

Schedule

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

7:00 p.m.

School District of the City of Highland Park
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Highland Park Renaissance Academy - Commons
15900 Woodward Avenue
Tuesday, December 11, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Highland Park was called to order by President Holloway, in the Highland Park Renaissance Academy – Commons, 15900 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203, on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 7:13 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Board Members Alma Greer, John Holloway, Debra Humphrey, Kathryn Joyner and Soyini Williams

Absent: Board Members Robert Davis and Jamille Edwards

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Dr. Donald Weatherspoon, Emergency Financial Manager; Attorney George Butler III; Vickie Gray, Executive Secretary, Staff and Citizens

III. Reading of the Public Notice

Board Member Greer read the Notice of the Regular Meeting

“Public Notice of the Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Board of Education.”

By the action of the Board of President, The Board of Education of the School District of the City of Highland Park will hold its **Regular Meeting** on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.at the Highland Park Renaissance Academy, 15900 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 49203.

“This notice is given in compliance with Act 267 of the 1976 Public Act of the State of Michigan.

”/s Robert Davis, Secretary, Board of Education

“Posted Friday, November 30, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.”

IV. Approval of Board of Education Minutes

President Holloway asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes for the November 13, 2012 Board of Education Meeting

Moved By: Board Member Greer

Supported by Board Member Joyner

Ayes: Board Members: Joyner, Greer, Williams, Holloway and Humphrey

Nays: None

Absent: Board Members: Davis and Edwards

Motion: Carried

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V. Communications

Board Member Greer referenced a document regarding a Kwanza Celebration.

VI. Public Hearings

Request for public hearings must be submitted in writing and must state purpose.

“Employees and employee groups are not authorized to appear before the Board of Education to discuss contract issues or negotiable items. **(See Board Policy #1360)**

No requests were received.

VII. Citizen Participation

Each citizen will be allotted two minutes to voice concerns regarding items on the agenda.

VIII. Educational Presentation

- A. An educational presentation was received by Mr. Sean Waters, Building Leader, George Washington Carver.
- B. An educational presentation was received by Dr. Stephanie Burrage, Executive Director, Wayne RESA. Statewide System of Support/How Schools is Designated Priority Schools.

IX. Old Business

- A. Highland Park School District year-end audit. The audit findings will be presented by Alan Young and Associates at the January 8, 2013 Board of Education Meeting.
- B. ACLU lawsuits are still outstanding. Attorney Noel Massey met with the court last week. There have been no rulings. Rulings are anticipated at the end of January and there have been no significant changes in the landscape of the lawsuit. The court has approved to a limited degree and one of the experts obtained by the ACLU will perform a mini review of literacy programs in the District.
- C. Dr. Samuel Craig’s lawsuit. Attorney George Butler III indicated the time for discovery has come and gone and they are in the process of filing a motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

X. New Business

- A. Answer to Question #1: Dr. Donald Weatherspoon indicated Public Act 72 has not changed. Based on the attorney general’s written communication and recent ruling from the Appeal Court, the status of Public Act of Appeal Court has not changed the status of Public Act of 72. The District is still under an Emergency Financial Manager. The legislation that may emerge from the legislature in session may change the criteria for a Financial Emergency Manager. Donald Weatherspoon stated a power-point was mailed to each board member regarding the difference of Public Act 72 and Public Act 2 and the role of the Board of Education under Public Act 72.

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- B. President Holloway is requesting a written memorandum relative to some of the questions asked by Board Member Davis. He gave the example of the District's Sinking Fund to pay for maintenance of other schools.
 - C. Dr. Donald Weatherspoon has authorized use of \$400,000 of the Sinking Fund to be utilized for the repair of buildings owned by the District. The money will be released to the Public School Academy Board to pay vendors for maintenance repairs.
 - D. Dr. Donald Weatherspoon stated a lawsuit will be filed against the District for use of the District's Sinking Funds. Dr. Donald Weatherspoon noted the order regarding the District's Sinking Fund has been placed on the website along with other orders. He also stated under the provisions of the Sinking Fund and the law; the elevator will be repaired. He referenced the presentation of Mr. Britten; the Board has a role in the academic decisions made in the District. Dr. Weatherspoon voiced the District has no money to have a written legal opinion on questions that have already been answered or items that are already in litigation. The District is still running between \$7M and \$9M deficit.
 - E. President Holloway asked what happened to the buses that were in the garage. Mr. Jack Bauman, Human Resource Director, responded some of the vans were scrapped and the vehicles were towed to the fire station. The buses are inoperable and vandals have removed parts from the buses.
 - F. Wayne Metro that leases Cortland School it is going to be sold for \$1. Will inform the board of the meeting Dr. Weatherspoon indicated that he cannot answer the question regarding Cortland School until he meets Mr. Sandy McDonald.
 - G. Board Member Humphrey was concerned about the vans being scrapped. How old are the records that are to be destroyed? Dr. Weatherspoon responded that records will not be destroyed outside the purview of the law.
 - H. Board Member Humphrey was concerned regarding the selling of surplus items. Mr. Jack Bauman, Human Resource Director, gave a detailed explanation of the selling process of the surplus items. Board Member Humphrey was offended that the Board of Education Members were not notified of the sale.
- XI. Any Other Items that Might Properly Come Under the Heading of Old and New Business**
- A. Board Member Greer shared information from Detroit Unity Literacy Ministry in partnership with Legacy in Literacy are inviting students that attend schools in Highland Park to participate in an essay contest to win a seat on a motor coach to the 2013 Inauguration Monday, January 21, 2012.

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- B. Board Member Greer referenced a Resolution on July 22, 2011 that the Board of Education approved for Literacy in Park, Real Men Read, Real Women Read, and Real Kids Read; she is encouraging the leaders of Highland Park to continue the program. Board Member Greer also promoted Jazz in the Park where children read to volunteers and the District Wide Spelling Bee that was held last school year.

XII. Administrative Information

None

XIII. Board of Education Affairs

- A. The Annual Board of Education Organizational Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 8, 2013.
- B. Dr. Weatherspoon noted that fiscal matters relating to the district does not extend within the range of the Board of Education. He hopes to have a second loan in January to pay off the accumulative debt of the District.
- C. President Holloway recognized new Board Member Glenda McDonald.
- D. President Holloway acknowledged and thanked board Member Kathryn Joyner for her service to the Highland Park of Board of Education.

XIV. Citizen Participation

- A. Mrs. Vernice Mia, citizen, voiced concern regarding historical buildings in the City of Highland Park not being recognized. She passed out a petition from the Richton Street Block Club (between 2nd and 3rd) to have the following buildings recognized as historic sites; The Ford Building, McGregor Library and the Career Academy
- B. Ms. Juanita Midds, citizen, voiced a concern regarding the District's Sinking Fund and how the money was spent by the Leona Group.

XV. Adjournment

Moved by Board Member Greer and supported by Board Member Humphrey to adjourn the Board of Education Meeting. Board Members Davis and Edwards are absent. President Holloway adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:18 p.m.

Mrs. Alma Greer, Acting Secretary
Board of Education

Minutes Adopted: _____