

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 12, 2019
Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, met in special session at 9:38 a.m. in the Board Room of the Kathleen C. Wright Administrative Center, 600 Southeast Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Present were: School Board Members Heather Brinkworth, Chair; Donna P. Korn, Vice Chair; Lori Alhadeff; Robin Bartleman; Patricia Good; Laurie Rich Levinson; Ann Murray (absent); Nora Rupert; Dr. Rosalind Osgood; Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools; and Barbara J. Myrick, Esq.

Call to Order The Call to Order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Close Agenda Upon motion by Dr. Osgood, seconded by Mrs. Rupert and carried, the Agenda was approved and declared closed. Mrs. Good, Ms. Korn, and Ms. Murray were absent for the vote. (6-0 vote)

Purpose of Meeting For The School Board of Broward County, Florida to discuss and approve Personnel Recommendations for Non-Instructional Appointments and Leaves for the 2018-2019 School Year, and any other items the Board deemed necessary.

1. **Personnel Recommendations for Non-Instructional Appointments and Leaves for the 2018-2019 School Year** (Approved)

Motion was made by Dr. Osgood, seconded by Mrs. Rupert and carried, to approve the personnel recommendations for appointments and reassignments as listed on the attached Executive Summary, respective lists and individual appointments for Non-Instructional Employees. All recommendations are made pending security clearance and with the understanding that these individuals will comply with regulations/policies as set forth by the Florida Department of Education and The School Board of Broward County, Florida. Ms. Murray was absent. Mrs. Alhadeff voted no. (7-1 vote)

The Chair received audience input on this item.

The Board had an in-depth conversation in regards to this item pertaining to the Chief of Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness. Some of the concerns shared included, but were not limited to, minimum and preferred qualifications; that the candidate did not have experience working with schools/ students; salary; postponing this item; Safe Havens International involvement in the process; that the candidate owned his own company and whether or not he would continue in that capacity; the urgency to approve this today; the timing of posting the job description; under what terms a Board Member could not vote for the Superintendent's recommendation(s); the evaluation process for probation; notifying candidates throughout the process; and that the threat assessment needed to be one of the top trainings.

Student Advisor, Beau Simon, also commented that some Board Members had other jobs in addition to serving on the School Board and that it should not be an issue for the candidate and his company. He also said that he believed the candidate was over-qualified and it would be unjust and unfair to delay this item to another Board meeting.

The Superintendent stated that Safe Havens had been involved in everything except the interviewing process. He said he also had reviewed the candidate's qualifications with the Sheriff. He emphasized this was the first time this position was being created in the country and he did not have any reservations with the candidate fulfilling the job responsibilities.

In addition, several staff members addressed issues including, but not limited to, the timing and posting of the job description was handled correctly; Safe Havens was involved with the process through phone calls and meetings with various District personnel; this candidate rose to the top as most qualified for the position; the process for evaluation and probation of a new "Chief" employee was explained, as well as there were mechanisms in place to allow candidates to be dismissed; that candidates receive phone calls and electronic communication throughout the hiring process; and that a company could not be compelled to provide a written letter stating X, Y, and Z on the District's process(es).

Motion to Postpone (Failed)

Motion was made by Mrs. Alhadeff, seconded by Mrs. Rupert to postpone this item until the next Board meeting on February 20, 2019. Ms. Murray was absent. Mrs. Brinkworth, Mrs. Good, Ms. Korn, Mrs. Rich Levinson, and Dr. Osgood voted no. (3-5 vote)

A vote was taken on the Motion to Postpone.

Mrs. Rupert made a motion to bring the item back later in order to receive more information on the paper trail and investigation. After being told there was no paper trail, but rather verbal conversations, she withdrew her motion.

A vote was taken on this item.

Ms. Myrick informed Mrs. Alhadeff that she needed to state her reason(s) for good cause for voting against the Superintendent's recommendation.

Mrs. Alhadeff replied she voted no because she believed there were three (3) qualified applicants that were not interviewed; the United States Department of State of the recommendation was incomplete and not thoroughly evaluated; and that Safe Havens was not involved in the interview or recommendation.

Ms. Myrick advised Mrs. Alhadeff her reasons did not meet the requirements for good cause, which were moral and professional disqualifications, in order to vote against the item.

2. District School Safety Specialist (Approved)

Approve the designation of the new Chief Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness Officer as the District's School Safety Specialist. Ms. Murray was absent. (8-0 vote)

The Chair received audience input on this item.

No discussion was held and a vote was taken on this item.

Adjournment This meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

/dvn