

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM**

**SUBJECT**

Update on the Bellevue School District by Superintendent Dr. Ivan Duran and Deputy Superintendent for Finance Melissa DeVita.

**STAFF CONTACTS**

Joyce Nichols, Intergovernmental Relations Director, 452-4225  
*City Manager's Office*

**POLICY ISSUES**

Superintendent Dr. Ivan Duran and Deputy Superintendent for Finance Melissa DeVita will attend tonight's meeting to introduce Dr. Duran to Council and to provide information on his one year academic plan, the district's upcoming levy ballot measures, and the impacts of the State Legislature's K-12 education funding plan. The funding plan, aiming to meet the requirements of fully funding basic education after the *McCleary* decision, increases state property tax and places caps on future local levy funding.

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**

**ACTION**

**DIRECTION**

**INFORMATION ONLY**

No formal action is required; this is an informational briefing.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

In recent years the Bellevue School District (BSD) has experienced growth rates not seen since the 1960's when Bellevue was a developing community. Over the last four years, annual enrollment growth has been two percent on average with current enrollment exceeding 20,000 students across 29 schools in Bellevue and surrounding communities. The district continues to serve an increasingly diverse group of students who speak more than 95 languages and represent 124 different countries of birth.

The BSD is dedicated to implementing its instructional initiatives focused on preparing students for academic success, college and career readiness, and a positive and productive life. In addition to these initiatives, in 2016-2017 the school board and district reaffirmed their commitment to equity, inclusion, and a culture of service. To accomplish these goals, the district employs more than 2,500 people, including 1,341 teachers and 1,166 support staff. The district is led by Superintendent Dr. Duran and a five-member Board of Directors elected from each of the five geographical districts.

**Superintendent Duran's 2017-18 One Year Plan**

Dr. Duran joined the BSD as Superintendent in July 2017. Prior to his role in Bellevue, Dr. Duran was Deputy Superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District. He holds a doctorate in Education

Leadership and Policy Study from the University of Denver. Dr. Duran recently completed his Superintendent's Entry Plan which included a listening tour and report out to the Bellevue School Board. One initiative recently implemented is the launch of six issue-based community advisory groups to address the following topics: Finance, Safe Schools-Safe Students, Growth and Planning, Wellness, Equity, and Activities and Athletics.

The BSD is in the fifth year of its most recent strategic plan, adopted in 2013, and has achieved success over the past several years receiving numerous state and national honors. In October, Dr. Duran presented to the Bellevue School Board his one-year plan for the 2017-18 school year, identifying strategies to reduce persistent achievement gaps between racial groups and students who receive or qualify for services such as free and reduced lunch, English Language Learning, and Special Education. Building on the current strategic plan, the key elements of the one year academic plan include:

1. Develop strong, effective leadership teams at every school to improve student learning, school climate, and culture.
2. Implement systems to monitor student progress on academic and social skill development.
3. Align district resources and plans to support implementation by our schools.

Dr. Duran will provide additional background on the academic plan at the meeting.

### **Levy Ballot Measures and the Impact of McCleary**

At its November 21, 2017 meeting, the Bellevue School Board adopted resolutions to place three levy measures on the February 13, 2018 special election ballot:

- Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy: Authorize a four-year replacement levy in the amount of \$67 million (\$0.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV)) for 2018, \$74 million for 2019, \$79 million for 2020, and \$83 million for 2021 to pay for day-to-day classroom and operational needs not funded by the state including a seventh period, Special Education, gifted programs, the arts and world languages, and extracurricular activities.
- Replacement for Technology and Capital Projects Levy: Authorize a four-year replacement levy in the amount of \$37 million (\$0.54 per \$1,000 of AV) for 2018, \$40 million for 2019, \$42 million for 2020, and \$44 million for 2021. This levy will provide funding for the district's Capital Projects Fund for developing, acquiring and installing computer technology, related technology infrastructure, providing initial training in the application and implementation of said technology and administrative expenses, necessary equipment purchases and facility improvements.
- School Bus Levy: Authorize a new one-year levy in the amount of \$8 million (\$0.12 per \$1,000 of AV) for the purchase of new school buses to meet the demands of growing enrollment in the next 7 – 10 years.

The district's total budget includes state funding, local property tax levy dollars, and other local and federal monies with local levies funding 28 percent of the total budget. Current local levies will be expiring at the end of 2018. Bellevue property owners paid \$132 million to the BSD in 2017, representing 32 percent of total property taxes paid by Bellevue residents.

The K-12 funding plan passed by the State Legislature in 2017 increased the state property tax by \$0.96 per \$1,000 of AV in King County to more fully fund basic education for all 295 districts in Washington State in accordance with the *McCleary* ruling. The majority of additional state funding that will be received in the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years is earmarked for staff salaries and benefits, shifting the responsibility of fully funding these costs from local funding to state funding, which was one of the goals of the legislation.

The new plan also further restricts how much the BSD can collect from local levies. These levies are still necessary to fund programs that are not funded by the state, including the seventh period and tutorial in middle and high schools, STEM curriculum and technology, student laptops, the arts, special education, and athletics and activities.

**OPTIONS**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL OFFICE**

N/A