

SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENT COMMISSION
OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COMMITTEE

MINUTES
June 6, 2017

(Approved June 19, 2017)

The School Board Appointment Commission of Anne Arundel County convened at 7:00 p.m. on the above date at the school board administration building, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. Committee members present and their appointment affiliations were as follows: Leanne Carmona, Special Education Citizen Advisory Committee; Susannah Kipke, Anne Arundel County Executive; Jerry Klasmeier, Anne Arundel Community College; Dr. Linda Ferrara, Association of Educational Leaders; Josie Urrea, Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils; Estefania Holler, County Council of PTAs; Allison Pickard, County Council of PTAs; Penny Cantwell, Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce; Amalie Brandenburg, Anne Arundel County Executive; Ginger Otis Vance, Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce; Mariko Bennett, Anne Arundel NAACP. Bill Jones, Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County; and Nathaly Uribe, CASA de Maryland, were absent due to illness. Also present were Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer, Anne Arundel County Public Schools; and Molly Connolly, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County.

Introduction of Commissioners: Commissioners introduced themselves. It was noted that Commissioner Bill Jones and Commissioner Nathaly Uribe were absent due to illness.

Election of Commission Leadership:

Ms. Brandenburg nominated Susannah Kipke as president of the School Board Appointment Commission. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted in favor of the appointment (11-0).

Dr. Ferrara nominated Allison Pickard as vice president of the School Board Appointment Commission. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted in favor of the appointment (11-0).

Ginger Otis Vance volunteered to serve as Secretary of the School Board Appointment Commission. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted (11-0) in favor of Ms. Vance's role as Secretary.

Public Participation:

Mrs. Kipke addressed the matter of public participation. Dr. Ferrara moved that the Commission allow 3 minutes per speaker for public participation. Ms. Brandenburg seconded and the Commission approved (11-0).

Public comment: Mr. Jim Snider spoke about the Open Meetings Act and the importance of the public witnessing deliberations of public bodies.

Commission Bylaws:

Commissioners reviewed the proposed Bylaws. Ms. Brandenburg noted that the word “Nominating” should be stricken from Article 1.

Dr. Ferrara moved that the title of the Commission Officers should be changed to “President” and “Vice President.” Ms. Cantwell seconded and the Commission voted (11-0) to approve the change.

Mr. Klasmeier moved that the Commission’s Bylaws be posted on the SBAC website and adopted at the next meeting. Dr. Ferrara seconded and the Commission voted (11-0).

Mrs. Pickard noted that currently there is a vacancy on the Board of Education and the Commission needs to begin its work to fill the vacancy.

Mrs. Kipke asked Mr. Mosier if there is an application or if one needs to be created. Mr. Mosier said that the application that the former School Board Nominating Commission used can serve as a model and that it will need updating to comply with the law that created the new School Board Appointment Commission.

Mr. Klasmeier noted that it is important that the commission is consistent in the way it treats all applicants. Dr. Ferrara noted the importance of executive session; and suggested that the commission conducts interviews, followed by executive session and a vote at a later date. Mr. Klasmeier said that it is important that if the SBAC is going to go into executive session, that it has the legal authority to do so.

Ms. Brandenburg moved that the commission seek legal opinion from the Attorney General’s Office as far as next steps concerning executive session. Mr. Klasmeier seconded and the commission voted (11-0).

The question arose as to whether the commission should vote on the candidates on the same day it hears conducts interviews and/or hears testimony or at a subsequent meeting. Ms. Vance moved that the commission vote at a subsequent meeting. There was no second. The motion fails.

Mr. Klasmeier proposed that the commission adopt a standard that after all interviews are conducted, there be at least a 10-day lapse between the last interview and the vote to appoint someone to a seat on the Board. Dr. Ferrara seconded and the commission approved (11-0).

Future Meeting Dates:

The commissioners agreed upon the following future dates:

- Monday, June 19, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., to finalize the application form, adopt the Bylaws, and consider the legal opinion regarding executive session.
- Tuesday, July 25, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., to interview candidates for the Board

- Wednesday, July 26, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. (tentative), reserved for more interviews if necessary and public testimony
- Thursday, August 24, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., to vote on candidates

The commission adjourned at 7:55 p.m.