

CITY OF HOLYOKE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

LOCAL CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024
TIME: 4:30pm Remote Meeting

Present: Anthony Soto, Josh Garcia, Erin Linville, Gladys Lebron Martinez, Devin Sheehan, Dr. Yadilette Rivera Colon

Chair Yadilette Rivera Colon called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and announced that pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 20, attendees are hereby informed that a video and audio recording is being made of the meeting and the meeting is being live-streamed via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER ~ ROLL CALL ~ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call:

Mayor Garcia-present, Mr. Sheehan-present, Dr. Rivera Colon-present, Orlando Isaka-absent

New Business:

1. **Review of the number of applicants for the Community Advisory Team and discussion for the proposed selection process for the full School Committee.**
 - Dr. Rivera Colon stated that the sole purpose of the meeting is to review the number of applicants for the community advisory team and discuss the next process for the full school committee.
 - Mayor Garcia commented that 25 applicants total have been submitted for the Community Advisory Committee.
 - Ms. Linville announced that 5 people identified as HPS teachers (one who is retired), 3 other HPS staff, 4 students, 8 parents and guardians (a couple of which are also staff members), and 5 community leaders or partners. There are 18 Holyoke residents and 7 are not. We have a representative from every single ward. 10 members identify as HPS staff.
 - As for language, 10 said they can participate in English and Spanish and 14 would participate in English language. 1 in Spanish.
 - For race 12 people identified as Latino or Hispanic. 2 are multi-race, 1 prefer not to say and 10 identify as white.
 - 19 females and 6 males in the gender category.
 - Some support requested was materials in English and Spanish. If it was during the day they would need release from the classroom. Some individuals asked for a meeting schedule in advance and 1 person might need transportation support.

- Mayor Garica inquired of the 7 individuals out of district, do they also work for the district. Erin responded that 1 student who goes to the school but does not live in the district and some are staff and others are community partners. 1 is a parent.
- Mr. Sheehan asked “ Do we have the buckets in which the applicants filled the membership? Examples: would be how many people, how many middle or high school students and the schools? How many duplicates in each category?” Ms. Linville followed up with that the posting listed ideal representation across all schools and grade levels. It had 10-14 representatives, 4 partners, 2 school committee members and if there was someone that the Mayor wanted to appoint. There was no representative from the City Council. Ms. Linville followed up with when looking by associated schools, you can see a variety of schools being presented.
- Mr. Sheehan requested that by Monday's school committee meeting that applicants should be categorized by the ideal representation coming from. Mayor Garcia added that looking into where we are falling short in categories would be beneficial.
- At this time there are no principles or school leaders representing and plus City Council or designee. City Council did receive communication of the taskforce being created and given an option to join said taskforce. Summary of Mr. Sheehan that he would like to have more higher ed, face team and principals, considering what the group is going to represent.
- Mr. Sheehan commented appointing all the individuals who are committed is good because they want to serve and understand the responsibility, but continuing to look at the holes that need to be filled and encourage individuals to apply before the closing of the application. There is no need to interview all individuals as it will slow the process.
- Agreement by subcommittee to have representatives from administration, city council and someone from the face-team. Subcommittee asked Ms. Linville and Receiver/ Superintendent Soto to follow up with. Receiver/ Superintendent Soto describes having an input session with all principles to discuss the report, even if they are not on the advisory board.
- Mayor Garcia inquired if these would be public meetings and Mr. Sheehan explained that if they are appointed by the school committee, then it's a public meeting. Any committee appointed by city council, mayor, school committee to the public entity is a public meeting.
- Subcommittee agreed that a hybrid would be beneficial to the applicants. There will be no formal interview but in person and Zoom will allow access to all applicants.

Motion: Mr. Sheehan made a motion to recommend the current list of candidates as of October 7th to the full school committee of members of the Community Advisory Committee. 2nd by Mayor Garcia.

Dr. Rivera-Colón (zoom) - yes, Mr. Sheehan (zoom)-yes, Mayor Garcia (zoom) –yes

Vote passed unanimously

- Major Garcia introduced Eric Wise from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission who was not on the panel or agenda but wanted the subcommittee to be aware of him and to plan to put him on the agenda for the next full committee meeting. This will give an opportunity to discuss what we are looking for, what is facilitation, and 3rd party facilitation. It would be recommended that submit a proposal with Mr. Wise and go over the direction the committee would like to gear towards. They are exempt from procurement and can be directly contracted, assuming that they can get a proposal in our next meeting. Dr. Rivera Colon will add them to the agenda next time so that it can be discussed.
- Mr. Sheehan mentioned that his biggest thing in looking for a provider is facilitation that meets the cultural makeup of the City of Holyoke. The provider can meet the needs to be a multicultural organization and provide multicultural facilitation to meet those needs.
- Question asked if the funding was in place for the organization. Major Garcia followed up with connecting with the Receiver and the flexibility needed. Receiver/ Superintendent commented that currently there is no funds allocated to this but he can follow up with CFO Executive. As soon as a dollar amount is set, then we can inquire if the funding is available.
- Mr. Sheehan conveyed that another thing to keep in mind is to ask who will be taking the meeting minutes. Will this organization will? Currently the Admin Assistant is limited with time as it's only 20 hours per week. Hopefully it's in the parameters of the pricing structure.
- **Next meeting is scheduled for Oct 28th at 5pm.**

Motion: Mr. Sheehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:06pm. 2nd by Mayor Garcia.

Dr. Rivera-Colón (zoom) - yes, Mr. Sheehan (zoom)-yes, Mayor Garcia (zoom) –yes

Vote passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned 5:06 pm