, who made a correction regarding the Superintendent's timeline. Ms. Reilly stated today's discussion was preliminary considerations on the budget cuts as well as the investment items. In October or November, staff will bring an action item to the Board to take action on those cuts and the reinvestments. This will allow staff to meet and incorporate this into the first interim budget in December.

Ms. Goldberg stated she was disappointed that the task force report did not include specific detailed information, and that the survey for students and parents was not done earlier. She said both would have illuminated the discussion dramatically if they had better understanding of what parents and students think. She requested the task force put in writing to the Board how many meetings the task force has had, their plan to address the various issues raised today by Board Members, and the timeline.

Ms. Goldberg shared remarks regarding the opinions and views of the Board Members, and discussed what she hopes to hear back from the task force. She stated the underlying question is what makes a campus safe and what makes children safe.

Dr. McKenna shared comments regarding the task force.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Garcia encouraged people to register to vote and shared a reminder regarding the 2020 census.

Mr. Schmerelson stated he stands united in solidarity with the people of Artsakh and Armenia.

Dr. McKenna moved that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Hector Acosta, former student.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

II

Materials related to an item on this Order of Business distributed to the Board of Education are available at:
<http://laschoolboard.org/09-29-20COW>.