

Thursday, February 21 , 2019

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION, held February 21, 2019, at Bridgeport City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Present were members Chair Joseph Sokolovic and Jessica Martinez. Board member Maria Pereira was present.

Ms. Martinez moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic. A correction was noted. The motion was approved by a 1-0 vote. Voting in favor was Mr. Sokolovic. Ms. Martinez abstained.

The next agenda item was a review of P-10 forms from Bassick, Central and Harding. Mr. Sokolovic said the committee received a printout. He said he spoke to Dr. Johnson about the electronic records that were needed to document this properly.

Assistant Superintendent Janet Brown-Clayton described the electronic process that is used.

Tammy Bogdanyi was recognized. She said the president of the PAC fills out a P-10, attaches the invoice to it, and it is presented to the principal. If the principal approves, they sign it, and the secretary inputs the data into the electronic system for submission to the grants department.

Albert Benejan, PAC president at Bassick, was recognized. He provided an example of the P-10 forms that are used.

Mr. Sokolovic said the purpose of the exercise was to determine if the PAC presidents were signing off on the P-10s. Ms. Pereira said this issue was the reason she believed Ms. Davis resigned from the Harding PTSO.

Mr. Sokolovic said he would like to see the committee make sure P-10s are not submitted without the approval of the PAC president and if it did happen, to take steps to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Ms. Pereira suggested inquiring of the procedures Ms. Siegel has instituted for P-10s. She said under Title I principals have a say in how money is spent. Ms. Martinez said that was not true and she cited Title I, Section 118. Mr. Sokolovic said he believed the principal's role is to make sure there is an educational component.

Ms. Pereira said she would send an e-mail out with the provision in Title I indicating principals have a say in expenditure.

Mr. Sokolovic suggested looking into the schools where questionable practices took place.

Ms. Bogdanyi said she was told by Ms. Davis that she never signed off on any P-10s. Ms. Pereira said the report showed Harding had spent \$4,000 with another \$2,400 encumbered.

Ms. Pereira suggested the committee get some of the school action plans where money has not been spent or encumbered.

Ms. Bogdanyi said she heard from a parent at Thomas Hooker that there was no money left. Ms. Pereira said the report indicated the money at Thomas Hooker was spent or encumbered.

Ms. Pereira noted many schools had spent very little money five months into the school year.

Mr. Sokolovic summarized the discussion and next steps: he would check with Ms. Siegel for processes in place for P-10s; look into action plans for schools that haven't spent or encumbered at least 60 percent of their allocations. Ms. Pereira asked that the committee get an accurate list of the PAC leaders at the problematic schools such as Hooker School.

Ms. Martinez suggested electronically receiving all the action plans before the next committee meeting.

Mr. Sokolovic suggested looking into allegations of P-10s not being signed by the PAC presidents.

Ms. Pereira said the committee wanted a column added to the report on how many events or meetings had been held.

Ms. Martinez moved "*the superintendent, Dr. Johnson, to look into the allegations of the P-10s being signed off on by somebody else other than the PAC president or the PTSO president.*" The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic and unanimously approved."

Mr. Sokolovic asked that the list of PAC officers and members be updated at every meeting. Ms. Pereira asked that the revision date be put on each version the committee receives.

Ms. Brown-Clayton said the members at large had been added to the document. Ms. Pereira said it should be a live document regularly updated

Ms. Brown-Clayton said she would add the number of meetings held to the document.

Ms. Bogdanyi said she was concerned that there would be false reports as to the number of meetings.

Ms. Pereira said the committee had suggested the School Volunteer Association take on some of the work formerly done by home-school coordinators with regard to parents.

The next agenda item was on the gathering of the PAC presidents. Ms. Sokolovic said the purpose was to get the presidents together to create the District PAC bylaws.

Ms. Martinez said she believed the District PAC should be brought back ASAP. Ms. Brown-Clayton said there would be a meeting on March 6th. She said she received permission to use the City Council chambers.

Ms. Pereira said the committee minutes indicated that a poll was to be conducted for a date for the PAC presidents to meet about the bylaws.

There was a discussion of the size of room needed to hold the meeting with PAC presidents. Ms. Pereira suggested phone-banking to increase turnout.

Mr. Benejan suggested the first parent meeting be held on District PAC bylaws, not the parent convention. Ms. Bogdanyi said the initial step should be getting the PAC

leaders in one room. Ms. Pereira suggested Dr. Johnson invite the PAC leaders with a written invitation and speak at the first meeting.

Ms. Bogdanyi said Dr. Johnson tried last year and very few PAC leaders attended a meeting. Ms. Pereira suggested a raffle or gift cards be considered as an incentive to attend the meeting.

Ms. Bogdanyi suggested the March 6th date be used to plan for the convention with another meeting to follow on the District PAC. Mr. Sokolovic said Ms. Bogdanyi and Mr. Benejan could do some networking for a future meeting on District PAC.

Mr. Sokolovic summarized that the meeting of the parents on March 6th would be for the parent convention. It was suggested that Dr. Johnson extend the invitation and that phone-banking take place; also to have Dr. Johnson or Nadira Clarke explain the Title I functions of the grant and the role of the PACs on a broader scale.

Ms. Brown-Clayton said she had spoken with Mr. Benejan regarding the use of Housatonic Community College for the parent convention. She said the same price was offered this year, with the 29th of May the suggested date.

Ms. Martinez suggested Kingsley Osei be asked to provide a breakout session.

Ms. Martinez moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sokolovic.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John McLeod

Approved by the committee on March 28, 2019