

EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Educational Commission was held on April 9, 2019.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME:

Chairman Pro Tem Veazey called the meeting to order at 6:14 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cheryl Rutherford, Tonya Davis, Trustee Liaison Kelvin Oliver, Don Ransford, Kijuana Marshall

GUESTS:

Greg Sally

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEM: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

There were no minutes available for review and approval.

AGENDA ITEM: SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

Veazey opened discussion by mentioning the late interest in sponsoring a school board candidate forum for the recent District 227 election. Veazey explained that due to timing and unclear interest by the commission as a whole, the idea was not pursued. The question is now being posed to determine whether the commissioner's would like to commit to making the production of school board candidate forums a part of the Educational Commission's core purpose.

The **unanimous opinion** of those present was in favor of making the production of candidate forums a part of the Educational Commission's core purpose. There was no commitment to the number of forums nor the school districts that we would hold them for. It was agreed by all that those decisions would be made during planning with available resources for planning the forum(s) critical to implementation.

The ultimate purpose of gathering the data is to find was to further examine and define how our students perform (we think they perform better than state average) so that we can market the performance of our students and Olympia Fields as a place where students excel. Other uses for this and other available data (i.e. funding) regarding our public schools will also be examined in the future. We may also begin a process to more precisely understand how our public schools are funded, the level to which they are dependent upon local property taxes, state funding and federal funding. Understanding how are schools are funded will tell us more about the motivations behind many decisions in our schools.

Additional discussion was had pertaining to low voter turnout and voter apathy within the community. Though information on the candidates was available to voters, there still appears to be a need for additional means to inform the public of the issues and candidates. It is believed that producing forums will "add value" to our fellow citizens.

AGENDA ITEM: SUPERINTENDENT MEETING PLANNING

Veazey opened the discussion by again restating our reshaped mission was to "add value" to our fellow citizens through special programs, communications and other means. It was also agreed that we would begin our efforts by hosting our two "primary" superintendents, Dr. Davis and Dr. Thomas, to a meeting (together) to share with them

our revised role and to hear from them on the current affairs within their school district's. This is very important due to the fact that the K – 12 education for students residing in Olympia Fields is split between several school districts with Matteson 162 (K – 8) and Rich Township 227 (9-12) serving most of the students. Because of this fragmented (non-consolidated) arrangement, consistency in leadership, operations and communication can minimize productivity. It was reiterated that we have a near-term goal of meeting with both Dr. Davis (162) and Dr. Thomas (227) to share with them our new focus, to gather more information from them on their operations and to do our part to foster greater productivity. This effort would ideally occur 2-3 times each year. Similar efforts including the other significant school districts to our community (Homewood-Flossmoor 233, Flossmoor 161) would also be considered.

Veazey explained that our letter invitation to the Superintendents Davis and Thomas had been received and that potential dates for our meeting are being discussed. There desired time to meet would be sometime before the end of the school year.

The meeting's focus then turned to the idea of developing questions for the superintendents that would be forwarded to them in advance. The questions would be developed with the questions of our community in mind. Forwarding the questions in advance would signal our desire to give them ample opportunity to know what we are most interested in learning from them and make our time with them most productive.

The meeting then turned to developing the questions. Several areas of questions were developed. Subject areas for questions included goals, student achievement, discipline, residency, articulation, faculty, Pre – K education, budgets, taxes and infrastructure. While questions were roughly developed, Veazey suggested that he fine tune each question from question ideas presented, then forward to all for approval before forwarding to the superintendents. Additional questions would be welcomed if additional ideas arose. All agreed.

AGENDA ITEM: WEBSITE PLANNING

Trustee Oliver explained that our website development was on hold. He stated that other village commissions are also in need of website development and that the plan is to combine all the efforts. A potential vendor has been identified

OPEN DISCUSSION:

There was no additional discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.