

THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Assembly Child Care Committee Meeting,
City Hall Room 224
DRAFT Minutes April 19, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Loren Jones called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm

Members present: Chair Loren Jones, Michele Hale, Wade Bryson, Erik Eriksen, Rob Edwardson, Blue Shibler, Bridget Weiss

Other Assembly and School Board members present: Mayor Beth Weldon

Staff present: Library Director Robert Barr

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There being no changes to the agenda, it was approved as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the April 5, 2019 meeting, they were approved as presented.

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

a. Review of Final Report

Mr. Jones reviewed the suggested changes to the final report emailed to the committee by Ms. Shibler. The committee adopted the first change Ms. Shibler suggested on line 74.

Ms. Hale suggested dropping the word, "whatever," on line 141. The committee agreed.

Ms. Hale spoke about the \$800,000 number on line 164, citing a lack of analysis.

Mr. Jones spoke about the original model in the Best Starts information and how the \$800,000 number is fairly close projection after taking into account the committee's desire to alter how Best Starts would apply at the lower Learn & Grow levels. Mr. Jones also spoke about how, under recommendation #5, the Manager would propose a final number with the FY21 budget, which he expects will vary one way or the other from \$800,000, but that \$800,000 was a ballpark for the Assembly. Mr. Jones also spoke about how child care assistance payments at the State level are changing which would also eventually impact this number.

Ms. Shibler agreed and shared her hope that the assistance payments from the State would significantly increase.

Mr. Bryson spoke about a recent JSD/CBJ joint facilities meeting and shared a concern he had about potentially creating an unfair competitive edge for potential child care businesses operating out of public facility spaces at free/reduced rates. Mr. Bryson asked if there was a way to balance how the assistance may be provided such that the entire industry could benefit.

Mr. Jones spoke about the governmental process of issuing an RFP and how the RFP process cures elements of unfairness by giving everyone the opportunity to submit proposals.

Mr. Bryson said that makes sense and gave the example of having two individuals desiring to create a child care business, but only room for one in the RFP. Mr. Bryson said he wouldn't want that second individual to then be unable to compete.

Ms. Weiss spoke about the committee has opened the doors for a variety of ways to support the business and outlined some of those potential options.

Mr. Bryson said he was satisfied with the committee's general consensus around the topic.

Mr. Jones added that another piece is that generally RFPs of this nature would only be available to non-profits.

Mr. Edwardson said he was satisfied that the RFP process would be legal and fair. Mr. Edwardson said that the RFP process does rightly place whoever is best qualified to meet the RFP at an advantage.

Ms. Hale offered other examples of other governmental processes where the appearance of unfairness or actual unfairness can occur. Ms. Hale said it can be tricky to balance fairness with progress.

Mr. Edwardson moved the child care committee approve the final report and forward it to the Assembly.

Mr. Barr noted one final edit had been suggested on line 118.

The committee agreed to change the word manpower.

The committee unanimously accepted Mr. Edwardson's motion.

Mr. Jones read his transmission memo to the Mayor, to accompany the final report.

b. Committee member comments

Ms. Weiss expressed her appreciation to Mr. Jones for chairing and guiding the process.

Mayor Weldon offered kudos to the group and expressed her appreciation of how quickly the group melded together.

Ms. Hale expressed her appreciation to Mr. Jones and for how he ran the process.

Mr. Eriksen acknowledged the public and child care professionals who have supported the process.

Mr. Edwardson asked if we had yet sent thank-yous to the people involved in testifying.

Mr. Jones said informally yes, but that we would do so formally.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.