

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

MINUTES OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS
– MALES OF COLOR OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF
EDUCATION, held November 28, 2017, at City Hall, 45 Lyon
Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Present were Sauda Baraka, Joseph Sokolovic, Natasha Noel,
Tekanya Monteiro, Dr. Sheila Kearney and Terry Walden

Concerning the first item, the second public forum, Ms. Noel said we want to make sure the forum will be as good as the first one. She said the forum subcommittee had been meeting for about six weeks. She said the subcommittee decided to postpone the second forum and to produce a small newsletter to get back to the community as the committee promised on its work. Ms. Noel said the guest speaker desired, Conan Harris of the Boston's mayor office, was not available on December 7th.

Ms. Noel said she had come up with a rough draft of what to include in the newsletter. She suggested it include a note from the superintendent, a recap of the June meeting, including an album of photos, and high-level highlights of information gathered at the forum. An explanation of the survey taken by the boys and some survey results could also be included in the newsletter. The upcoming forum with a date in January would also be highlighted.

Mr. Walden noted the committee wanted to create a resource book of the groups and individuals involved in the forum. Ms. Monteiro said the newsletter should also solicit interest from boys interested in the committee's work. Ms. Baraka noted she spoke to one boy who was interested.

Ms. Monteiro said the newsletter could be sent out electronically through the district with some hard copies available as well.

Mr. Walden said the subcommittee didn't want to rush the second

forum and this was the plan it came up with.

Ms. Noel said there was discussion of the honorarium for the guest speaker. Ms. Baraka said this might be an opportunity to solicit contributions.

Mr. Walden moved to approve the committee's minutes of October 24, 2017. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kearney and unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was on committee leadership.

Ms. Baraka said she asked Dr. Johnson to make sure someone from the board is assigned to the committee. She said she was not sure if it would be a staff member or a board member.

Ms. Baraka said she would continue to put together the agendas if the committee desires. Ms. Baraka noted the committee was transitioning and going under the superintendent's authority.

Mr. Sokolovic said as a new Board of Education member he would volunteer to be the board's representative on the committee if needed. He added he was meeting with Dr. Johnson tomorrow and would discuss the matter with her.

Mr. Walden said Dr. Jenkins had been a huge asset to the committee and would be an excellent district representative.

The next agenda item was feedback from the surveys. Ms. Baraka said she went to Central High and got ten people to sign up. Mr. Weldon said he had obtained a similar number of permissions from Bassick and was hopeful of getting more. Ms. Baraka said Kathy Silver and John Ramos were engaged in efforts at Harding.

Ms. Monteiro said the last time she looked there had been 261 surveys completed. She noted the last time the committee discussed the issue it was suggested December 1 would be the cutoff date for completing the surveys.

Dr. Kearney suggested reaching out to the male basketball and

sports coaches.

Ms. Monteiro said the subcommittee had talked about getting the newsletter out before the end of the year. She said the subcommittee could discuss things in a phone conference tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.

There was a discussion about the best way to approach to the sports coaches. Ms. Baraka said she would speak to Mr. Graf at Central High.

Regarding participation, Ms. Monteiro said 400 completed surveys would equate to a five percent response rate.

Regarding the white paper, Ms. Monteiro said funds had not been identified to pay for the writer. There are a couple of candidates that have been suggested, but funds are needed. There was a discussion of the issue. It was suggested a graduate student be sought out.

There was a discussion regarding the scheduling of the next meeting.

Mr. Walden moved to approve the creation of a newsletter from the Great City Schools of Bridgeport. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monteiro and unanimously approved.

Mr. Walden moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kearney and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the committee on October 23, 2018