

Rochester Board of Education
Board Governance Committee
January 21, 2016
Minutes

Attendance:

Chairwoman Hallmark, Commissioner Cruz, and Commissioner Powell; Board Staff Shanai Lee.

Commissioner Hallmark convened the meeting was convened at 7:01 p.m.

Agenda Item I: Acceptance of Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes of the October 2015 and November 2015 Governance Committee meeting was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 3-0.

Agenda Item II: Discussion of New Board Member Orientation

In discussing the process for on-boarding new commissioners, the Committee reviewed a form titled "What Every Board Member Needs to Know." The form is intended to serve as a guidebook for newly elected Board members to become acquainted with the school district and the roles and responsibilities of school board stewardship.

ACTION: Commissioner Hallmark asked that the Board staff compile information to complete the "What Every Board Member Needs to Know" form and present a draft to the Committee at the February meeting.

Agenda Item III: Discussion of a Proposed Retreat

The Committee discussed the format of a proposed retreat with members of the Board and the Superintendent. At an upcoming retreat, the Committee proposes the following topics for discussion:

- Determining the group's collective development needs (What do we do well? What do we need to get better at? How do we improve interpersonal relationships/ communications with one another?).
- Enhancing our working relationship with the Superintendent (How is the communications protocol working? Are there any bottle-necks between the Board and the Superintendent? How do we maintain open lines of communication? In crisis situations?).
- Brainstorming about how to increase effectiveness and efficiency of board meetings.

The Committee also discussed the proposed date of a retreat, Commissioner Cruz mentioned that the Board will begin to review the Superintendent's proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal and is currently in the midst of conducting a search for a permanent superintendent of schools, and it could be best to postpone plans for the retreat. Commissioner Powell agreed noting that the Board has several tasks to undertake over the next couple of months.

ACTION: Commissioner Hallmark asked that the Board staff poll members of the Board for their availability on Saturdays in the month of February 2016.

The next meeting of the Committee was not scheduled. Commissioner Hallmark asked that members of the Committee be polled for their availability in February.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.