

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 *[Corrected]*

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AD HOC COMMITTEE OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS MALES OF COLOR OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held December 11, 2018, at Bridgeport City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were members Joseph Sokolovic, Sauda Baraka, JoAnn Kennedy and Tekanya Monteiro.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to approve the minutes of November 27, 2018. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monteiro. Edits were noted. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sokolovic moved to hold a forum on May 16th from 4:00 to 6:00, at Harding High School. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monteiro and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on males of color programs at high schools. Ms. Baraka said Mr. Ramos's programs were up and running at Harding.

Ms. Kennedy said she gave a heads-up to Mr. Brockenberry, Mr. Channer and Dr. Dan at Bassick about the committee's work in mentoring programs.

Ms. Monteiro said Ms. McPherson is the liaison to the committee from Central High. Ms. Baraka said Central is engaged in efforts, but they haven't communicated it to the committee.

It was noted that since Mr. Hanaif does a private mentoring program for students in the district a separate liaison is needed from Bassick.

Discussion revealed this year's forum would be largely aimed at educators. Ms. Baraka said the theme of the committee this year was mentoring.

Ms. Monteiro said she did not have further information on background checks regarding mentors. Mr. Sokolovic noted the School Volunteer Office was on the list of cuts, which he was in opposition to. Mr. Sokolovic said he would e-mail Dr. Johnson about the background check issue.

Ms. Monteiro said the Buddy Jordan Foundation asked if they needed a certificate of insurance to hold a program at Batalla. Ms. Baraka said if he was a district event, it would be covered by the district's insurance. Ms. Monteiro said the foundation was spending around \$12,000 on the program.

Ms. Monteiro said she and Ms. Noel would be coordinating the mentoring programs at the committee level. She noted the field trip funded by the foundation may not be financially feasible. Ms. Baraka said fundraising for it could take place through the district's foundation.

Ms. Baraka said the committee should be looking at fundraising for things such as forums, the field trip or mentoring efforts.

There was a discussion of how to handle scheduling and breakout sessions at the next forum. Ms. Baraka said the forum would be held earlier than the last one so it would be

more appealing for teachers. It was suggested there be an evaluation form for attendees to fill out.

There was a discussion of the flyers for the mentoring program and the forum. Ms. Baraka said that could be handled on the next agenda.

It was suggested workshops cover the mentoring themes. Ms. Monteiro said having parents speak about the positive results that mentoring had on their children would be effective. Ms. Baraka said the teen fathers program could be covered in another workshop. Ms. Monteiro and Mr. Sokolovic suggested a workshop on the benefits of mentoring, backed up by data. Another proposed workshop would cover Mr. Ramos's programs at Harding.

There was a discussion of the timing of the forum, including food, opening ceremony, workshops, the keynote speaker (Sheena Graham, Connecticut Teacher of the Year) and filling out a survey at the end.

Ms. Monteiro said the mentoring programming efforts had focused on Grades 5 to 8, but the question would probably come up about mentoring younger children. Ms. Baraka said the effort had to be explained districtwide because the committee could not do it all.

Ms. Baraka said she would send the outline of the proposed forum format to the committee members and it could be looked at in the meeting in January.

Mr. Sokolovic moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monteiro and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

*Approved by the committee on January 8, 2019.*