

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Board Governance Committee

July 28, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 3A

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioner Elliott (Chair), Commissioners Campos and Brennan, Board Staff: H. Washington

Chairwoman Elliott convened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Brennan arrived at 6:15 p.m.

I. Approval of April 14th and April 22nd Minutes

Motion to approve minutes for April 14th and April 22nd was made by Commissioner Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. **Adopted 2-0**

II. Board Consultant

Commissioner Elliott stated that Dr. Scott has withdrawn her interest in working for the Board as a consultant. She also said that the Board needs to look at the type of services that are needed from a consultant, such as assessing Board staff responsibilities, assessing Board needs, reconfiguration, goals, where do we see ourselves at, now. Commissioner Elliott would prefer to use a local consultant and suggested reviewing this at the Board retreat. Commissioner Campos suggested a request for proposal be sent so that companies can respond and that we need to determine the consultant's role. She suggested that we use the goals from the retreat to assist with the request for proposal. Commissioner Brennan stated that a local consultant may work well.

III. Board Retreat

The Committee reviewed the agenda items for the Board retreat scheduled for August 16th. The items to be discussed at the retreat are Board goals, Superintendent's goals, Superintendent's evaluation and a consultant request for proposal. Commissioner Campos suggested that we use the goals developed for the 2008-09 school year. Commissioner Elliott mentioned that in the past, we used the goals for the calendar year.

IV. Reconfiguration/Abolishment of Board Committees

Commissioner Brennan stated that he is not in favor of reconfiguring committees, but that we should abolish committees or keep the current structure. Commissioner Campos suggested that the Special Assistant research what other Boards are doing. Commissioner Elliott would like to add a personnel committee to review the numerous personnel items and noted that 3 quarters of our budget is spent on personnel. She pointed out that a personnel committee can address issues of recruitment, hiring, probation and accountability.

Commissioner Campos said that Boards work more effectively when they work together, working on the same item as a team, collaboratively and being open for the community.

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Commissioner Elliott said that Board goals will drive us, everyone has a voice, and that a committee of the whole almost always guarantees a quorum; but that we have to look at the implications on District Staff and Board Staff. Commissioner Brennan stated that committee appointments are political, that change is disruptive, that we need to take a look at how we utilize staff; smaller Board tend to support abolishing committees; that committees slow down the process and that there needs to be a faster track to get things done. The Special Assistant briefly discussed the City Council model. The Committee would like to have a special meeting of the Board of Education in September to discuss committee structures.

V. Superintendent's Evaluation

Commissioner Elliott mentioned that the Committee previously discussed meeting with the Superintendent on a quarterly basis to discuss his evaluation. Commissioner Brennan supports the idea of meeting with the Superintendent on a regular basis and believes that it will provide guidance for him. Commissioner Campos also supports having a regular dialogue with the Superintendent to discuss ideas and concerns. The Committee will work on updating the Board's goals and meeting with the Superintendent in mid to late October to discuss his evaluation.

VI. Committee Availability

The Committee briefly discussed the availability or lack thereof for Board members attending committee meetings. Commissioner Elliott suggested that Committee members be mindful of meeting dates and times.

Action Item

H. Washington will send out an e-mail requesting that the Board retreat be extended until 1 p.m.

H. Washington will ask Superintendent to bring his goals to the retreat.

H. Washington will follow up on the Gathering request.

H. Washington will reschedule the orientation session with the remaining unions.

H. Washington will set up meeting with the Board and Superintendent in mid to late Oct. to discuss evaluation.

H. Washington will set up a Special meeting for the Board to discuss Committees in September.

H. Washington will provide agenda for District with no committees.

H. Washington will check with CUBE and National School Boards Association on Committees.

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T. Brennan will forward research information on abolishing committees to H. Washington.

Motion to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. **Adopted 3-0**

VII. Next meeting date: August 25th @ 6:00 p.m.

Prepared by H. Washington