

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes
Policy Committee of the Whole
September 3, 2019
Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: President White, Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Hallmark, Commissioner LeBron, and Commissioner Sheppard.

Board Members Excused: N/A

Commissioners Elect in Attendance: Ricardo Adams and Amy Maloy

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent, Terry Dade; Chief of Staff, Annmarie Lehner; Chief of Operations, Michael Schmidt; Chief of Specialized Services and Special Education, Kisha Morgan; General Counsel, Karl Kristoff; District Clerk Marisol O. Ramos-Lopez; Board Staff, Kallia Wade

President White convened the Committee of the Whole as a Special Meeting at 5:33 p.m. Minutes for the Special Meeting portion of the agenda are available on the District website.

I. Policy Committee of the Whole Meeting:

President White surrendered the rest of the meeting to Commissioner Sheppard as Chair of the Board's Policy Development and Review Committee.

Commissioner Sheppard called for a motion to approve the agenda for the September 3, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda made by Commissioner LeBron, seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0, with Commissioner Powell absent

Commissioner Powell arrived at 5:39pm

Commissioner Sheppard convened the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss Old Business Items—*Policy 6745: Authorization for Contracts* and *Policy 6630: Financial Reporting Resolutions* and to discuss the revisions needed to *Policy 1400: Code of Conduct*, *Policy 8100: Health and Safety*, and *Policy 9645: Whistleblower Policy* as new business.

Prior to discussing the “Old Business” items, Commissioner Sheppard indicated a

proposal to make the Board policies more readily accessible to students and families in the District. She proposed providing policy brochures and/or manuals to each school within the District. Commissioner Sheppard noted that in October she would be working on a brochure that would be going into schools to provide students and parents with a brief synopsis on steps to take to bring a policy for review and how to access the Board's policies. Commissioner Powell supported this inquiry and provided historical context for the provision of Board Policy books in schools in the past. Commissioner Sheppard requested that Board staff research the cost for establishing this and noted the intent for further follow-up to be taken on this proposal once more information has been provided in the October Policy Committee Meeting. Commissioner Lebron noted receiving a parent handbook in the mail and indicated that she would share this with commissioner Sheppard to see whether the two ideas could be aligned.

Update on Old Business (8/6/19 Meeting):

- **Policy 6745: Authorization for Contracts**
- **Policy 6630: Financial Reporting Resolutions**

General Counsel, Karl Kristoff addressed the Committee and provided updates to the *Authorization for Contracts Policy* and the *Financial Reporting Resolutions Policy*. Mr. Kristoff noted that a current study is being completed regarding these policies to inform the conversation considering whether the dollar value limits should be changed, by either lowering raising or raising. He advised that the data being pulled will look at several factors—i.e. what has been the historic trends on these contracts, and the rate of inflation over the years. He anticipates that this information would be available by the next policy committee meeting to inform decision making on any change to the policies.

New Business

Policy 1400: Code of Conduct.

Commissioner Sheppard started the conversation with a discussion on the revisions needed to *Policy 1400: Code of Conduct*. She noted that the Committee would not be diving into the policy in the current meeting, but requested that Mr. Kristoff provide an update to the Committee as it related to administration's review of the policy. General Counsel Kristoff noted that executive cabinet has begun its review of the policy. Mr. Kristoff then provided more detail about the material changes proposed by the School Climate Advisory Committee (SCAC), with which the Cabinet has been reviewing (i.e. length of long-term suspensions, banning of K-3 suspensions, possession of alcohol, disruption on school buses, misbehavior in hallways, and physical contact with personnel etc.). He noted his hope to have more specifics to the Policy Committee at the October meeting, particularly as it had to do with these areas of material change. Commissioners responded to Mr. Kristoff's feedback noting a need to know where the SCAC recommendations stood at this time. Mr. Kristoff provided follow-up, noting that it was these suggested changes to the Code that were being considered by Executive Cabinet and that the Cabinet's recommendations and feedback from principals and legal research would be presented to the Committee once their review was completed.

Commissioner Powell reminded to Committee that any changes to the policy would need to be presented for public input by way of a public hearing. She suggested that a side-by-side document be created to compare the original Code of Conduct language with that of the SCAC recommendations and Executive Cabinet's response. President White suggested that SCAC be provided with a copy of what's being done and indicated that the group be included in the deliberations to provide their input and insights. Superintendent Dade provided comment noting that the Administration's intent to include the SCAC and the public in its consideration of changes to the Code. He also reminded the Committee of the Administration's responsibility to look at the implications for any such changes (financial, implementation considerations, resources etc.) if these were to be moved forward at the school level. Commissioner Sheppard noted her desire to have SCAC at the next Policy Meetings with regard to the Code of Conduct

Action: Members of the SCAC to be invited to the next Policy Committee Meetings (that have to do with the Code of Conduct review) to participate in the adoption of any subsequent changes to the Code. Additionally, Board Staff and General Counsel to work to put together a document that presents a side-by-side of the suggested changes to the Code (the original document, SCAC recommendations and Exec Cab response/suggestions)

Policy 9645: Whistleblower Policy

Commissioner Sheppard noted that the administration still needs some time to review the *Policy 9645: Whistleblower Policy*. She asked that the review of these policy revisions be tabled to the October Meeting until more in depth conversations have been held with the Audit personnel. This additional time would also be beneficial to Commissioners who may want to suggest edits to the policy. Following up, General Counsel Kristoff noted for the record that the persons charged with a review of this policy (Chief of Human Capital Initiative Harry Kennedy and the Auditor General Anissa Henry Wheeler) have indicated that the policy on the books is sufficient and valid and have not recommended any changes. Additionally, Executive Cabinet has also stated its acceptance of the policy as is. However, there is some consideration for a potential Superintendent's regulation to be drafted to provide support to the policy as it stands. He also advised that a group has been tasked with the development of such a regulation to compliment the policy.

Policy 8100: Health and Safety Policy

Commissioner Sheppard presented the suggested changes to *Policy 8100: Health and Safety Policy*. General Counsel Kristoff noted the changes reviewed and advised that Executive Cabinet is satisfied with these changes. He concluded that Policy 8100 is now ready to be moved to the Board for consideration at the next Business meeting. Commissioner Sheppard called for a motion to move Policy 8100 to the September 26, 2019 Board Business Meeting as an information item.

Motion to move Policy 8100 to the September 26, 2019 Board Business Meeting as an information item made by Commissioner Hallmark, seconded by Commissioner Lebron. Motion carries 7-0.

II. Policy Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.