



BOARD OF EDUCATION COMPENSATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – Meeting Three
October 24, 2024
Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street – 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland

Attendance

Members Present:

Gretchen Blankenship
Kayon Graham
Nichole McDonald
Rachel Watanabe-Tate
Jaslynn Laurence

Staff Present:

Dale Tibbitts, Spec. Asst. to the County
Executive

Lindsay Bolt, Sr. Executive Administrative
Aide, Office of the County Executive

1. Call to Order

Kayon (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from 10/17/24 Meeting

Kayon asked the members if everyone had reviewed the minutes.

ACTION:

- members voted unanimously to confirm the minutes as written.

3. Staff Report

Lindsay reminded members to take their Required trainings.

- [Required Training](#): Maryland Open Meetings Act, Montgomery County Ethics Law, Parliamentary Procedure (see One Pager)

Lindsay provided an update to the Commissioners:

- Montgomery County Public Schools Board of Education Executive Director Staff responded to the Commission Staff that they would provide the following information for the Commissioners:
 - Update the *Montgomery County Board of Education Staff Position and Duties list (from 2019 Report)*
 - *The current salaries for the MCPS Board of Education Staff*
 - *The current salaries and Scholarship for the MCPS Board of Education Members and Student Member of the Board*
 - *An updated list of the workload of the board (from 2019 Report)*
- Virtual interviews have been scheduled with the following Board of Education Members
 - Nov. 1 (5-5:45pm) – Grace Rivera Oven
 - Nov. 5 (6:15-7pm) – Rebecca Smondrowski
 - Nov. 7 (7:15-8pm) – President Karla Silvestre

- Nov. 7 (8-8:45pm) – Julie Yang
- Nov. 14 (6-6:45pm) – Brenda Wolff
- CountyStat updated Chapter 3 of the Report which provides Montgomery County specific Population, Household Profiles, MCPS School data.

ACTION:

- Commission Staff will continue to work with MCPS Board of Education Executive Staff to get the requested updated information for the Commissioners.
- Commission Staff will continue to work on getting an interview set with the former Student Member of the Board (Sami Saeed)
- Commission Staff will send out Calendar invites with Microsoft Teams links for the MCPS Board of Education Members to join for each of their respective interviews.

4. Approaches and Strategies toward Goal

Members continued their discussion of how they would go about building the 2024 report.

Members reviewed the Draft list of Interview Questions the Commissioners could ask the BOE Members and culled it down to 9 questions:

1. What prompted you to run for election for a MCPS School Board Member seat?
2. What is the role of the MCPS School Board?
3. What characteristics, education, and experience are required to be a board member?
4. Describe your role in the review/approval of the annual budget of MCPS.
5. How large is the team that supports the Board of Education, and do you believe it is adequate?
6. What is your role in the day-to-day operations of the School Board; How many hours per week do you spend on Board of Education work?
7. Thinking about the work a board member does, how would it relate to other management positions both within the school system and in the marketplace?
8. Describe the school board's role in the safety and well-being of the students, staff and community they serve.
9. If you could use your superpowers to change the MCPS School Board, what would that be and why?

Gretchen shared an updated Appendix 4-3: Largest School Districts List and updated Appendix 4-4 Peer School Districts List

- Members discussed if they wanted to cull the list of districts down to exclude those which did not pay their members but after deliberation the members agreed they would keep both lists as they were in 2019 with the updated data as it was something they considered as part of this report.
- Members agreed that when they write their report, they will focus their recommendation on the Peer list and those districts with similar Student Enrollment, Budget, and who pay their Board of Education members.

Jaslynn shared a document noting the Education and Experience each of the MCPS Board Members brings and noted that in the previous 2019 report, there was no standardized education or experience needed to become a MCPS Board of Education Board Member as it allows for Diversity, and in some cases Equity.

ACTION:

- Members directed Staff to create a final Question list for the Commissioners to use during the Interviews, and to share the final question list with the MCPS Board Members being interviewed ahead of time, so they could prepare.
- Members will need to review the data provided by CountyStat and that of Gretchen's as some of the same data is shared but are conflicting.
- Members will review the Fairfax, VA report - <https://patch.com/virginia/vienna/salaries-fairfax-county-school-board-increase-2024>

5. Next Meeting

Members discussed how they wanted to meet for future meetings, whether In Person, Hybrid or Virtual

ACTION:

- Members agreed with the following schedule:
 - Oct. 30 (7-8:30pm) – Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 - Nov. 1 (5-5:45pm) – Grace Rivera Oven Interview - Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 - Nov. 5 (6:15-7pm) – Rebecca Smondrowski - Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 - Nov. 7 (7-9pm) – Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 - Nov. 7 (7:15-8pm) – President Karla Silvestre - Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 - Nov. 7 (8-8:45pm) – Julie Yang - Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 - Nov. 14 (6-6:45pm) – Brenda Wolff - Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 - Nov. 14 (7-8:30pm) - Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 - Nov. 21 (7-8:30pm) - TBD
 - Nov. 27 (6:30-8pm) – Virtual via Microsoft Teams
 - Dec. 5 (7-8:30pm) – TBD
 - Dec. 12 (7-8:30pm) - TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wed. October 30th, 7pm-8:30pm

- Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Bolt