

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

March 16, 2017 –5:30pm

Fisher Building
3011 W. Grand Boulevard, 12th Floor
Detroit, MI 48207

MINUTES

Call to Order

The Special Board Meeting of the Board of Education of the Detroit Public Schools Community District was called to order by President Taylor at 5:33pm.

Meeting Norms

Meeting Norms were read by the President

Roll Call

Secretary of the Board, Karen Morgan called the roll:

Present: Deborah Hunter-Harvill (via phone), Georgia Lemmons, LaMar Lemmons, Sonya Mays, Angelique Peterson-Mayberry, Misha Stallworth, and Iris Taylor

There being a quorum present, the meeting was declared in session.

*present after roll call

Call for Special Board Meeting

Secretary of the Board Karen Morgan read the following statement:

I, Karen Morgan, Secretary to the Detroit Public Schools Community District Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing Notice of the Special Board of Education Meeting was delivered to each Board of Education Member on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, pursuant to its applicable statute.

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Approval of Agenda

Member L. Lemmons moved to approve the Agenda

Member Hunter-Harvill seconded

Motion carried without objection

Closed Session

Chair motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to MCL 15.268 (8)(f) to review and consider the contents of applications for employment upon request by the applicants that the application remain confidential.

Chair further stated Ray and Associates screened 75 applicants for the Superintendent position of DPSCD based upon the criteria. Out of the 75 applicants 12 met the criteria for consideration as screened by the firm. The 12 applicants had requested confidentiality as it relates to the review of their applications. The Board will respect the request for confidentiality during the review process only. Consistent with the Open Meetings Act the Board will conduct all interviews of candidates in an open meeting.

Member L. Lemmons moved to go into Closed Session

Treasurer Mays supported

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry made it clear that the Board would only be reviewing videos with no engagement with applicants.

Roll Call for Closed Session

Deborah Hunter-Harvill	Yes
Georgia Lemmons	Yes
LaMar Lemmons	Yes
Sonya Mays	Not Present
Angelique Peterson-Mayberry	Yes
Misha Stallworth	Yes
Iris Taylor	Yes

Members moved to Closed Session at 5:40 pm

Members returned from Closed Session at 8:57 pm

Secretary Stallworth moved to come out of Closed Session

Member L. Lemmons seconded

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Motion carried without objection

Chair stated the Board reviewed the applications of the individuals that were presented and opened the floor for discussion around those reviewed as needed accordingly.

Member L. Lemmons moved that the Board include candidates numbered 3 and 10 as they appear to be superiorly qualified for the process.

Treasurer Mays supported

Motion carried without objection

Remainder of the discussion will be around Candidates 5, 6, and 7.

Member L. Lemmons moved that the Board limit those bringing forward to 3 candidates as suggested by the firm.

Member G. Lemmons seconded

Treasurer Mays objected stating that there is some confusion over what the qualifications were for selecting candidates.

Ray and Associates explained the process and criteria as follows:

The Board had approved the criteria based upon input by the public and individual Board meetings. The criteria once approved was placed on a flyer and included in advertisement. Candidates were screened based on the criteria and not only recruiting but evaluating the candidates brought to the Board. The narrowing down of the candidates brought to you was based upon the criteria: experience, education, previous employment, and positions held throughout their career.

Member L. Lemmons asked was part of the criteria superintendent experience and how long was the length of experience.

The firm stated they had to have superintendent experience but not only superintendent but other educational experience but superintendent was top priority.

Member L. Lemmons asked if having experience as a principal was part of the criteria.

The firm stated teacher, principal, central office experience but not just experience but a variety of experience in different places so they can bring that expertise.

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Vice President Peterson-Mayberry asked the firm what was the length of experience as a superintendent.

The firm stated, this is a very large operation and district. They passed over candidates that had a year because it was not a breath of experience for DPSCD. The candidate would have to have had some experience as a superintendent for at least 3 or 4 years. If they were a deputy superintendent for a long period of time or previous experience as an administrator in another district that is a breath of experience. If you put it all together here and there you are ready to lead. They felt the District could not gamble on a short amount of experience.

Treasurer Mays asked the firm if guidance from the board was given on the judgements made on what was an acceptable duration as Superintendent.

The firm stated in communication with the Board's consultant in regards to the superintendent flyer where it had the requirements. The firm questioned that because there may be people out there with a doctorate that may be more qualified than one without. So, it was determined if we said comparable experience is the same as the length of experience and broke it down to those who fit that experience.

Member L. Lemmons also mentioned information was gathered from the questionnaires that were completed by Board members.

Treasurer Mays asked was guidelines of experience under PA 192 taken into consideration.

The firm stated yes from conversations with the District's own counsel, other attorneys, and as well as the State Department of Education. The firm is very confident in their decision.

Roll Call on the Motion to limit candidates to 3

Deborah Hunter-Harvill	Yes	
Georgia Lemmons	Yes	
LaMar Lemmons	Yes	
Sonya Mays	No	
Angelique Peterson-Mayberry		Yes
Misha Stallworth	No	
Iris Taylor	No	

Motion carried

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The scope of the next round has been limited to three (3) candidates.

Treasurer Mays moved to include a candidate that is not on the list.

Secretary Stallworth seconded

Member L. Lemmons stated to bring a candidate who is not on the list is to deliberately undermine and subvert the process that we were given and it is to cheat all those others who have went through the process and who applied for a job and can potentially even open us up for litigation. It shows that we set criteria and if we don't like the outcome of the criteria, we simply change the rules. We set the criteria, we move with it and we have spent considerable time and expense from the firm and now we don't like what the outcome is and we say let's bring somebody else in who did not meet the criteria and subvert those who have.

Member Hunter-Harvill stated the statue connects to the candidates that we selected stating she wants to be ethical and when you follow the process you will get the best results for the kids.

Chair stated the Board needs to decide and consider political correctness, being ethical, integrity and the like. We need to make a decision are we going to stick with this component at this point and time or are we going to struggle and come to a consensus about what the intent was and the language for the criteria.

Member Hunter-Harvill stated looking at the timeline the Board is on point and should continue with the process.

Member Stallworth stated that although she appreciated the colorful language that was presented it is not about an effort to cheat it is again an issue of the process itself.

Vice President Peterson-Mayberry noted there were numerous conversations with the Board before the firm moved forward so there were opportunities for issues or concerns to have been addressed at that time. Every meeting the timeline was read prior to moving forward. As committee chair she was never asked by the firm about the timeframe as superintendent for the superintendent candidates.

Member L. Lemmons commended the firm on a stellar job noting that now we are trying to include some other subjective criteria based on not liking what has happened. It is unethical and a poor reflection on this body. We've come to this part, we have a timeline and now we are trying to subvert our very timeline that we presented to our contractors.

Roll Call on the Motion to bring a candidate who is not on the list

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Deborah Hunter-Harvill	No
Georgia Lemmons	No
LaMar Lemmons	No
Sonya Mays	Yes
Angelique Peterson-Mayberry	No
Misha Stallworth	No
Iris Taylor	Abstain

Motion not carried

Candidates Numbers 5, 6, and 7 remained.

Secretary Stallworth moved to eliminate Candidate #5 from the list
VP Peterson-Mayberry seconded
Secretary Stallworth removed the motion

Member L. Lemmons moved to eliminate Candidate #6.
Treasurer Mays supported
One objection
Motion carried

Treasurer Mays moved to give the final spot to Candidate #7.
Vice President Peterson-Mayberry supported

Roll Call Vote

Deborah Hunter-Harvill	Yes
Georgia Lemmons	Yes
LaMar Lemmons	Yes
Sonya Mays	Yes
Angelique Peterson-Mayberry	Yes
Misha Stallworth	Yes
Iris Taylor	Yes

Motion carried without objection

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The three (3) candidates the Board will be interviewing for Superintendent of DPSCD are Candidate #10, #3, and #7. Pending notification to those candidates within 24 hours or less the names of the candidates will be made public.

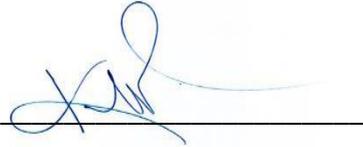
Chair will work with the consultants on the interview schedule.

Public Comments

No Comments

Chair motioned for adjournment

No objections Meeting adjourned at 9:56pm



Certified:

Karen Morgan, B.S.B.M

Secretary of the Board