

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2018

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: President Van Henri White, Vice President Willa Powell, Commissioner Mary Adams, Commissioner Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard.

Board Members Excused: None.

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: General Counsel Karl Kristoff and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

- I. President White convened the meeting at 6:08 p.m.
- II. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present
- III. **Discussion and Consideration of Resolutions:** No resolutions were presented for discussion or consideration.

Commissioner Adams arrived at 6:26 p.m.

President White introduced Commissioner Hallmark as Chair of the Board's Governance and Development Committee who convened a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss a proposed scheme for school liaison assignments and master calendar for the Board. Commissioner Hallmark opened the discussion on the topic of school liaison assignments. She referenced a proposed scheme of school liaison assignments that presents the assignment of schools to Board members as liaisons based on the four quadrants of the City along with some at-large assignments that transcend presumed quadrant boundaries.

Commissioner Elliott asked why the proposal was developed. Commissioner Hallmark noted that the rationale for the revised scheme of school assignments is to allow members of the Board the opportunity to establish relationships with schools and nearby community partners and agencies. Commissioner Elliott indicated that the current scheme of Board liaison assignments works well. Commissioner Hallmark stated that by segmenting school assignments by quadrant, with some at-large assignments, the Board could better facilitate the relationships between commissioners and schools and foster relationships with area recreation centers and other organizations in surrounding neighborhoods. Commissioner Elliott suggested that a description of

school liaison responsibilities be drafted to reflect the intended purpose of the assignment scheme.

President White stated that, unlike some members of City Council who are elected to represent certain quadrants of the City, the members of the Board are elected and serve at-large. Citing the proposal to assign Commissioner Hallmark and Vice President Powell to the City's southeast quadrant, he urged Commissioner Hallmark to consider the appearance of racial segregation in the proposed school liaison assignment scheme.

Commissioner Sheppard suggested that school liaison assignments should be made according to need; considering factors such as receivership status or academic standing, parental involvement, etc.

In concluding discussion of the topic, President White urged the Board to postpone the formalization the school liaison assignments until appointed commissioners are in place. Commissioner Elliott added that because the appointed commissioners will only be in place for a year, a permanent decision could be made when the commissioners are elected.

It was decided that the school liaison assignments would not be formalized until the appointed commissioners were on board and able to consider the proposed scheme.

The Committee of the Whole next discussed a proposed master calendar of the Board. Commissioner Hallmark suggested that the Board hold Committee of the Whole meetings to provide support and mentorship for new Board members. She added that the information from the committees is not readily communicated to the full board, so working as a whole could assist with team development and the transfer of information.

In reviewing the proposed master calendar, Commissioner Adams and Vice President Powell noted that it was previously decided that the Board's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee (ESA) would meet monthly. President White suggested that the Board's Governance and Community and Intergovernmental Relations (CIGR) Committees be called along with the ESA Committee to allow the ESA Committee to meet monthly.

Commissioner Adams suggested that though it was previously decided that the ESA Committee would meet every month, it is important that the meeting calendar be established with input from each Committee Chair. President White added that five of the Board's six standing committees do not have a full complement of members. He suggested that the Board wait to formalize a calendar until the full Board is in place. President White reminded the Board members of the language in the Board Bylaws, Policy No. 2300 which read as follows: "The President shall appoint members of Standing Committees and Special Committees of the Board with the advice and consent of the Board, and representatives to organizations of which the Board is a member and for which Board representation is desirable or required...Each Standing Committee shall number three (3) members of the Board, and a majority of its members shall

constitute a quorum. Promptly after the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board, members will submit to the President, in writing, their preferences for Standing Committee assignments. The President shall appoint members of Standing Committees with the advice and consent of the Board as soon as practicable after the Annual Organizational Meeting, but in no event later than February 1 thereafter. Each Standing Committee shall meet at the call of its Chairperson or a majority of the members at a time and place to be designated in the call of the meeting.” Commissioner Hallmark stated that she would like to share her thoughts on which committees Board members should be assigned, Vice President Powell echoed her statement. Commissioner Elliott asked to be appointed to the Board’s ESA Committee when Commissioner Adams vacates the assignment. President White suggested that a meeting be scheduled to review the scheme for appointing Board members to the various standing committees of the Board.

Commissioner Elliott left at 7:00 p.m.

- IV. Motion to recess into executive session** at 7:05 p.m. made by Commissioner Sheppard and seconded by Vice President Powell to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific person. Motion carries 6-0.

Motion to reconvene at 7:15 p.m. made by Commissioner Sheppard, seconded by Vice President Powell. Motion carries 6-0

- V. Meeting adjourned** at 7:15 p.m.