

Rochester Board of Education
Board Governance Committee
February 9, 2016
Minutes

Attendance:

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

Commissioner Hallmark convened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Agenda Item I: Acceptance of Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes of the January 2016 Governance Committee meeting was made by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 2-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

President White joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

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. The form was completed with current and relevant District information. Commissioner Hallmark suggested that a listing of community associations and alliances that Board members are affiliated with be included in form. President White mentioned that a listing of advocacy affiliations should be listed, otherwise individual members of the Board should be allowed discretion in listing personal affiliations.

ACTION: Commissioner Hallmark and Commissioner Cruz suggested that the “What Every Board Member Needs to Know” form be revised to include the current organizational chart, a listing of District alternative education programs, a listing of Board school liaison assignments, and an overview of Board staff responsibilities.

Agenda Item III: Discussion of Board Member Liaison Work

Commissioner Hallmark opened the conversation about Board school liaison assignments and the role of liaisons. President White noted that he schedules several school visits at the invitation of principals and teachers. He added that structured visits, which are expected of Board liaisons, may not be as useful as meeting with principals and dialoguing with students about current issues and concerns. Commissioner Cruz agreed noting that school visits only provide a snapshot of school culture and climate. He noted the benefits and challenges of organized visits versus unscheduled visits. He added that the Board liaison role is beneficial construct because it allows Board members to advocate for parents and school programs.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for April 19, 2016. Commissioner Hallmark asked that members of the Committee be polled for their availability.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.