

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held December 22, 2020, by video conference call, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. Present were members Chair John Weldon, Vice Chair Bobbi Brown, Secretary Joseph Lombard, Albert Benejan, Joseph Sokolovic, Sosimo Fabian, Jessica Martinez, and Sybil Allen.

Supt. Michael J. Testani was present.

Mr. Weldon said the purpose of the meeting was discussion and possible approval of the development of the performance evaluation for Supt. Testani, an item which qualifies for executive session.

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Ed Gomes, a former member of the City Council and a retired state senator.

Mr. Testani said he did not object to the matter being handled in executive session.

Ms. Allen moved that "*we go into executive session.*" The motion was seconded by Dr. Fabian.

Ms. Allen and Dr. Fabian said executive session was more appropriate because the framework was being discussed.

Mr. Sokolovic said it was important to establish the framework in public session to let the public know what we're doing and how the evaluation is created. He said too many

things happen behind closed doors. He noted the board would not be discussing the superintendent's performance, but discussing how we rate him.

Dr. Fabian said it was likely the board would touch on matters in the realm of personnel processes and evaluations, which could be shared once the final product is determined. He noted the superintendent is the only employee of the board.

Mr. Benejan said he believed parents and students should be able to see what was going on. He said he believed the superintendent was always there for the community.

Mr. Lombard said the executive session would give the board members a chance to think without having to feel that there's any expectations to perform as we develop the tool. He said he agreed with Ms. Allen's suggestion that the tool be posted publicly. Ms. Martinez said she agreed with Mr. Lombard.

Mr. Weldon said the opportunity to work privately and then reveal a finished product afterwards is a good idea.

The motion was approved by a 6-2 vote. Voting in favor of the motion were members Allen, Lombard, Martinez, Weldon, Brown, and Fabian. Voting in opposition were members Benejan and Sokolovic.

Invited to participate were board members and Supt. Testani.

The executive session began at 6:17 p.m.,

The board reconvened in public session at 7:30

Ms. Allen, Dr. Fabian, and Mr. Sokolovic were not present at this time.

Mr. Weldon said the performance evaluation remains under development and the discussion will continue on January 4th.

Mr. Lombard moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Benejan and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

*Approved by the board on January 11, 2021*