

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2018

## Minutes

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

**Board Members Excused:** Vice President Powell

**Administration and Board Officers in Attendance:** Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams, Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Mascitti-Miller, Deputy Superintendent Cecilia Golden, General Counsel Karl Kristoff, Associate Counsel Steve Carling and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

**I.** President White convened the meeting at 5:35 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 employment of a particular person and matters related to a particular vendor (corporation) was made by Commissioner Funchess and seconded by Commissioner Elliott at 6:40 p.m. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Powell and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

Commissioner Hallmark arrived at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to reconvene in open session made by Commissioner Funchess and seconded by Commissioner LeBron at 7:10 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Powell absent.

**IV. Discussion of Board Goals**

Commissioner Hallmark opened discussion on the Board's goals for the 2018/2019 year by noting that the District's goals are typically set in July, and the Superintendent's goals are addressed during the process of annually evaluating the Superintendent. She added that high-functioning boards set and assess goals annually. In referring to the goals that were established by Resolution No. 2017-18: 736 (adopted on March 29, 2018), Commissioner Hallmark suggested that the Board discuss and review the goals that had previously been set.

Commissioner Elliott suggested that the Board first explore the individual ideologies of education of Board members, before attempting to establish goals. Commissioner Hallmark agreed with the statement. Commissioner Funchess suggested that members of the Board make an effort to socialize around the personal values on education. Commissioner LeBron agreed with the need to learn the ideologies of individuals, and added the structural deficit should be addressed in developing the goals. She also asserted

that the report of Distinguished Educator Jaime Aquino be considered before the goals are established. President White agreed noting that Dr. Aquino report assessing the District academic and operational programming will address key points such as the need to address the structural deficit and curriculum. Commissioner Hallmark stated that the curriculum is generally something the Board asks the Superintendent to select. Dr. Lee responded noting that per Education Law §2554, the Board is responsible for authorizing general courses of study for schools and approving the content of such. Commissioner Funchess suggested the Board discuss the general parameters we wish to see in a curriculum so that our direction to the Superintendent is consistent and offers clearer guidance to her.

President White stated that the Board's effort to agree on common goals is a team building exercise in itself. Commissioner Funchess added that the establishment of common values will assist in goal-setting and decision-making. Commissioner Sheppard agreed, noting that the Board should consider maintaining the following goal for the 2018/2019 year: "Set priorities for the Board's legislative agenda for needed advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels." Members of the Board agreed to develop a values statement through informal meetings. In addition to establishing a values statement, the Board agreed to pursue the following goals for the 2018/2019 year:

- Address the standing committee structure of the Board
- Address the District's structural deficit
- Establish parameters for curriculum
- Set a legislative agenda for needed advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels

President White invited Rev. Judith Davis to comment on the suggested goals for the Board. Rev. Davis noted that the suggested goals are positioned as objectives, and she looks forward to further discussion on how they will be operationalized.

**ACTION ITEM:** President White asked Dr. Lee to poll members of the Board for availability for a retreat on either Thursday, November 1, 2018 or Friday, November 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. (a meeting location will be determined).

**V. Meeting adjourned** at 8:00 p.m.