



Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, June 13, 2025

12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

In-Person Meeting Location

Seattle City Hall 600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Room 370

[Instructions for visiting Seattle City Hall \(bus access, parking, & building access\)](#)

Remote Meeting Location

Webex

Members Present

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jay Mills, and Megan Castillo

Members Excused

Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Suzanne Sailto, Esther Lucero, Derrick Belgarde, Asia Tail, and Jaci McCormack

Meeting Guests

Director Dwane Chappelle, Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL); Deputy Director Marissa Rousselle, DEEL; Elise Rasmussen, Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment; Shannon Small, Seattle Foundation

Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (June) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quorum. Approval of the Minutes (March, April, May) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No quorum. Minutes will be approved at a future meeting when a quorum of members are present. 	5 min
3	Families, Education, Preschool and Promise Levy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) presented on the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy. The goals of the discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet and build relationship with the IAC; Hear IAC member perspectives and interests related to City education investments; Share information about current 2018 FEPP Levy investments and 2025 renewal; and Identify opportunities for future collaboration 	40 min

- The FEPP Levy is a voter-approved property tax for a 7-year period. FEPP Levy dollars are invested in childcare, preschool through post-secondary programs to build better academic outcomes for children and youth.
 - The 2018 FEPP 2018 Levy invests \$619M over 7-years (2019-2025), including:
 - \$12 Million in Childcare (Childcare is also supported by the state, county, and Sweetened Beverage Tax funding.)
 - \$294 million in Preschool
 - \$167 million in K-12 Supports
 - \$61 million in K-12 Health
 - \$44 million in Seattle Promise
 - \$41 million in Leadership & Administration
 - DEEL presented data related to four main focus areas (which are further detailed here and highlighted below: <https://www.seattle.gov/education/about-deel>).
 - Notably, the data for American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander population is not shown in many cases due to small numbers (less than 10 per year). The data are collected using federal demographic data standards, but are then analyzed and reported in ways that lead to a likely underreporting of American Indian or Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander youth. This is a known challenge and area of continued feedback to DEEL from the FEPP Levy Oversight Committee.
 - Kindergarten Readiness data:
 - K-Readiness levels exceed pre-pandemic levels for all racial/ethnic groups
 - The largest gains from the 21-22 school year are seen among Black/African American (+14%), Hispanic/Latino (+9%), and multi-racial students (+9%)
 - The opportunity gap closed 10% from the 21-22 school year
 - On-time Graduation date:
 - FEPP-served students graduate on-time at an average rate 8% higher than pre-pandemic levels (79% in 2019 vs. 87% in 2023)
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students had the largest rate increase from 2019 to 2023 (+33%)
 - Students Attending 90%+ of Time data:
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- Among students served by School-Based Health Centers and school nurses, gaps in attendance by race/ethnicity persist
 - Students of all races saw a drop in attendance post-COVID
 - Students attain certificate, credential, or degree data:
 - Cohort 2018 3-year completion rates establish a baseline for us to rebound toward
 - While opportunity gaps have closed in successive cohorts, COVID had significant impacts on students
 - DEEL discussed Mayor Harrell's recently launched, Every Child Ready Vision that seeks to have every Seattle child:
 - Ready to Start: through investments in high quality, affordable early learning opportunities
 - Ready to Learn: through investments in safe and healthy K-12 environments and supports
 - Ready to Launch: through investments in college access and career pathways
 - Director Chappelle highlighted some of the new items this Levy would help fund if it is approved, including support for 5,000 childcare workers and a new Path to Trades program. More information on the proposed 2025 FEPP Levy can be found on DEEL's website: <https://www.seattle.gov/education/fepp-levy/fepp-2025-levy-renewal-process>
 - DEEL recapped the renewal and implementation timeline
 - April-June 2025: Seattle City Council Select Committee.
 - June-July 2025: Select Committee and full Seattle City Council vote to place the levy proposal on the November 2025 ballot.
 - June 2025: Implementation planning launch
 - November 2025: Ballot referendum
 - 2026: Implementation and Evaluation Plan Legislation
 - DEEL asked the IAC: What ideas does the group have for how DEEL and IAC can partner to meet needs of AI/AN communities?
 - Discussion on how best to support employees working in childcare and education, including provider incentives to retain and recruit a strong early learning workforce. Other strategies included continuous quality improvement measures for all grantees.
 - Discussions on how DEEL collects and reports on racial demographic data. Members discussed the importance of collecting and analyzing data for students that identify as
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alone or in combination with other races to more accurately reflect the levy's impact on Native youth and families.

- Members asked questions about how many Native youth are served by FEPP Levy investments in comparison to the entire Seattle Public Schools student population of Native students. There are 215 AI/AN-identified students district wide with total enrollment at a little less than 50,000 students.
- Members discussed the possibility of bridging existing Tribal programming with DEEL programming (specifically Path to UW).
- Members expressed the desire to improve literacy rates in Indigenous communities. They discussed how lack of literacy can stem from distrust of the system because the generational experience has been that the system was designed to harm them. Member discussed how early learning outcomes directly impact adult literacy outcomes and stressed the importance of addressing both early learning and adult literacy needs.

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Indigenous Led Climate Initiatives Fund

30 min

- Staff from the Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment and Seattle Foundation shared their current draft plans for the Indigenous Led Climate Initiatives Fund to update the IAC and seek additional guidance. As directed by the Seattle City Council, OSE and Seattle Foundation also seek guidance from the Green New Deal Oversight Board.
 - In the current draft, the fund will be open to Tribal governments, non-profits, and fiscally sponsored groups through an invitation process for funds ranging from \$500K to \$1 million over two years
 - Staff discussed a proposed timeline and noted that is subject to change as additional feedback and guidance are gathered from boards and commissions and Tribal engagement. The proposed timeline includes:
 - July 2025: Tribal engagement; board feedback session; and application period opens
 - August 2025: boards updates; and application period closes
 - Fall 2025: Grantee selection
 - Winter 2026: Award announcements; and board updates
 - Staff asked for feedback on the draft purpose & vision for the fund, how to prioritize projects, and how to set up the selection committee. Staff reviewed a series of Indigenous climate priorities
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identified through past engagement with the GND Oversight Board, IAC, and other city initiatives and sought member feedback to ensure these strategies align with the purpose and vision on the fund.

- Members asked how the vision will be achieved.
- A member emphasized centering strategies that mitigate environmental injustices (example: mitigating pollutants in the Salish Sea waterway that is a food source and cultural resource to Tribal communities).
- Members said they don't see anything problematic with the priority list.
- Members emphasized the need for work that's being funded to match tribal community need and perspective, and to be done by credible people. Members want to avoid projects getting funded that would be counterproductive to current projects. The presenters mentioned that they want to fund existing programs wherever possible.
- A member mentioned the importance of getting the right people in place on the selection committee.
- OSE will re-initiate Tribal engagement on this project in the coming weeks.

5	<p>Old Business</p> <p>2025 Budget and Policy Priorities – possible action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff provided a draft of 2025 budget and policy priorities for members consideration. Priorities from 2024 remain very similar, but include additional detail for clarity and alignment. ● Because there was not a quorum of members, the IAC will vote on these priorities at a future meeting. <p>Mayor's Office June meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DON is organizing an IAC meeting with Mayor's Office for early July to inform the Mayor's Proposed Budget. ● There was not quorum to approve the priorities, so staff are proposing they be shared as draft priorities. ● Staff discussed that typically, we would see minimal budget edits in this off year, but with lower than anticipated revenues, we are anticipating budget cuts across the City. The Mayor's Proposed Budget is anticipated to be released in late September 2025. <p>Chief of Police meeting debrief – possible action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Councilmember Stevenson and Esther led introductory meeting with Seattle Police Chief Barnes on May 15th to build relationships and share IAC priorities. 	35 min
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- DON and OIR shared City of Seattle | Tribal Nations Summit materials and recording, featuring public safety items.
- DON and OIR shared community reports on improving MMIP data and MMIP web resources.
- Discussed local context of Tribal and urban Native communities, history of police violence and MMIP issues related to SPD, and discussed some engagement opportunities.
- The IAC discussed what role they would like to take in connecting SPD leadership with the Native community in Seattle.
 - Members mentioned the possibility of setting up meetings between the SPD Chief and Tribal Police Chiefs.
 - Members discussed creating opportunities for families impacted by violence and those have engaged with SPD to meet with SPD leadership.
 - Members discussed Native organizations and groups that make have interest in alignment in hosting SPD engagements.

Seattle City Council briefing

- Chair Dan Strauss has invited the Indigenous Advisory Council, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, and Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations to present at the Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments (FNC) Committee on Wednesday June 18 between 9:30-11:30am
- Councilmember Stevenson and Councilmember Mills will present along with City staff.
- IAC members are encouraged to review the PowerPoint slides for the presentation and provide feedback by June 16.

2025 annual retreat planning

- The IAC has held an annual retreat to:
 - Reflect on our progress and challenges
 - Build relationships and network among members
 - Develop an annual work plan that draws from the goals and priorities defined in the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan
 - Review and finalize an annual report
- The IAC's annual retreat will be in August 2025. Staff will work to identify a meeting location and date, facilitator, and draft agenda items for member review.
- Members are encouraged to fill out a poll on their availability so staff can finalize a date for the retreat.



6	Member Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">No member announcements	Up to 5 min
7	Hybrid Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">No public comment	Up to 10 min
8	Closing & Next Steps	