

EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Educational Commission was held on June 4, 2019

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME:

Chairman Pro Tem Veazey called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cheryl Rutherford, Tonya Davis, Don Ransford, Delores Woods, Trustee Desiree Watkins

GUESTS:

President Sterling Burke, Geraldine Tyler, LaQuita Quinn, Gail Baker, Constance Means, Faye Hughes, David Morgan

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEM: DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT 227 & DISTRICT 162

The commission reviewed the May 29th meeting with President Burke who was unable to attend due to a conflict in his schedule. President Burke stated that all feedback he had received on the forum with the superintendent's was positive. President Burke restated his original charge to the commission to rethink and reorganize commission efforts to focus on 2-3 primary initiatives to best maximize our limited resources. Chairman Veazey communicated that two areas of focus were clearly defined; enhanced communication with the school district's and the communication and (potential) development of programs that will enhance the educational and career development of our resident students. President Burke recognized that our May 29th meeting was a first effort at meeting part of that charge.

President Burke also took time to state how individuals are considered for appointment to the commission, how he evaluates the requests, and how he will make future appointments. President Burke stated that he hoped all current commissioners remained on the commission. President Burke stated that as citizens/commissioners, the commission provides the members of the commission with the opportunity to directly impact the village through our meetings and using the trustee liaison assigned to communicate our needs, goals and efforts to the village board. President Burke stated that the liaison does not vote in commission decisions.

Turning back to the agenda subject, President Burke referenced the advance questions we forwarded the superintendents and asked the commission if any response by the superintendent's presented an opportunity for follow up. A discussion was then held reviewing the questions and responses. The question regarding discipline, criminal behavior and residency was discussed in detail. The question regarding the condition of school facilities, the decreasing enrollment and decisions regarding the number of schools needed and the district budget was also discussed. After reviewing each of the advance questions and responses it was clear additional follow up would be necessary to better understand the district's policies and processes on many.

Commissioner Davis brought up the differences between the two districts with regard to students, parents, athletics, etc. as well as issues related to the current drop in enrollment. Davis recalled hearing someone describe it as a "tale of two cities", with 162 enjoying success in many of those areas and 227's Dr. Thomas begging for help. Commissioner Ransford brought up the differences in the "management" of the schools, with respect to student and parent expectations. All agreed that making operations more efficient and creating a "more involved" culture within the District 227 schools was imperative to their survival. Trustee Liaison Watkins brought up the current discussion in District 227 with regard to facilities and the options they are considering to address future facilities needs. President Burke pointed out the relationship between our schools, our property taxes and consumer demand for

housing in our area compared to areas west of I-57. President Burke stated he feels housing demand is directly related to property taxes.

In summary, most (if not all) voiced their agreement that communication of what is going on at the schools and what is available to students at all levels of education is our primary charge and what our fellow citizens would most appreciate.

AGENDA ITEM: OLD BUSINESS

Future Meeting Dates – Chairman Veazey stated that he could not be in attendance for the next meeting on June 19th requested by Trustee Liaison Watkins, but would resolve the question of when the commission would meet in the future after polling commissioners. Trustee Liaison Watkins disagreed with this approach and stated that future meeting dates should be scheduled around her availability (only the 3rd Wednesday of each month) and that other commissions followed this protocol, including the EC's past liaison (Trustee Oliver). Ms. Tyler, who is currently on Trustee Oliver's Public Safety Commission, stated that Trustee Watkins' statement was not so. Tyler stated that their future meeting dates were decided by consensus of the commission members, not by Trustee Oliver. President Burke stated his confidence that a schedule that worked for everyone was possible. Chairman Veazey stated that the opinion of all commissioners was important and that his goal is to include all in whatever decision is made.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm..