

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2018

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: President Van Henri White, Vice President Powell, Commissioner Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Melanie Funchess, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, Commissioner Beatriz LeBron, and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard.

Board Members Excused:

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Mascitti-Miller, Deputy Superintendent Cecilia Golden, General Counsel Karl Kristoff, Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

I. President White convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

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

III. Executive Session

Motion to go into executive session to discuss matters related to the discipline of a particular student was made by Commissioner LeBron and seconded by Commissioner Funchess at 6:05 p.m. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to reconvene in open session made by Commissioner Funchess and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 7:00 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

IV. Consideration of Resolutions

Motion to consider Resolution No. 2018-19: 476 made by Commissioner LeBron, seconded by Commissioner Funchess. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Commissioner Hallmark arrived at 7:15 p.m.

V. Discussion of Distinguished Educator Report and Recommendations

President White opened discussion of the topic by stating that he disagreed with some of the findings and recommendations presented in the report submitted to the Board by the Distinguished Educator, Dr. Jaime Aquino. He expressed disagreement with Dr. Aquino's characterization of the Board's roles and responsibilities. President White referenced Education Law, underscoring the point the word "policymaker" never appears in the enabling statute, whereas the word "management" appears five (5) times in the statute. In discussing the roles and responsibilities of the Board, President White discussed recent efforts of the Board to implement programming and initiatives to better the academic and

operational effectiveness of the District.

Commissioner LeBron referenced the Board's dependency on the National School Board Association (NSBA) for resources and best practices, and stated that NSBA defines the most important school board responsibilities as employing the superintendent, developing and adopting curriculum and the budget, overseeing facilities issues, and adopting collective bargaining unit agreements. She added that a Board is a governing body, not one that is involved in the management in the organization. Commissioner LeBron also stated that the Board has several policies that are not complied with throughout the organization.

Commissioner Elliott noted that Board members should be equipped with a skill set in organizational management. She further explained that Board members do not receive information in a timely manner, in a format that is not easily understood, or that is responsive to the needs of the Rochester community. Dr. Aquino responded, noting that the concern was referenced in his report and the Board should hold the Superintendent accountable for the information that should be provided to the Board.

Commissioner Elliott asked that Dr. Aquino comment on her concern that the Board needs additional staff to address the Board's legislative and financial needs. Dr. Aquino stated that Boards throughout the country typically have a minimal number of staff members, or in most cases none at all. He added that the Board's need for additional staff could be reflective of the need to hold the superintendent accountable for delivering requested information to the Board in a useful format and in a timely manner.

Members of the Board reviewed and commented on the draft action plan (Plan) addressing the corrective actions and responses to the governance and leadership recommendations presented in the Distinguished Educator's report that was presented by District Clerk, Dr. Shanai Lee.

Based on the Board review and comment on the proposed Plan, the Plan was amended to present the recommendations in their entirety on the plan. Also, several amendments were made to elaborate on specific action items presented in the proposed Plan. The proposed plan is presented as Appendix A.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a particular person was made by Commissioner LeBron and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark at 10:00 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to reconvene in open session made by Commissioner Funchess and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 10:10 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.