

Board Governance Committee

Meeting of March 28, 2006

Minutes

Meeting convened at 6:10 p.m. by Chairman Henley.

Present: Chairman Henley; Commissioners Brennan and Elliott; BOE staff Linda Dunsmoor; District staff Kim Dyce-Faucette.

Agenda Item 1: Board Retreat

Chairman Henley recommended that a resolution come before the full Board at the April 13 Business Meeting. The resolution, to be offered as part of the committee's report, will specify that the retreat be held on a Saturday morning at the Crowne Plaza (least expensive alternative) with a professional facilitator. Topics will include an examination of the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Board and Administration; policy development and enforcement; Commissioner missions/purposes; and group dynamics. Other topics to be identified by other members of the Board.

Action Item: Linda Dunsmoor to poll Board members re: Availability, draft resolution per committee members' discussion, and write memo for Chairman Henley to distribute to full BOE.

Agenda Item 2: Process for filling Board Vacancies

Members agreed that any future process should include the greater community. Commissioner Elliott noted that good Board/Community relations require that the community not be disrespected and feel like a part of the process. Commissioner Brennan cited Board member replacement processes used in Hilton and Greece; he will provide models to Chairman Henley. Commissioner Brennan said such a process did not necessarily have to be overly time-consuming and would limit the Board's exposure to criticism. Chairman Henley, who was appointed to fill a vacancy in February, said the process used in his selection was an emotional rollercoaster and needs improvement.

Action Item: Linda Dunsmoor to distribute Greece and Hilton models to committee members upon receipt and include for discussion/action for April 24, 2006 meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Televising of Board meetings

Commissioners agreed this is a good idea and will make it easier for the community to access Board meetings. Additional details will allow committee to craft recommendation to full Board at committee's April 24 meeting.

Action Item: Linda Dunsmoor will provide comparisons between Channels 12 and 15 regarding how the meetings would be broadcast through either or both outlets; specifics regarding cost; and any feedback information from Channel 15 regarding the recent Budget 2006-07 broadcast.

Agenda Item 4: Celebrations

Commissioners discussed the addition of "Celebrations" to Business Meetings. These would be brief (10-15 minutes total) presentations around student achievements and accomplishments. Chairman Henley cited the Edison students' recent trip to Biloxi, MS to help rebuild the community as an example. Consensus was that "Celebrations" a positive idea; Chairman Henley will include in committee's report to the full Board.

Under this agenda items, Commissioners also discussed the "user-friendliness" of Business Meetings. Commissioner Elliott wants to see full resolutions packets provided for the audience; perhaps 5-10 copies. Commissioners Brennan and Elliott would also like to see the 3-minute speaker time limit removed, noting that it can be restrictive to speakers. Commissioner Elliott cited the Town of Perinton meeting model.

Action Item: Linda Dunsmoor to check with Michael Looby on legality of whether personnel items included in resolution packet can be released publicly prior to Board action; provide packets at next Business Meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Roundtable

Commissioner Henley began with discussion that he has tried to have the current staff search process returned to the purview of the Board Governance Committee rather than the ad-hoc committee appointed at the March 16 Business Meeting. There is precedent for this action and Chairman Henley further questioned whether Ad Hoc committees are warranted in light of the standing committees of the Board.

Commissioner Elliott said a process used previously should not be ignored. She also questioned the President's decision to appoint the ad-hoc committee and asked what the role of the President is.

Commissioner Brennan said the president does have the authority to appoint an ad hoc committee but said the wisdom of doing so could be questioned. He also opined that the precedent cited for Board Governance doing the search for new staff is weak. He offered a compromise solution that the current ad hoc committee be open, with voting rights, to any Board member who wishes to take part. He will contact Commissioner Malik Evans on this matter.

Committee members agreed that processes have to be put into place and used; they also noted that the issue is the process (or lack of), not the people.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Elliott, second by Chairman Henley.