



Bruce Rauner
Governor

Candice Jones
Director

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Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Date: April 17, 2015

Time: 9:44 a.m.

Place: Aftercare Building 100 N. Western, Chicago, IL

APPROVED: August 21, 2015

- IO 1.0 CALL TO ORDER by Director Jones
 - 1.1 Roll Call
 - 1.2 Present: Ellis, Green, Smoot, Jones, Dunbar Garrett
 - 1.3 Absent: Grady, Gunnell
 - 1.4 Others present: Superintendent Davis, Beth Compton, Marron Mahoney, Maurice McAllister, Chasity Boyce (by phone), Kiersten Neswick (by phone), and Mary Reynolds (by phone.)
Director Jones asked Mary Reynolds to take minutes for this meeting.

- AI 2.0 CONSENT AGENDA
 - 2.1 Approval of Agenda
 - 2.2 Approval of Minutes January 16, 2015
Member Smoot made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Green seconded.

Voice Vote:
Aye: Unanimous
Nay: None
Motion Carries.

- IO 3.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - 3.1 Director Jones reported that the Fiscal Year 2016 Governor's Budget includes a \$17 million increase over the current year, with the majority of funding directed towards personnel services. The Department recently presented the budget before the Senate and House Appropriation Committees. Member Ellis asked for a more detailed accounting of funding allocated for the School District and Chief Financial Officer Kiersten Neswick responded with \$11.9 million allocated for Fiscal Year 2016 in the Governor's Budget and \$7.6 million allocated for Fiscal Year 2015.

- IO 4.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
 - 4.1 Pearson Quarterly Data
Superintendent Davis reported that the electrical work at the Illinois Youth Center at St. Charles has been completed so there is now expanded access to online

education. Member Ellis inquired about the impact online learning is having on student scores. Superintendent Davis responded that the School District is implementing pre- and post- testing in all facilities and three of the facilities reflect improvements. Future testing will reflect expanded online access. Member Smoot asked about the attitude towards utilizing computers and online learning. Director Jones emphasized the shift of balance throughout the Department from security focus to programming that includes not only online learning but also more engagement between teachers and counselors and students. A discussion was held over the role Aftercare plays in continuing educational services for youth and the continuation of online learning when youth return to their communities. Director Jones stressed the need for coordinated efforts and Superintendent Davis noted that data is now beginning to be collected. Member Ellis volunteered to help develop draft objectives for the Board.

4.2 Consent Decree Staffing Plan

Superintendent Davis noted that the Department is attempting to address staffing needs as required in the *RJ v Jones* consent decree, including current efforts to hire 19 educators. Job descriptions are being updated and recent contracts with AppliTrack and the Job Bank have been completed that will be utilized to help advertise openings. Member Green noted the importance of offering professional development to help teachers integrate online learning. Member Green also recommended that job shadowing may be helpful to explain to potential candidates the importance of the work.

4.3 Data Report (January, February, March)

Superintendent Davis reviewed the reports. Member Smoot asked about the number of youth enrolled in school vs. the total number of youth in DJJ. Superintendent Davis explained that work is being done to explore opportunities for youth not enrolled in school beyond work opportunities

4.4 Profile Report (January, February, March)

Superintendent Davis reviewed the monthly youth profile reports and noted that they are available on the Department website.

4.5 Special Education Report (January, February, March)

Superintendent Davis highlighted the compliance concerns with special education timelines and that progress is dependent upon additional staffing.

Member Ellis made a motion to take a 10 minute break, seconded by member Smoot. Motion carried by voice vote. The break began at 11:07 and ended at 11:20 a.m.

AI 5.0 ROLL CALL ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Adopt Board Meeting Calendar

Beth Compton, General Counsel, noted that statute requires the Board to meet at least 6 times per year. Member Smoot suggested that the Board may want to consider goal-setting and planning meetings during the year. It was also suggested that the Board Meeting be held every other month rather than once a month. Director Jones suggested that the proposed dates of meeting every month be considered and that special events may be designated within those dates. It was moved by Member Green, seconded by Member Ellis that the Board approves the proposed meeting calendar with no meeting scheduled in December.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Unanimous

Nays: None

Motion Carries.

DI 6.0 BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Member Ellis mentioned that the interpretation of the responsibilities of the Board and the relationship with the Department of Corrections are outstanding issues. Director Jones suggested that these issues can be folded in to the strategic planning process. Member Green inquired about an update on staffing plans. Superintendent Davis noted that Maurice McAllister has been hired, the Assistant Superintendent position has been posted, and the process is ongoing to hire teachers.

AI 7.0 ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Smoot, seconded by Member Ellis. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.