

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held July 20, 2021, at Central High School, 1 Lincoln Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.m. Present were members Chair John Weldon, Vice Chair Bobbi Brown, Secretary Joseph Lombard, Joseph Sokolovic, and Sybil Allen. Albert Benejan, Sosimo Fabian, and Jessica Martinez arrived subsequently as noted.

Supt. Michael J. Testani was present.

Mr. Weldon said the board received a presentation previously from Supt. Testani about what he feels he accomplished over the past year. The board members filled out performance evaluations. Mr. Weldon distributed a compilation of the evaluations and comments submitted by members Benejan, Brown, Fabian, Weldon, Lombard, and Sokolovic. The superintendent said Ms. Allen's evaluation was lost in a transmission and will be provided later.

Mr. Weldon said on the average the submissions scored Mr. Testani's performance as 4.41, which is approaching exceeds expectations.

Mr. Benejan and Dr. Fabian arrived at the meeting.

There was a delay while the board looked at the documents.

Ms. Martinez arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Weldon noted the item qualified for executive session. Upon inquiry, Supt. Testani said he believed initially the dialogue should be held in executive session. Mr. Weldon noted the final evaluation would be publicly posted.

Ms. Allen moved “*to go into executive session to discuss the individual evaluations made by the individual board members.*” The motion was seconded by Ms. Martinez.

Mr. Sokolovic said he believed the public should be privy to our discussions. He said the board members’ own personal evaluation and work process is not privy to executive session. Mr. Weldon said the group discussion would be eligible for executive session discussion.

Ms. Martinez said she wanted to add written input by tomorrow. Mr. Weldon indicated that was okay.

The motion was approved by a 7-1 vote. Voting in favor were members Martinez, Weldon, Brown, Fabian, Benejan, Allen, and Lombard. Mr. Sokolovic was opposed.

The executive session began at 6:37 p.m.

The board reconvened in public session at 7:39 p.m.

Mr. Weldon said the board went into executive session and went over the performance evaluation documents of Mr. Testani and had discussion. The next step is for board members to finalize their review documents if they need to. The board will reconvene at another meeting to review the final evaluations and determine if there is to be any kind of merit-based increase.

There was a discussion of scheduling options for the next meeting. July 28th was selected as the date.

Ms. Brown moved that the meeting be adjourned. The notion was seconded by Mr. Benejan and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

*Approved by the board on August 23, 2021*