



JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE
Austin City Council
Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees
Travis County Commissioners Court

Joint Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 3, 2025
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Travis County Commissioners Court
700 Lavaca, Austin, Texas 78701

Joint Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

Austin (AISD) Independent School District

Kathryn Whitley-Chu, AISD Board Trustee, District 4, Board Vice-President
Andrew Gonzales, AISD Board Trustee, District 6, Secretary
Arati Singh, AISD Board Trustee, At-Large, Place 9
Edna Butts, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, and Policy Oversight

City of Austin

Kirk Watson, City Mayor
Jose Velásquez, Council Member, District 3
Ryan Alter, Council Member, District 5
Stephanie Hayden-Howard, Assistant City Manager

Travis County

Jeff Travillion, County Commissioner, Pct 1
Pilar Sanchez, County Executive for Travis County Health and Human Services & AgriLife Extension

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Travillion at 11:32 am.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up for public comment.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made to approve JSC meeting minutes from December 6, 2024, by Councilmember Ryan Alter, and seconded by Mayor Kirk Watson. Motion passed unanimously.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Cicely Kay, Intergovernmental Relations Specialist, provided updates for Travis County. These updates focused on areas that are impactful to county operations and their intergovernmental partners.

Edna Butts, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, and Policy Oversight, provided updates for Austin ISD. Mayor Watson asked for clarification on underfunded programs and what school districts are having to pick up. Edna clarified.

Councilmember Velasquez wanted confirmation on the basic allotment amount per student. Edna confirmed the amount is \$6,160. However, this can be higher if the student has additional allotment amounts for special characteristics such as special education, compensatory allotment if they are low income, or gifted and talented. These amounts would be added to the basic allotment amount and then averaged out based on weighted average daily attendance.

The question was asked on how many schools in AISD fall into the low-income definition by the state. Edna will gather information and provide a response.

The question was asked regarding HB2 increases, on whether there is an estimate on how much AISD would net if HB2 passes? This information may be available on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. It was determined that urban districts would probably not receive much under the current bill.

Board Trustee, Arati Singh expressed concern about the anti-lobbying bill. AISD received approval for teacher incentive allotment.

There was discussion of a potential bill that would possibly change the requirements on voter approval on bonds and tax increases. Currently, it is majority vote, but the new change would require 2/3 voter approval or 66.6 percent of the vote.

Edna provides legislative updates via email on Friday afternoons and if anyone is interested in receiving these emails, please email her at enda.butts.org@austinisd.org

Carrie Rogers, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, provided updates for the City of Austin. There is a high demand for affordable housing in Austin. Several bills have been filed that are intended to remove barriers, to get housing built sooner. City has been working with partners to see where improvements to these bills can be made, as they are supportive of additional tools for affordable housing.

IV. AFTER-SCHOOL/CHILDCARE UPDATE

HHS Research and Planning Director, Korey Darling updated the committee on the After-School/Childcare initiative.

Currently, working on short term investments with government agencies and current contractors while the multi-step procurement process takes its course to onboard other community based organizations.

Korey Darling confirmed that an After-School/Childcare survey will be conducted and provided by HHS staff. The survey and open community engagement opportunities will be available to all Travis County constituents. Flyers of the Travis County Child Care Community Outreach schedule were distributed to the committee.

Korey will provide updates at the next meeting.

Emphasis was made to assure that outreach includes church organizations, local colleges, minority communities, as well as working with neighborhood associations in reaching the community directly, rather than asking them to come to us.

V. STANDING ITEMS (Proposed topics for next meeting scheduled on June 16, 2025)

- Budget Updates
- Legislative Updates
- Childcare Updates
- Measles- public health update

VI. ADJOURNED at 12:42 PM