



Executive Committee Meeting Transcript

November 17, 2025

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The Children's Trust
Monday, November 17, 2025
3150 S.W. 3rd Avenue - 8th Floor
The Children's Trust - Training Room
8:30 a.m. - 9:02 a.m.

Executive Committee Meeting

Committee Members
(Present)

Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chairperson
Pamela Hollingsworth
Matthew Arsenault
Laurie Weiss Nuell
Gilda Ferradaz
Dr. Daniel Bagner
Lourdes Gimenez
Dr. Malou C. Harrison

President & CEO

James Haj

County Attorney's Office

Leigh Kobrinski
Assistant County Attorney

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- Imran Ali
- James Haj
- Jack Bentolila
- Lori Hanson
- Natalia Zea
- Juliette Fabien
- William Kirtland
- Lisanne Gage
- Juana Leon
- Yuliet Alfonso
- Victoria Gandul
- Felix Bacerra

1 (Thereupon, the following
2 proceedings were had:)

3 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: All
4 right. Let's get started.

5 I don't think we're going to take
6 the whole hour, but for some people
7 there's several other meetings.

8 Welcome. Thank you.

9 This is, I think, the first --
10 well, I don't see anybody here in the
11 first meeting. Laurie is back with us
12 at the Executive Committee.

13 I wanted to get together to do a
14 few things. First of all, is there any
15 public comment?

16 MS. LEON: No public comment,
17 Mr. Chair.

18 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: No.
19 Okay.

20 And we do have in the packet -- no.
21 It got sent around. The minutes of the
22 last Executive Committee Meeting in May.

23 Anybody have a chance to read those
24 has any comments? No? No comments?

25 All those in favor?

1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:

2 Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Opposed?

4 Okay. The motion carries.

5 MS. LEON: Who moved? Did someone
6 move and second the minutes?

7 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: We are
8 bringing before this Executive
9 Committee -- I'm sorry?

10 MR. HAJ: Concerning the minutes,
11 who moved and who seconded?

12 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: I'll
13 move it.

14 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: I'll
15 second it.

16 MR. HAJ: All right.

17 Can you say your name for the
18 record?

19 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: I'll
20 move, Arsenault, to approve the minutes.

21 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Second,
22 Bagner.

23 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Sorry.
24 Those aren't really high value
25 resolutions.

1 So we called this Executive
2 Committee together initially to talk, as
3 we have in the last couple years, about
4 the Board retreat, to give staff a chance
5 to let us know what they're thinking.
6 I've talked with Jim and others from The
7 Trust about the agenda, the thoughts.
8 Some of it will be similar to what we've
9 done in the past.

10 But, first, we wanted to just
11 discuss briefly the resolution that's
12 before you.

13 It's resolution 26-11.

14 "Authorization to fund an
15 unsolicited request for funds from United
16 Way Miami, with the full amount
17 supporting food distribution
18 organizations; in an amount not to exceed
19 \$150,000 for a term of 12 months,
20 beginning November 18, 2025, and ending
21 September 30, 2026."

22 That's actually about 10 months.

23 Can I have a -- we'll have a
24 discussion on it, and we may still vote,
25 but can I have a motion for that

1 resolution?

2 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:
3 I'll move it. Hollingsworth.

4 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Thank
5 you.

6 And a second?

7 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Second.
8 Bagner.

9 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Okay.

10 For discussion purposes, obviously,
11 several weeks ago, as the shutdown
12 continued to affect programs including
13 some of the food programs for families
14 and children, we started to get requests
15 from other organizations, in particular,
16 United Way.

17 Obviously, at the time we looked to
18 see what we could do within Jim's
19 authorities, and the authorities that we
20 have with the existing funding or
21 existing excess funding for the year.

22 Jim and I reviewed, and Imran, the
23 procurement policy. And as we had
24 confronted, during the pandemic, it's a
25 little bit narrow, and very tailored

1 towards an emergency like a hurricane or
2 a disaster. It didn't seem broad enough,
3 and there were a few elements of it.

4 So, just as a matter of point of
5 information, I do want staff to take a
6 look back at the procurement policy for
7 emergency funding. Not specifically for
8 this initiative, but to see in the future
9 if we can broaden a little bit, maybe
10 with limits on dollar amounts, the
11 ability of The Trust to respond to what
12 staff or Chair and CEO deem emergencies.

13 Now, this clearly has started to
14 resolve. The SNAP benefits, depending on
15 who you follow and what you read, are
16 coming back. They're a little bit --
17 I've heard, anecdotally, that some people
18 are still having problems with their
19 benefits and the like. So the full
20 funding may not be necessary at this
21 point.

22 We did allow -- Jim and I talked
23 about it. Jim used some of his
24 discretionary funding to provide. It was
25 \$50,000 to -- because he's allowed to use

1 up to \$50,000. So he did do that when we
2 were talking about this, and deferred
3 this to the Executive Committee Meeting.

4 Jim, I guess I'd like to hear from
5 you, since we haven't talked this
6 morning, what you're seeing in the
7 community now; whether we should still
8 consider this, or consider a part of this
9 as a funding mechanism for the near
10 future.

11 And, again, I think the procurement
12 policy is a longer term issue that we
13 should look at.

14 MR. HAJ: Yes. Thanks Ken.

15 Again, we developed this a week
16 and-a-half ago, not knowing -- originally
17 I put 150, because we didn't know if it
18 was going to extend into the winter
19 holidays, and how long it was going to
20 extend. So after this was written, we
21 had the federal government open up. Then
22 a lot of this has subsided. We have, and
23 before pulling this, we just wanted to
24 have a discussion before we had pulled
25 this.

1 So we have been monitoring 2-1-1
2 calls. As of last week, the highest --
3 the top -- out of the calls, food was
4 Number 1. The top five was food, then
5 housing, mental health, utility, and
6 diapers. But food was Number 1.

7 And the online searches, food was
8 Number 1.

9 We talked to United Way, they're
10 still saying there's a food related
11 issue.

12 So, I wouldn't suggest using all
13 the money to -- maybe reduce it to 75,
14 an extra 25, if the Board wants to, or
15 we can pull the reso.

16 We're also looking at other
17 mechanisms. Flippany is our current
18 provider for after school programs. We
19 did work during this Thanksgiving break.
20 The kids and certain programs will be
21 getting food to take home with them for
22 the Thanksgiving break when school is not
23 in session.

24 Now we want to look to the winter
25 holiday, how to feed some of those. So

1 we may work within that contract and come
2 back to the Board later on to extend -- I
3 don't think it'll be a significant amount
4 of money, but just for the winter
5 holidays.

6 But for this, we can pull it
7 entirely, but before we want to pull it,
8 I'll ask Ken if there was, you know, if
9 the Executive Committee wanted to use
10 additional funds. Again, I wouldn't
11 recommend the 150; but if we want to
12 reduce those funds too, and continue
13 moving forward, or just pull the reso
14 completely.

15 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:
16 Jim, you mentioned that food was Number
17 1, I think last week.

18 MR. HAJ: Uh-huh.

19 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH: Is
20 that -- had it inched up there over the
21 past month? I feel like housing was
22 always very close to the top.

23 MR. HAJ: I'm sorry. I apologize.

24 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH: So
25 you mentioned that food had inched into

1 the Number 1 slot.

2 MR. HAJ: Yes.

3 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:

4 Yes.

5 Is that new? I feel like housing
6 previously has been.

7 MR. HAJ: Historically, housing has
8 been the Number 1. I don't know when
9 food overtook it. We've been trying to
10 get the 2-1-1 and as much realtime data
11 as possible. So, as of last week, food
12 was Number 1 for the calls and the online
13 searches.

14 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: I mean,
15 certainly, because families that are
16 reliant on food benefits were perceiving
17 a flip that was going to come where there
18 wouldn't be any. So that could be a
19 reason for, you know, a number of more
20 calls.

21 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: So you
22 already did, within your authority,
23 50,000?

24 MR. HAJ: Correct.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: Is

1 this in the same program, or, and I'm
2 sorry, I missed it. Is this a different
3 program for food support?

4 MR. HAJ: This would be the same.

5 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: It's
6 the same.

7 MR. HAJ: Through another -- adding
8 an additional 20 -- so it would be like
9 if you did 25, actually it would be 75 in
10 total.

11 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: Okay.
12 So it's the 50 that you've already done.

13 MR. HAJ: Correct.

14 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: And
15 then this is incremental?

16 MR. HAJ: Correct.

17 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: So, I
18 mean, I guess I would defer to management
19 and staff on what they think is an
20 appropriate amount to meet the current
21 need. I don't have really a sense of
22 what scale of approval would be
23 necessarily appropriate to meet the need.

24 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Laurie?

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELL: I'm just

1 wondering too if this was -- of course,
2 we didn't have exactly a crystal ball
3 last few weeks, but this is for 12
4 months. And this is -- it seems like
5 this is really intended to meet the
6 urgent need that was -- that we were,
7 you know, the community was being faced
8 with. So, if we keep it, also maybe
9 change the date so that it doesn't go,
10 you know, through next September.

11 MR. HAJ: We can.

12 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Or we
13 could decided a different amount now to
14 amend this 150. If there's a need later,
15 we can come back.

16 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELLE: Right.

17 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: And then
18 review. Because sometimes when we give
19 too much, it's not appreciated and used
20 in the right way.

21 MR. HAJ: Right.

22 And we did want to give enough, but
23 we just wanted to get through -- the next
24 Board meeting is not until January.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Right.

1 MR. HAJ: So we wanted some
2 flexibility up to an amount to give us
3 the flexibility to meet the needs through
4 the holidays. Then in the January Board
5 meeting, if there's additional need,
6 we'll come back in January.

7 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Jim, you
8 talked about your strategy with Flippany
9 and so forth?

10 MR. HAJ: Yes.

11 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: So would
12 that come out of this funding also?

13 MR. HAJ: No. So Flippany is --
14 this is just for the United Way. So
15 Flippany would --

16 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: So none
17 of this funding would have -- you
18 wouldn't need this funding to augment
19 that contract?

20 MR. HAJ: Not at this time. But we
21 may need to come back for Flippany later
22 to increase. If we spent \$10,000 for the
23 holidays, increase their contract by
24 \$10,000 in the future Board meeting.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Okay.

1 MR. HAJ: Because they have money
2 in their existing contract to be able to
3 get through the holidays, and we'd come
4 back and increase their amount.

5 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:
6 Because the Child Care Food Program was
7 not impacted. It's just SNAP that has
8 been impacted.

9 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Just one
10 more question. Where -- the money that
11 they don't use, does it go back into the
12 reserve, I guess? Because one thing I'm
13 thinking too is, I mean prices for food
14 is higher.

15 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:
16 That's true. I hadn't thought about
17 that.

18 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: So, I
19 mean, if we're writing a lot of this, I'm
20 just wondering where the money can go
21 back to, and would it be of good use
22 to --

23 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:
24 Which means --

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: --

1 despite the shutdown being over, if
2 families are still in need for food
3 during the Thanksgiving holiday --

4 MR. HAJ: So, if this was amended
5 to 75, we would just, moving forward, we
6 would cut 25,000 to United Way in
7 addition. Already 50,000, when the 25.

8 The other, we're going to just pull
9 from unallocated funds. But if there's
10 any, in January, we'd come back and tap
11 into the remaining money.

12 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Are you
13 suggesting the 75 would be inclusive of
14 the 50 already given?

15 MR. HAJ: Yes, yes.

16 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELLE: As a one
17 time --

18 MR. HAJ: One time.

19 The 50 has already gone over there.

20 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELLE: Yes.

21 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: I mean, I
22 personally would be supportive of that,
23 cutting it back, and not having too much
24 of an allocation unless there's another
25 crisis or event that causes an additional

1 need, but also being responsive to United
2 Way and our own perception of what's
3 going on in the community.

4 That this is -- this will be a
5 holiday issue for a lot of families.

6 Do I hear --

7 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: I guess
8 just one other question. I guess that's
9 a good point. You know, are we -- the
10 programs within the United Way, is the
11 attempt to direct these towards
12 children's programs and family programs
13 rather than just a general food banking
14 including sort of adult programs. I'm
15 trying to understand within sort of the
16 purview of The Trust that -- have we had
17 conversations with the United Way on
18 that?

19 MR. HAJ: Yes. So we'd direct the
20 United Way that it's going to the two
21 food banks supporting children and
22 families.

23 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Okay.

24 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: So do
25 we need a motion to amend the resolution?

1 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: To amend
2 the resolution to decrease the amount to
3 \$75,000, and to shorten the term for
4 let's say three months -- or two months
5 to the end of the year.

6 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:
7 Three months rather than 12?

8 MR. HAJ: Let me just double check
9 with staff.

10 MR. KIRTLAND: Just to clarify,
11 because of the incremental language used
12 earlier, and the intent of the Board, I
13 guess, and the amount. When we wrote the
14 resolution to state \$150,000, the \$50,000
15 that has been essentially awarded by the
16 CEO spending authority is included in
17 that amount. So, essentially, I was
18 trying to understand if the intent is
19 that there should be an additional
20 \$75,000 that's essentially...

21 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: I
22 don't think that, that \$50,000 requires
23 any approval from us.

24 MR. KIRTLAND: No.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: But

1 it's within --

2 MR. HAJ: But it's over 50.

3 So the intent would be 75 in total,
4 inclusive of the 50,000.

5 MR. KIRTLAND: I understand. I
6 guess if we were to approve in total this
7 year \$75,000 of funding the United Way,
8 we wrote that resolution so that it
9 should still say 75, not 25, because once
10 one dollar is spent more than the CEO's
11 authority, then we want the resolution to
12 reflect the aggregate amount that's been
13 attributed to the organization.

14 I guess with that consideration,
15 what's the amount?

16 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: Right.
17 So then I guess I'll make a motion to
18 amend the resolution to say the amount is
19 not to exceed \$75,000, right?

20 MR. HAJ: Yes. Inclusive of the
21 50,000.

22 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT:
23 Inclusive of the 50,000 already within
24 the CEO's authority, and ending January
25 31st, 2026.

1 MR. HAJ: Yes.

2 Staff, any problem with that? No,
3 we're good.

4 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Okay.

5 Do we have a second?

6 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELL: Second,
7 Nuell.

8 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Thank
9 you.

10 Any further discussion? No?

11 All those in favor?

12 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:

13 Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Any
15 opposed?

16 Okay. The motion carries.

17 And thank you for that.

18 I do think -- again, I don't know
19 what the appropriate form is, but I
20 would like staff to look at the language
21 with Counsel. Again, not to be able to
22 allow Jim or Jim and me to, you know,
23 respond to anything, but things that are
24 creating a crisis in the community.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: That

1 would be appropriate.

2 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: That
3 wouldn't be from a physical hurricane,
4 flood, fires, things like that.

5 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: Is
6 that something you're potentially
7 bringing to the next Finance Committee?

8 MR. HAJ: Yeah. We'd have to bring
9 back that section to procurement policy.

10 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Okay?
11 Thank you.

12 Next item is the 2026 Board
13 retreat. As I mentioned earlier, I think
14 in the last few years we've given the
15 Executive Committee an opportunity to get
16 a preview of what staff is considering
17 for the retreat, and what we've
18 discussed, and to provide your input.

19 So I'll turn it over to Laurie,
20 initially, and whomever else.

21 MR. HAJ: Yeah. Me too.

22 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Or Jim.

23 MR. HAJ: So as we prepare for the
24 February Board retreat, kind of looking
25 at the year coming up, but also the last

1 three years.

2 So last year's Board retreat, we
3 started to build out systems, and we were
4 able -- if you recall, we were at Lotus
5 House, and we gave you a preview of the
6 systems.

7 The systems, many of them have
8 built out. We've been monitoring it, and
9 We've learned a lot from having the
10 realtime data come in, and some of the,
11 you know, some of the adjustments, some
12 of the things have come from the Board.

13 So this Board retreat, I would like
14 to show you what we've learned, and other
15 new systems being built. Kind of getting
16 us aligned for next year's Board retreat
17 when we're getting ready for all those
18 significant resos initiatives that go out
19 the Board in RFPs.

20 So it's kind of like a three year
21 trend. We build the systems. We're
22 continuing to build the systems, and show
23 that areas of improvement. And then get
24 ready for next year's Board retreat where
25 we look at the five-year cycles that are

1 going on to make strategic decisions.

2 So, with that, I think we've
3 covered many of them. We sat with Ken
4 the last couple of months going over a
5 couple of different items and building,
6 but we just wanted to make sure with this
7 group, if there's anything else you want
8 us to include, if we're going in the
9 right direction, as we still have a
10 couple of months before the Board
11 retreat.

12 So I'd like to turn it over to
13 Laurie, just to kind of go through this.

14 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELLE: Sure.
15 Thank you, Jim.

16 So you have a draft agenda here
17 that takes us through some of the
18 highlights that Jim was mentioning. To
19 start off with just an overview of the
20 data access tools and dashboard
21 development that we've been active on for
22 the past couple years. And some
23 efficiencies that we've realized through
24 that. And then having a little
25 walkthrough of some of the ways we've

1 been using those tools through the
2 comprehensive performance review.
3 Lessons and actions that we've taken to
4 sort of help maintain the whole goal of
5 this, just to make sure that our programs
6 are high quality and having an impact in
7 the community, and using the data to form
8 any actions that we need to take to make
9 those improvements. And, so, you know,
10 highlighting for the Board some of the
11 examples of how we've used that in a
12 couple different initiatives over the
13 last year.

14 And then as we work together at the
15 contract level with our providers, we
16 also elevate the discussion to more
17 strategic discussions, and look at the
18 strategic initiative planning. Is this
19 the right design for the services to
20 reach the impact that we want? And then
21 those conversations then feed into, as
22 Jim was referencing, competitive
23 solicitation requirements, right?

24 So, and that's what we're looking
25 toward right now. And next year it'll be

1 Family and Neighborhood Support
2 Partnerships and Trust Academy, which are
3 two smaller initiatives. But the year
4 after that, really, all the very large
5 numbers that come with the after school
6 and summer programs, and parenting
7 programs, and a number of other -- of the
8 initiatives that will be coming in that
9 next year.

10 So -- and then connecting all the
11 dots to that, none of that can happen
12 without the budget strategy. And so we
13 would have, you know, a little discussion
14 about what's been the trend over the last
15 decade, and then what's the investment
16 strategy that the Finance Committee has
17 been devising to move forward into the
18 next funding cycles. And then connecting
19 all that to making sure that the work is
20 known in the community. That families
21 and parents know what we're doing, and
22 how they can access the services that
23 we're putting out there. As well as
24 making sure that we're taking input and
25 understanding the needs in the community

1 to inform those investments.

2 So, that's kind of the, in a
3 nutshell, the overview that we were
4 thinking we could provide from a
5 perspective of updates to the Board.

6 And if you scroll down past the
7 break, we thought we could still have
8 an opportunity for some small group
9 discussions as we have done in the past.
10 We're thinking of putting them in two
11 buckets this year instead of three or
12 four that we've done in the past just
13 to allow enough time to focus on this.

14 So the categorization that we
15 proposed was sort of to talk about those
16 programs that directly serve children.
17 So that actually covers early child care,
18 education, and early learning programs,
19 but also are after school and summer
20 programs that are directly serving kids.
21 And then the family services and the
22 provider support would be in the other
23 group discussion.

24 And we would develop some strategic
25 questions for you guys to consider and

1 discuss, based on sort of the current
2 state, and in each of those different
3 initiatives. That we know, you know,
4 might lead to topics or issues to be
5 discussed to give us guidance on policy.

6 So -- and then we were thinking of
7 just moving back to, you know, debrief
8 with the full Board before closing out.
9 You can see that we also have tried to
10 make this a really tight, you know,
11 efficient agenda. So it's three hours.
12 So, yeah -- but open to questions,
13 feedback, suggestions, if we like the
14 small group format versus -- you know,
15 we did have some back and forth, because,
16 I think, last year we did larger Board
17 group discussion and questions. And that
18 way, everybody hears everything.

19 So there's sort of pros and cons, I
20 guess, to splitting up versus staying
21 together.

22 COMMITTEE MEMBER HARRISON: Well,
23 there's not a lot of small group. It's
24 one piece, but I definitely like the way
25 it was structured last year.

1 I guess I do have one observation.

2 Last year there was some initial
3 conversation about the use of AI, and the
4 future of that.

5 I think, Jack, I see you turning.
6 I think you're the person that -- and I'm
7 wondering if there is anything new to
8 report this year or any thoughts about
9 Perhaps opportunities or risks. Where
10 are we in terms of, is AI going to be a
11 part of the work moving forward?

12 That's something that I'm quite
13 intrigued by.

14 MR. HAJ: And that would be at the
15 840, the data access tool. That's where
16 it developed inefficiencies.

17 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELLE: Right.
18 And we had a few talking points under
19 each of these topics, and that was
20 definitely one of them.

21 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:
22 Read my mind.

23 COMMITTEE MEMBER ARSENAULT: I
24 think it's just one of those things. I
25 know it's difficult, because with my

1 organization, we tried to do this, and
2 it's difficult. The idea of sort of
3 coverage, right, this flow of over half a
4 million children in, you know, under 18,
5 in Miami-Dade County -- how do we get a
6 sense of who are we, right. There's
7 direct and indirect, right? There's a
8 lot of indirect sort of programs The
9 Trust, you know, influences. But there's
10 direct support. Like just how do we try
11 to get a sense of who are the gaps in
12 areas? And I always think that that's
13 very useful to kind of get a sense of
14 when we're trying to make resource
15 allocation decisions, and things like
16 that, to try to bring that.

17 So I would just ask, as part of
18 this one, that data. With that, like I
19 said, completely understand it's a
20 journey in utilizing data with that. But
21 that would just be very helpful. I think
22 Board retreat is a good time to do that.
23 I'm getting that sort of higher view of
24 where geographically types of programs,
25 how many kids are we actually impacting.

1 MR. HAJ: We have those menus.
2 Remember the menus that you created?

3 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELLE: Yes. And
4 placemats.

5 MR. HAJ: As a visual
6 representation of where the needs are.

7 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Any other
8 comments, thoughts?

9 MR. HAJ: Just the only thing that
10 we add, at the 10:45 slot, the 10-year
11 budget trend will also be two weeks
12 before session ends. You know, we have
13 a lot going on with property taxes.
14 Hopefully, by then, depending on where
15 we're at, we may have information to
16 share at the Board retreat.

17 Again, two weeks -- things could
18 happen in two weeks, but we could give
19 an update if we find there's a couple of
20 pass. Every bill that's coming out,
21 we're developing cost estimates behind
22 the scenes, what will be the impact. But
23 there are a lot of bills that are all
24 over the place. So, we're, you know, as
25 it gets closer to the end of session, if

1 there's not a special session, we should
2 have some kind of updates to spend.

3 So, if something significant comes
4 up, that'll take more time than the rest
5 of the agenda, depending on where we're
6 at.

7 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Pam, you
8 were saying you liked last year's format
9 better where the whole group aired out
10 topics?

11 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH: I
12 mean, I'm fine with doing a small group
13 discussion if that's the -- if that's
14 preference for staff, but I actually did
15 like the format last year.

16 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: I think
17 when we do small groups, the idea is you
18 get more information across, you know,
19 opinions. What, I think, would be needed
20 would be a person to then report what
21 this group said so that, that group would
22 hear it. Just a little summary. We
23 discussed this. We think that these are
24 the priorities, whatever. And that way,
25 we can then listen to each other's, you

1 know.

2 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: One of
3 the thoughts, Laurie, might be to shorten
4 the small group session, and lengthen the
5 debrief a little bit where the whole
6 Board is together.

7 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELLE: Right.

8 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: I don't
9 know if you we were considering swapping
10 groups or maybe not swapping groups so
11 that, again, the groups can stay together
12 for half hour, and then have more time to
13 debrief and then discuss amongst the
14 Board the results.

15 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: And maybe
16 those smaller groups -- I don't know if
17 we could rotate. Like sometimes you stay
18 together with the same group, but being
19 mindful of our Nominating Committee, and
20 we're constantly having new members of
21 our Board. I think it would be helpful
22 if we could switch around who's in the
23 groups. I know it gets complicated, but
24 that would be helpful.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH:

1 But how much feedback from the Board are
2 you looking for this year? I guess that
3 would be my question. You know, it seems
4 like there's a really good, defined
5 direction that has been growing and has
6 become more refined. I think sometimes
7 group work can be a hindrance to that. I
8 guess maybe I'm speaking about my agency,
9 specifically, but just putting that out
10 there.

11 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Okay.

12 So the next item is the slate of
13 officers. You'll see in your packet
14 here. We will -- Jim will announce
15 shortly after this meeting, the
16 nominations for officers are open.
17 People can self-nominate or nominate
18 someone else. And this is the basic
19 timeline for that. We'll have the
20 announcement after this meeting.
21 Applications for interest will be due
22 December 3rd. And then after the January
23 Board meeting, we'll have a Nominating
24 Committee Meeting to discuss the slate of
25 officers, to make a recommendation to be

1 brought before the March Board Meeting,
2 which would be in time for, I think,
3 April's -- the turnover date.

4 So, you know, please, if you're
5 interested in a position as an officer,
6 put your name in. Put someone else's
7 name in, if you're not, and we'll look
8 forward to discussing that, I guess, in
9 January.

10 We also are in the process, and
11 today for the Nominating Committee will
12 be meeting at 10:30 to discuss the
13 at-large candidates. I think we have six
14 that we're interviewing.

15 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: There's
16 seven.

17 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: There's
18 seven that we're interviewing today.
19 All -- a lot of good candidates. And,
20 hopefully, one will emerge. The white
21 smoke will rise, and we'll be onto
22 business again.

23 Tax collector?

24 MR. HAJ: Yes. I sent out an
25 e-mail to -- we had a really great

1 meeting with the tax collector a couple
2 weeks ago, that he came and is returning
3 us almost a million dollars to The Trust.
4 So he came over. He met, I think --
5 Bill, have we received it yet? Did he
6 wire it?

7 MR. KIRTLAND: We did. We received
8 it already.

9 MR. HAJ: We did receive it?

10 MR. KIRTLAND: They were basically
11 very ready at the end of the week.

12 MR. HAJ: Okay. So 996,000?

13 MR. KIRTLAND: 962,000.

14 MR. HAJ: And 62,000 that we are
15 getting returned from the tax collector,
16 which was very nice. So, hopefully that
17 comes year after year.

18 And the other item on here, which
19 we didn't put on here, just kind of
20 wanted to get the exact communities pulse
21 also on field trips. Last year we
22 scheduled six field trips throughout the
23 year, tried to get different parts of
24 town, different time. Tried to keep it
25 tight so you don't -- you know, I know

1 people have busy schedules. So we try
2 to keep it for an hour, midday, two
3 hours.

4 And is that something you want to
5 continue doing? Many years ago, we used
6 to -- everyone used to get on a bus, and
7 we'd have a day of field trips. Then we
8 switched to the hour in different parts
9 of town.

10 So I just wanted a feedback if
11 that's something we want to continue.
12 And, if so, we'll bill out the calendar
13 for the year and start working with
14 programs.

15 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: I like
16 them.

17 COMMITTEE MEMBER NUELL: I like
18 them too.

19 MR. KIRTLAND: Alright. We'll
20 build out the calendar for January.

21 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: I don't
22 know if the tax collector is doing a good
23 job, but he's very visible. He's not
24 only walking around town with checks, but
25 I get mail telling me to pay my taxes

1 early or encouraging me, and you see him
2 on the Facebook and Instagram and all
3 those different things. So he must be
4 doing something.

5 MR. HAJ: And just going back to
6 the officers. So all the current
7 officers are eligible to reapply.

8 So Matt will be terming out in
9 August. So, we're asking to open up the
10 Finance Chair's slot so that we can fill
11 it in April. And then Matt can help
12 transition for two months.

13 So we'll put that in the e-mail
14 when it goes out.

15 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOFFMAN: Okay.
16 Any other -- anything else that people
17 like to talk about?

18 Great. Thank you for coming.

19 MR. HAJ: Thank you, Everybody.

20 (Thereupon, the meeting was
21 concluded at 9:02 a.m.)
22
23
24
25

