

Monday, January 29, 2018

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, held January 29, 2018, at Bridgeport City  
Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Present were Chair John Weldon, Vice President Hernan Illingworth, Secretary Jessica Martinez, Maria Pereira, Chris Taylor, Joseph Sokolovic and Ben Walker. Dennis Bradley arrived subsequently as noted.

Supt. Dr. Aresta L. Johnson was present.

In response to an inquiry, Dr. Johnson requested the second item on the agenda be held in executive session.

Ms. Pereira moved *"to approve the contract extension through June 30th, 2020."* The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker.

Ms. Pereira said the purpose of the motion was because when Supt. Johnson signed her contract it could not be for more than three years, so the contract would expire in April 2020. Now that nine months of Dr. Johnson's contract has been eaten up, we can give her a three-month extension.

Mr. Weldon said it makes it in line with the school year and the fiscal year.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Walker moved *"the board meet in executive session for the midyear performance review of the Superintendent of Schools."* Invited to participate were board members and the superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

Mr. Weldon said the matter is eligible for executive session because it is an employee's review.

Mr. Taylor said he fully supported Dr. Johnson, but he was curious why with such a high ranking position with a public figure would not take place in public.

Dr. Johnson said superintendents' final, end-of-year evaluations are public documents. Mr. Taylor said he was totally off base.

Mr. Weldon said this was more of a guidepost for Dr. Johnson so she can direct her efforts appropriately, leading up to her final review.

Mr. Taylor noted he was not on the board for the time the board is reviewing and asked if a recusal would be justified. Mr. Weldon said when the rubric was established the issue was discussed, and Dr. Johnson indicated she was comfortable with new board members participating in any review. He said it's up to each member's individual sense of comfort.

Mr. Taylor said he didn't know whether he felt comfortable reviewing something that he was not present for.

Mr. Weldon said Mr. Taylor could certainly watch, observe and chime in, since it is a collaborative effort.

Mr. Walker encouraged all members to participate at their best level because this is not so much an evaluation as it is a review. It will give those who are new to the board some direction as to what our expectations are and how we would evaluate the expectations, and give the superintendent the opportunity to express what she will be showing in order to meet the expectations.

Mr. Taylor said he would make his decision when he gets into the room.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The executive session began at 6:14 p.m.

The board reconvened in public session at 7:39 p.m.. Mr. Bradley was now present. Mr. Taylor was not present.

Mr. Illingworth moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bradley and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

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