



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

Joint Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 7, 2024  
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM  
Austin City Hall  
301 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

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**Joint Subcommittee Members in Attendance:**

**Austin (AISD) Independent School District**

Arati Singh, AISD Board Trustee, At-Large, Place 9, Board President  
Noelita Lugo, AISD Board Trustee, At-Large, Place 8  
Ofelia Zapata, AISD Board Trustee, District 2  
Edna Butts, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, and Policy Oversight

**City of Austin**

Alison Alter, Council Member, District 10  
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  
Brigid Shea, County Commissioner, Pct 2  
Pilar Sanchez, County Executive for Travis County Health and Human Services

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Council Member Alison Alter

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Felicity Maxwell spoke regarding item 6.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made to approve JSC meeting minutes from June 10, 2024, by Commissioner Travillion, second by Council member Ryan Alter. Motion passed unanimously.



### **III. Introduction of the City Manager**

The Committee and City Manager Broadnax exchanged introductions. The Members expressed their interest in working together regarding the AISD budget.

### **IV. Childcare Discussion**

#### **a. Tax Rate Election Written Report**

Commissioner Travillion explained the item the Commissioners Court has placed on the November ballot regarding childcare. Commissioner Shea acknowledged the work done by Council Member Alison Alter and others to prepare for the ballot item.

#### **b. City of Austin Waiving Fees and Tax Relief:**

Council Member Alison Alter communicated that the City of Austin is implementing a home-based childcare grant program to allow home based childcare providers to apply for tax relief. It is being funded through the City's economic incentive program. Commissioner Shea asked that the Assistant City Manager send her the information presented by Council Member Alter.

### **V. Receive and Discuss Written Reports**

#### **a. Resilience Hubs**

Commissioner Shea asked for an overview of the memorandum in backup. Bill Wilson (HSEM) stated that they are working on transitioning from a physical location to a network. Commissioner Shea asked if there would still be a physical place for warming/cooling facilities that allow people to charge their phones. Zach Baumer stated that six additional facilities are prepared to be physical locations for hubs. Commissioner Shea asked if there are maps that show where the hubs are located. Bill Wilson stated that each location's purpose will change based on the disaster so they update communications as disasters arise. Commissioner Shea stated that the inconsistency with location purposes changing makes it difficult for people to utilize them well. Commissioner Travillion stated that he prefers an asset map that allows people to know generally where to go based on their need. Additionally, he stated that a phone number is helpful so that people can easily be directed to a location. Trustee Zapata asked if people could do intake/registration at the location where they arrive rather than having a central intake location. Additionally, Trustee Zapata asked about why people are sent away if they're not experiencing homelessness. Bill Wilson stated that they try to separate families who are not experiencing homelessness from those experiencing homelessness. Staff have worked to address the specific issue to which Trustee Zapata referred.



**b. Voter Tax Rate Election**

President Singh explained the item (Proposition A) that will be on the ballot. She explained that the state of Texas has not increased the basic allotment in five years. Commissioner Shea asked for a discussion that explains some of the data in backup documents to educate the public about what is happening at the state level. President Singh agreed and stated that many Texas schools have passed deficit budgets. Commissioner Shae stated that political decisions at the state level have led to underfunding public education.

**VI. AISD Long Term Budget**

Jacob Reach and Katrina Montgomery provided a presentation. Commissioner Shea asked if the provided data is contingent on Prop A passing. Katrina Montgomery stated that it was contingent on Prop A passing. Council Member Alison Alter reiterated that this presentation emphasizes the need for a collaborative effort to help make AISD needs known to the Texas legislature. Commissioner Shea asked to have an executive session with legal guidance regarding this issue. Council Member Ryan Alter stated that we need to figure out how we can have a local government approach to help solve the issue. He asked how much AISD would benefit if the state raised the basic allotment by \$1,000. Jacob Reach stated that it would be approximately \$80 million. Council Member Ryan Alter asked the same question regarding enrollment-based funding. Additionally, he stated that the City is hoping to pass the solar standard offer soon which will offer City payment at a standard rate for generation of solar energy by large scale facility operators. The Council Member suggested AISD take advantage of that opportunity to see if it would bring a monetary benefit to the school district. Commissioner Shea asked for more information about Council Member Ryan Alter's question to understand where the \$1,000 came from. It was explained that if the state funded inflation, AISD would have a smaller deficit. She asked if any school districts fund based off of attendance instead of enrollment. Jacob Reach stated that California, and two other states aside from Texas fund based on attendance. California is currently under a study to review that practice. Commissioner Shea asked about special education funding. It was explained that state and federal funds were intended to fully fund special education but that has not been the case. President Singh stated that IDEA is only being funded 14% of what is needed at the federal level. Commissioner Shea asked about the funding formula for transportation. Jacob Reach explained that the funding formula has not been updated based on inflation and consequently the approved routes are not being fully funded. President Singh stated that the state passed a bill that allows the state to create a curriculum that would pay schools to adopt the curriculum. President Singh stated



that she's interested in finding ways to become more self-reliant and aligning resources to improve the deficit.

## **VII. TEA Approved Order on Special Education**

Council member Alison Alter suggested the City engage with AISD regarding language translations to determine if the collaborative effort could help reduce pricing.

Commissioner Shea asked how AISD compares with other school districts in terms of state examination. Jacob Reach stated that Houston ISD was under a similar order. There are multiple districts out of compliance because of the disruption of COVID-19. Austin ISD's percent of special education is similar to other urban areas however, is higher than the state average.

## **VIII. Standing Items (set at previous meetings)**

### **a. Unfinished business and new business**

### **b. Future agendas meeting dates:**

- i. Next meeting: December 6, 11:30am - 1:30pm hosted by AISD
- ii. Commissioner Shea requested an executive session with legal counsel regarding the AISD long term budget.
- iii. Proposition A discussion/implementation plan updates (AISD and Travis County)

## **IX. ADJOURNED at 1:17 PM**