

Meeting Minutes

School Board Nominating Commission of Anne Arundel County

July 28, 2009

Members Present:

Mr. Joshua Greene, Chairman

Ms. Sandra Anderson
Ms. Christine Davenport
Mr. Art Ebersberger
Mr. Timothy Mennuti
Mr. Richard Kovelant

Ms. Anita Owens
Mr. Lee Roy Payne Jr.
Ms. Yevola S. Peters
Mr. Matthew Tedesco
Mr. Konrad Wayson

Call to Order

Chairman Josh Greene called to order the regular meeting of the SBNCAAC at 7:34pm on July 28, 2009 at the Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, MD. (Cade Building, Rm. 219).

Chairman's Announcement's

The chair announced the purpose of the meeting was to fill the open At-Large seat on the county's Board of Education created by the appointment of Tricia Johnson to the County Council representing District 7. The hearing format will provide for five minute opening statements by each of the four candidates followed by two question & answer sessions. Three individuals are reapplying from the commission's previous candidate selection process to fill the seat which expired in June 2009.

The chair advised that this is an unanticipated vacancy in a current board members' 2nd year of a 5-year term. The enacting statute for the commission requires that the process outlined in the law be carried out in order for a board seat to be filled thus, the Governor cannot appoint a member until the commission acts. In light of the fast approaching school year, and in anticipation of the school board beginning its business next month, the commission has determined it must move in an expedited fashion. The commission's ability to respond in an accelerated manner is helped by the fact that it has just recently conducted a full hearing/vetting process for a previous At-large seat, had circumstances been different, the commission would act in a more deliberate fashion.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the revised minutes of May 27th was made and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Commissioner Kovelant inquired on the status of his request for an Attorney General opinion on the issue of whether incumbent school board members –who were appointed prior to the commission's enacting legislation - are subject to the commission's nominating process when seeking a second term. While a previous Attorney General opinion letter did speak tangentially on the subject, Commissioner Kovelant has been pursuing further clarification on the matter in the form of a written opinion on the matter directly. The chair and counsel advised

that while the issue was communicated informally to the Attorney Generals' office earlier in the year, a formal explanation should be forthcoming for the record.

New Business

A motion was made by commissioner Kovelant to move back the scheduled voting session for the vacant seat from its scheduled date of July 29th, to sometime during the week of August 4th. Commissioner Kovelant's reasoning for the change is that he represents statutory stakeholders (The Association of Educational Leaders) and therefore needs time to deliberate with them in order to represent their wishes. Furthermore, his motion would not unduly delay the chair's intention for a swift process.

The Chair advised that he recognized Kovelant's concerns and is open to postponing voting into the following week, but is concerned about whether the commissioner's schedules will allow for a delay and compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Recess

The chair briefly tabled the motion and recessed the meeting at 8:07pm to consult with counsel on the issue of voting and the proposed date change.

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 8:19pm.

Commissioner Kovelant withdrew his previous motion and advised that he would appear at the July 29th scheduled meeting for the purpose of voting in person. The chair informed the commissioners and public that the regularly scheduled meeting would proceed on the 29th. At that meeting public testimony will be heard by the commission. Each member of the public will be allotted up to three minutes to speak. Following the public hearing, the commission will convene in closed session to deliberate on the slate of candidates for the newly vacant school board seat.

Candidate Testimony

Candidate testimony began at 8:23pm. The candidates testifying were as follows:

- Michael Leahy of Severna Park
- Andrew Pruski of Gambrills
- Janet R. Pogar of Glen Burnie
- Paul Rudolph of Severna Park

After candidate testimony, commissioners began a question and answer session with each of the candidates.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and carried unanimously by voice vote at 9:03pm.
