

SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY
NOMINATING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

KC WRIGHT ADMINISTRATION CENTER
BOARD ROOM
600 SE 3RD AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025
10:31 A.M. - 10:52 A.M.

Court Reporter:
Timothy R. Bass, Stenographic Reporter
Bass Reporting Service, Inc.
633 South Andrews Avenue, Suite 500
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

2 MS. PHYLLIS SHAW
MR. ANTHONY DE MEO, CPA
3 MS. MARY FERTIG

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5 DISTRICT STAFF:

6 MR. DAVE RHODES, Chief Auditor
MS. ALI ARCESE, Audit Director
MS. JENNIFER HARPALANI, Assistant Director IT Audits
7 MS. NAKIA GOULDBOURNE, Acting Manager, Internal Accounts
MR. GABRIEL CARVAJAL, Manager Property & Inventory
8 Control
MR. BRYAN ERHARD, System Support Specialist II
9 MR. DEREK TILLMAN, Executive Secretary
MS. OCTAVIA ALLEN-HARDAWAY, Clerk Spec C

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11 INVITED GUESTS:

12 MR. TIM BASS, Court Reporter, United Reporting

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14 PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

15 DR. NATHALIE LYNCH-WALSH

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1 Thereupon, the following proceedings were had:

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3 MR. RHODES: We are about to begin the Audit
4 Committee Nominating Sub-Committee Meeting, which
5 is going to include the sub-committee of Ms. Mary
6 Fertig, Mr. Phyllis Shaw and Mr. Anthony De Meo,
7 so that we can essentially establish the
8 requirements of the slate to make that nominating
9 process happen. I'm gonna try to do a lot less
10 butchering and a lot more of following my script
11 here than what happened last year. It was
12 horrifying.

13 So, at any rate, the -- with that information
14 being shared, I'd like us to stand for the Pledge
15 of Allegiance.

16 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

17 MR. RHODES: So as the chief auditor I'm the
18 Chair Pro Temp just temporarily until the meeting
19 officers are elected. So what I would like to do
20 is, with regard to the members that are
21 participating in this, I'm going to go ahead and
22 do a roll call.

23 Mary Fertig?

24 MS. FERTIG: Here.

25 MR. RHODES: Phyllis Shaw?

1 MS. SHAW: Here.

2 MR. RHODES: Anthony De Meo?

3 MR. DE MEO: Here.

4 MR. RHODES: Okay. And so with all those
5 committee members present we can go ahead and
6 move on to verify public participation. Are
7 there any public speakers that would like to talk
8 to this item?

9 We have Ms. Nathalie Lynch-Walsh.

10 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Hello. Dr. Nathalie
11 Lynch-Walsh, your duly elected chair until you
12 elect a new one. So had -- had I not gotten that
13 little letter from the superintendent, who wrote
14 a letter knowing that everything he was basing it
15 on was, what are those words, misleading,
16 inaccurate and, therefore, untrue, I would be
17 telling you that I was interested in being chair
18 again. But strictly speaking, so as to not to
19 get staff and because it causes confusion I'm not
20 eligible to be nominated. As chair, it's
21 important for the audit committee to be as
22 independent as possible, free from influence as
23 much as possible. The 10 years I've been on
24 audit I was always willing to be bad cop so that
25 people who were more, let's say

1 politically-inclined were comfortable to be good
2 cop. I never had to play good cop, maybe on rare
3 occasion. And that's okay. Somebody has to be
4 bad cop. I'm not expecting the next chair of the
5 audit committee to be bad cop because that's not
6 most people. But you do want as independent cop
7 as possible, because within a week of me getting
8 that letter a board member tried to fire the
9 chief auditor. And they had to move the item,
10 discuss -- and his evaluation was discussed in
11 public. It was the one of the craziest things
12 I've ever seen and I was here for all the
13 meeting. I was here last week or the week
14 before, time's flying, they moved the action plan
15 to another workshop. So it's not over. They
16 could still come for him. I had to write a
17 matrix that explained that much of the criticism,
18 if you had let's say six bullets, five of them
19 that were criticisms were actually threats to his
20 independence. And that kind of calmed people
21 down that were going after him for things that
22 were actually threats to independence.

23 So it's important -- and another thing that I
24 pointed out a few minutes ago, and I don't know
25 where the timer is so I can't keep track of

1 myself, but the -- this committee membership
2 hasn't changed. The chief auditor used to report
3 to the superintendent. So it probably made sense
4 to have a superintendent appointee on this
5 committee. It doesn't make sense anymore if
6 you're trying to be independent. And notice that
7 the impact of removing me made the
8 superintendent's appointee, and this is not about
9 the person in the seat, it's about the seat
10 itself, the superintendent's attendee became the
11 chair. A position that shouldn't even be here
12 cannot be a position eligible to be chair, much
13 less be on the committee, but right now that
14 would require a change to the bylaws. But at the
15 very least you need to consider that. Based on
16 what's happened at the committee as a whole you
17 also need to be qualified to understand the
18 things that are on the agenda, should be on the
19 agenda.

20 MR. RHODES: 30 seconds, please.

21 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So, if I were making a
22 recommendation, my recommendation for chair, I
23 don't have one for vice chair, but for chair if
24 he's willing would be Mr. Medvin unless Mr. De
25 Meo or Ms. Shaw are interested. Thank you. I

1 would say Mr. Naylor, but I think he's still in
2 his -- this is his second year? So you need to
3 be a little, I think, more seasoned. Maybe vice
4 chair. Thank you.

5 MR. RHODES: Thank you. I apologize, we
6 didn't start the clock so I did my best to kind
7 of pull that, reign that back in time-wise.

8 So with regard to why we are here today,
9 we're here according to Article IV of the audit
10 committee bylaws to elect a chair and a vice
11 chair for the upcoming year. The nominating
12 committee presents a slate of candidates to be
13 voted on the full committee meeting and the
14 nominations will also be allowed from the floor
15 at that time.

16 So what we would like to do moving forward is
17 have the three members select one of themselves
18 to serve as chair of the nominating committee.
19 This person will present the recommendations of
20 the full audit committee, so we need a chair
21 between the three of you to kind of run this part
22 of the meeting. And we have a nomination for
23 Mary, do we have a second?

24 MR. DE MEO: I second it.

25 MR. RHODES: Okay. It's been nominated by

1 Mrs. Shaw and it's been seconded by Mr. De Meo.
2 Welcome to this short-lived chairship. And let's
3 see what we're going to do next here.

4 So the nominating committee should discuss a
5 chair for the audit committee and a vice chair
6 for the audit committee. The deliberation and
7 discussion, allow comments from non-committee
8 members, if desired, especially for transparency
9 and to ensure all viewpoints and views are heard
10 respectfully.

11 So if you guys would like to have that
12 discussion and deliberation?

13 MS. FERTIG: Okay. Are there any comments or
14 do you have a nomination?

15 MS. SHAW: I do.

16 MS. FERTIG: Yes.

17 MS. SHAW: I would like to nominate Anthony
18 De Meo as chair.

19 MR. DE MEO: Thank you. I am honored, but as
20 I have indicated in the past I don't think I
21 could serve the committee in that capacity.

22 MS. FERTIG: So you're declining?

23 MR. DE MEO: I decline.

24 MS. FERTIG: Okay. All right. Do you have
25 another one?

1 MR. DE MEO: Mary.

2 Well, I think this time it's your turn,
3 Phyllis. I nominate Phyllis.

4 MS. FERTIG: Okay.

5 MS. SHAW: I decline.

6 MR. DE MEO: Then it's you, Mary.

7 MS. FERTIG: Well, it could be me or we could
8 nominate someone else.

9 MR. DE MEO: I'm good with you. Or Andrew's
10 not here; is he?

11 MR. RHODES: No, he is gone today, but I
12 don't think that there is anything that would
13 prohibit us from nominating him except for that
14 he may not be here if he wants to decline.

15 MR. DE MEO: All right. I nominate Mary.

16 MS. SHAW: I second Andrew.

17 MS. FERTIG: All right. She's seconding
18 Andrew.

19 MR. DE MEO: No, I nominated you.

20 MS. FERTIG: Oh, okay. Let me consult with
21 my friend. Oh, we can't do that.

22 MS. SHAW: I'll second it.

23 MS. FERTIG: No, I was just going to ask,
24 I -- okay. All right. I will -- I will -- I'm
25 speechless, Dave. So, okay. I'll move ahead

1 with that until we get into the real meeting, but
2 we need a vice chair.

3 MR. RHODES: So that was moved by De Meo
4 seconded by Shaw? Okay.

5 MR. DE MEO: So we've had Andrew. Bob, were
6 you chair?

7 MS. FERTIG: Bob was chair.

8 MR. DE MEO: Bob was chair most recently,
9 right, before?

10 MS. FERTIG: No, he was -- Bob -- let me just
11 go over the history because I just kind of was --
12 Bob was chair for three years. The committee was
13 debating whether to make that three years, four
14 years, two years, no years, whatever, and so we
15 were left in a quandary at that point. Right
16 after that -- right after that election it went
17 to four years. But it's been two, three years
18 since Bob did it, so he's eligible anyways, I
19 think.

20 MR. DE MEO: What are rules, one year now?

21 MS. FERTIG: No.

22 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Four, plus two. Yeah, so
23 Medvin was right before me. I actually cut him
24 short. I served for two years. Medvin, I think,
25 only had one.

1 MR. DE MEO: So how --

2 MS. FERTIG: So it's been three years since
3 Bob was chair.

4 MR. DE MEO: So how can somebody be removed?
5 Every year you can change it? If it's a
6 four-year term, I don't --

7 MS. FERTIG: No, it's not. It's a one-year
8 term. It's a one-year term.

9 MR. DE MEO: It's a one-year term; okay. So
10 Andrew, Ms. Shaw has not been, she doesn't want
11 to do it. So I would say Andrew or Bob should be
12 vice chair. I think --

13 MS. FERTIG: Oh, okay. Well, I'm going to
14 nominate Phyllis for vice chair.

15 MR. DE MEO: Oh, okay. That's good.

16 MS. FERTIG: Is that okay?

17 MS. SHAW: That's fine.

18 MR. DE MEO: I'll second it.

19 MS. FERTIG: Of course you could end up being
20 chair if I quit.

21 All right. So Phyllis is on for vice chair.

22 MR. DE MEO: Yeah.

23 MS. FERTIG: And do we want to vote on this?

24 MR. DE MEO: Yeah. Okay. I vote.

25 MS. FERTIG: Okay. So the slate would be I

1 would be chair and Phyllis would be vice chair.

2 MR. DE MEO: One other think I want to
3 discuss. I like the idea of succession.

4 MS. FERTIG: Yeah.

5 MR. DE MEO: Okay? I think the chair should
6 have two years. About two years. Four years, I
7 don't know. Two years, okay. And then who would
8 step up after that? You know, and I think we've
9 had Andrew has been around, Bob -- so I think we
10 should -- if Ms. Shaw is not going to succeed to
11 the chair, then I think we should, I would
12 consider Andrew or Bob for the next chair. If
13 we're still around. If I'm still around, you
14 know.

15 MR. RHODES: Well, we're asking about this
16 year.

17 MR. DE MEO: Yeah, we don't have to vote on
18 that right now.

19 MR. RHODES: So what we have right now is a
20 motion and a second for Mary Fertig to be the
21 chair and a nomination and a second for Ms. Shaw
22 to be the vice chair; correct?

23 MS. FERTIG: Yes.

24 MR. RHODES: Okay. And so is there any
25 further deliberation to ensure that all points of

1 view are heard respectfully?

2 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: There's a motion. When you
3 get a motion you get public comment.

4 MR. RHODES: Yeah, I apologize. Public
5 comment on the motion?

6 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: So I'm not in favor of
7 this. I think I made clear why. Much ado has
8 been made by a couple of board members about new
9 leadership. This would not be new leadership.
10 But I'm more interested in independent
11 leadership. And then if we're concerned about
12 succession, Mr. Naylor would be the next person.
13 So if we were looking for a vice chair,
14 otherwise, we're just circling round, and round,
15 and round.

16 This committee, of all the committees, has to
17 maintain its independence, not just in appearance
18 but in fact. It is not the committee that goes
19 along to get along. And it is the audit
20 committee. I do not expect everybody to do as
21 much work as I did to make sure that you have all
22 of the facts necessary to make sound decisions,
23 but my background is in accounting. I have
24 taught auditing. I have been an accountant. I
25 just don't use CPA after my name because I can't

1 do so legally for a very complex reason. But,
2 anyway, that's what you should have. There are
3 districts that their entire audit committee is
4 nothing but CPAs. I don't think that's necessary
5 because we look at things other than financial
6 statements, but, again, it -- they are supposed
7 to work with the chief auditor to make sure that
8 you have everything. And so the reason I
9 recommended Mr. Medvin is he has been more vocal.
10 Like I said, we don't need somebody that's going
11 to be suddenly bad cop, but they at least need to
12 be independent cop. And that -- Mr. De Meo, just
13 as predicted, didn't want it. Ms. Shaw didn't
14 want it. You might as well pick Mr. Naylor,
15 because I think as an accountant he tends to look
16 at facts and is more willing to be vocal.

17 So if you -- and Mr. Medvin's name was
18 brought up, but I don't hear him on the slate.
19 You would need to check with him to see if he
20 accepts or rejects. You don't have to rush into
21 a decision. I think we had the elections last
22 year in September. You don't have to do it at
23 the next meeting. There are some times where the
24 rule is you have to have the slate out for 30
25 days. I don't know if that's the rule here. We

1 haven't been doing it that way. But there is no
2 need to rush. This is the audit committee, you
3 want to get this right.

4 MR. RHODES: 30 seconds, please.

5 DR. LYNCH-WALSH: Okay. So you may -- and
6 succession planning we're just cycling back
7 again. And where does Mr. Naylor -- I mean, he
8 hasn't said whether he accepts or rejects, but he
9 would be the next most -- ironically, the next
10 most senior person after the people that
11 rejected. And Mary has been chair multiple times
12 and has the Parent Community Involvement Task
13 Force. This is the audit committee, the audit
14 committee.

15 MR. RHODES: Thank you. Is there any
16 additional discussion about whether or not we
17 would like to pause the process and reconvene to
18 determine whether or not Mr. Medvin is interested
19 in any of this from the committee members?

20 MR. DE MEO: No, I think -- I think we've
21 indicated our choice.

22 I will respond to the public speaker with
23 regard to the audit committee members' rolls.
24 We're appointed by political people. That's what
25 they are, nonpartisan, whatever, they're

1 political people, they're commissioners, for one
2 year. Typically, this kind of committee and
3 boards that make decisions need to be independent
4 and do so by giving their members terms that are
5 four, five years, supreme court justices, we're
6 not supreme court justices, lifetime.

7 So it is partially our responsibility to
8 reflect where it is reasonable and makes sense
9 the wishes of our appointed official. That's
10 just part of the reality of this board.

11 Now, it's our duty to discern whether or not
12 their opinions and what they're asking is
13 sensible, or reasonable, or right, but,
14 nonetheless, that's -- that's the reality of the
15 situation.

16 MR. RHODES: Well, my comment is that, based
17 on some of the apprehension that I've heard with
18 regard to a couple of the chair nominations and
19 then even the vice chair nomination, I simply
20 wanted to ask that question to make sure whether
21 or not we would be moving forward prematurely.
22 But these three committee members have spoken and
23 so what I'm seeing right now is that we have a
24 nomination for Mary Fertig as chair and Phyllis
25 Shaw as vice chair. And so we need to make that

1 vote to determine whether or not that's the slate
2 that's going to go to the beginning of the
3 upcoming Audit Committee Meeting that is ready to
4 start at any time.

5 MS. FERTIG: I didn't come here thinking this
6 was the way it was going to go. I'm happy to do
7 it. I was chair. It's been probably eight to 10
8 years since then. And regardless of how this
9 goes I like to think of myself as independent.
10 Most people think that that's probably a mild
11 word. So I would just say, can we all vote?

12 MR. RHODES: So all in favor of that slate
13 say aye.

14 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

15 MR. RHODES: Okay. All opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. RHODES: Okay. So the slate that will go
18 to the audit committee will be Mary Fertig as the
19 chair and Phyllis Shaw as the vice chair for that
20 motion.

21 Now, we'll -- let's see. We had three votes
22 to zero on that.

23 All right. And so with that I can go ahead
24 and make a motion to adjourn so that we can take
25 this information to the audit committee meeting

1 coming up.

2 Is there anything historically that you guys
3 know of that I may have forgotten in this
4 process? Because I have done everything that I
5 could do to get it corrected from last year, but
6 is there anything that was left out that you can
7 see or any steps?

8 MR. DE MEO: Well, Mr. Naylor has his hand
9 raised there.

10 MR. RHODES: I didn't see that. I apologize.

11 MR. NAYLOR: That's fine. I was going to
12 make a motion to close the nominations and then
13 my next question was, do we have a quorum; just
14 to make sure.

15 MR. RHODES: What was the second part?

16 MR. NAYLOR: Do we have a quorum?

17 MS. FERTIG: We have a quorum of the
18 nominating committee. And that is what we're
19 closing. All right. So I'm just gonna -- just
20 to make this clear, Dave, I'm just going to take
21 over the conversation here and say, is there any
22 further discussion?

23 (No response.)

24 MS. FERTIG: If not, all in favor of the
25 slate?

1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

2 MS. FERTIG: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. FERTIG: Motion carries.

5 Is there any further business?

6 MR. DE MEO: No.

7 MS. FERTIG: Meeting adjourned.

8 MR. RHODES: Okay. And with regard to the
9 quorum question, I'm going to take that as what
10 is meant for the -- let me see, the actual audit
11 committee meeting and what -- we have some
12 vacancies and what the bylaws and ultimately the
13 policies say is that we base quorum off of the
14 number of people who are here and we discount the
15 vacancies.

16 So what we need today, based on having three
17 vacancies, we need to have five members present
18 in order for us to have a quorum today, and it
19 looks like we're going to have that.

20 Okay. We're going to take a very brief
21 recess so that we can transition because these
22 couple of meetings have run over. And while
23 that's happening I'm going to take a quick break
24 at which point Mr. Bass is off of the hot seat if
25 he needs to take a break, too.

(Meeting was concluded at 10:52 a.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF BROWARD

I, Timothy R. Bass, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large, hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings, and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes thereof.

Dated this 19th day of August, 2025, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida.



TIMOTHY R. BASS
Court Reporter



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