

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes
Policy Committee of the Whole
November 5, 2019
Minutes

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

Board Members Excused: Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Lebron

Commissioners Elect in Attendance: Ricardo Adams and Amy Maloy

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent, Terry Dade; East EPO Chief Finance Officer, Carleen Pierce; General Counsel, Karl Kristoff; Board Staff, Kallia Wade

Others in Attendance: Members of the Community Task Force on School Climate (CTF)—Iman Abid, Eamonn Scanlon, Barbara Van Kerkhove, and Lindsey Feigenbaum

President White convened the Special Meeting at 5:37 p.m.

I. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item: No speakers were present

II. Special Meeting Discussion Topics

Agenda Review: Review of the Resolutions to be presented at the November 7, 2019 Business Meeting

President White invited East EPO Chief Finance Officer, Carleen Pierce, to the table discuss the East EPO Resolutions to be discussed at the EPO Business Meeting. Ms. Pierce addressed the Committee's questions regarding the resolutions packet.

President White called for a rearranging of the agenda to allow for the presentation by the Community Task Force to be addressed before the remainder of the Special Meeting agenda items.

III. Policy Committee of the Whole Meeting:

President White surrendered the meeting to Commissioner Sheppard as Chair of the Board's Policy Development and Review Committee at 5:43PM. Commissioner Sheppard convened the Committee of the Whole meeting to host a presentation from

the Community Task Force and to discuss the proposed “Prohibited Suspension Policy”.

Community Task Force Presentation on “Becoming a Restorative District”

Commissioner Sheppard introduced the Community Task Force (CTF) as a coalition of community members committed to improving the climate of RCSD schools. She noted that the group’s collaborative efforts have helped secure the District’s new Code of Conduct, anti-racism professional development, increased usage of restorative practices, help zones, and other school climate initiatives. She also reminded the Policy Committee that members of the Task Force helped to form the School Climate Advisory Committee, which provided recommendations to the Board in September 2018 for updating the Code of Conduct—one of these recommendations was the removal of K-3 suspensions in District schools. The CTF led the Policy Committee through a PowerPoint Presentation noting the benefits to implementing a policy that would ban K-3 suspension and ultimately creating a restorative district. They also suggested an implementation timeline that would lead to a potential policy put in place effective August 2020.

The Commissioners posed questions regarding the implementation of this plan. General Counsel, Karl Kristoff, noted what it would take to change the Code of Conduct if this plan were to be considered. Mr. Kristoff indicated that any changes would require a public hearing to maintain community involvement, and a proposal sent to the Superintendent for comment or response. Superintendent Dade responded to inquiries about his process for review of the suggestion for a ban on K-3 suspensions. He noted that this would ideally involve a comprehensive look at changes to the Code, rather than pulling the policy out as a standalone item. He also noted the need to align with the budget and to confer with school leadership.

Proposed “Prohibited Suspension” Policy

Following the presentation and discussion, Commissioner Sheppard shared a draft of the “Prohibited Suspension” Policy. She noted that the intent in hosting the presentation and highlighting this potential policy was to introduce the proposal the Board and Superintendent. She also advised that the topic would remain on the Policy Committee agenda until such time that it could be addressed.

Action: Commissioner Sheppard to get back to the CTF in two weeks regarding what the group can expect as the Board considers the proposal.

Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of the September 3, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Hallmark to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2019 Policy Committee meeting. Seconded by President White. **Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Lebron absent.**

President White reconvened the Special Meeting at 6:26pm in order to hold discussions on the remainder of the meeting's agenda topics

IV. Draft Recommendation: Mission/ Vision

The Board Members, Superintendent Dade and General Counsel discussed the District's Mission and Vision and brainstormed and suggested changes to each statement.

Action: Board Staff, Kallia Wade to make updates to the Mission/Vision and to coordinate public input on the verbiage at the Family Engagement Day Event.

V. Board Self Evaluation Tool

The Board discussed the efficacy of using the super evaluation tool to evaluate the Superintendent and Board Meetings, and to establish Board goals.

Action: Board Staff to draft a resolution for consideration at the next Board Business Meeting to adopt the usage of the "SuperEval" for Board evaluation of the Superintendent

Prior to adjournment President White noted the upcoming Board retreat on 11/14 for the Commissioners featuring a book review of the text "10 Questions Every Board Member Should Know".

VI. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Hallmark, seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Motion carries 5-0** with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Lebron absent.