

UNION #28 JOINT SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, January 29, 2024
Final Minutes

Present: Jya Plavin, Beth Erviti, Anna Wetherby, Katelyn Mailloux-Little, Jeremy Mailloux, Becky Tew, Mackensy Bailey, Kate Woodward, Mandy Blackbird, Barbara Doyle, Mark Blatchley, Nancy Slator, Members; Steven Blinder, Chair; Caitlin Sheridan, Director of Finance and Operations; Public Guests.

1. Meeting Called to Order by Steven at 7:01 P.M.

2. Public Hearing:

Steven requested that voting members mute themselves when not speaking and to keep their cameras on. Becky added that legally, SC members must keep their cameras on during virtual meetings.

No public members spoke.

Mackensy asked whether there was a JSC meeting scheduled to discuss Erving's concerns about remaining in U#28: No meeting scheduled for that topic. What's the mechanism for JSC members to address concerns? Steven asked for concerns to be brought forward, and asked Erving members about their specific concerns; no such concerns have been communicated. Mackensy noted that this issue might affect how we're approaching the Superintendent search.

Becky said she's wary about having that conversation prior to getting our next Superintendent in place and wants that conversation to be productive. Is there a conversation we can have that's forward-facing about what we want in our Superintendent? We need to keep a positive approach in the search process, and after the search, we need to understand our collective needs so we're not repeating things that might be harmful in the future.

3. Approval of the Minutes from January 22, 2024:

BECKY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024, AS PRESENTED. MANDY SECONDED. PASSES (ONE ABSTENTION).

4. New Business:

1. Update on timing of site visits, candidates' visits of our district, and community meetings/final interviews:

Steven said the Visiting Team (himself, Mark, Katelyn, Kelly Sullivan) has site visits set up at several schools over the next couple of weeks. We're setting up three interviews in the same day with a meet-and-greet on Feb. 16. We'll have the candidates in starting in the afternoon through the evening. Forty-five minutes for the interview plus half an hour for the meet-and-greet. MASC has advised that JSC has to conduct the interview with members of the public present (including SC members who're not on JSC). JSC will deliberate after these interviews in open meeting, per Massachusetts General Law, and make a decision. The plan is to have the interviews at SRS.

JSC asked for details on the process. MASC has advised not to solicit or consider community feedback in the selection process. We can tell candidates they're free to stay if they like.

2. Update on Budget and Personnel negotiation tem - discussion and possible vote:

Barbara said B&P met at 6:30 and voted on two members of the Negotiation Subcommittee: Barbara and Becky.

3. Discussion of interview questions:

Steven said we need to decide on interview questions, which MASC indicated cannot be the same as those asked in the semifinalist interviews. Becky offered to share the document with the questions we asked as well as those that

we didn't. Steve agreed and directed JSC to a MASC guide to developing good questions. Mark questioned whether we really can't ask the same questions; Steve will double-check that. Becky suggested perhaps 12 questions, giving 4 minutes per question. Mandy asked whether JSC members could see candidate CVs: Will candidates be able to give us a summary of their background at the start of the interview? Jeremy asked about checking references: As long as that's done prior to 2/16, that's fine. Steven will check with counsel on the advisability of sharing the outcome of those checks. Becky suggested that, for simplicity's sake, we should use the questions we've already vetted, then ask the Leadership Team to come up with two additional questions, for a total of 13. Mackensy suggested a question about the strategy for building relationships and dealing with four different school committees.

JSC reviewed the vetted question list and discussed suggestions to modify and combine them as well as add to them. Steven made changes to the document and assigned questions to JSC members who volunteered for them. Mandy suggested providing the questions in chat so candidates can see how many they need to answer during the interview time. Steven cautioned JSC members from discussing the questions outside of the meeting.

4. Take any votes necessary:

None.

5. Set next meeting date:

Steven asked JSC if they want another meeting closer to the interview date, or just to meet on the 16th. JSC discussed the rubric they'll use to track responses to questions. Steven said JSC could call a meeting in his absence. Barbara said B&P should meet after the 16th rather than in the first week of February as written here. Mackensy asked whether JSC felt comfortable deliberating and choosing at 9:30 at night. Steven said it would be more like 8 or 8:15, and was confident JSC could come to a decision by 9. JSC could move to postpone the decision too. Meetings must be posted with a minimum time frame, however, so the earliest JSC could meet would be 2/20.

5. Future Items to Discuss:

- Next Meeting Date: March 18, 2024
- Budget & Personnel Committee - first week of February

6. Adjournment at 8:08

JEREMY MOVED TO ADJOURN. MARK SECONDED. UNANIMOUS.