

CITY OF HOLYOKE
LOCAL CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE

LOCAL CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024

TIME: 5:00pm

PRESENT: Mayor Garcia, Mr. Anthony Soto, Mr. Devin Sheehan, Ms. Mildred Lefebvre, Mr. Orlando Isaza, Ms. Ellie Wilson, Eric Weiss

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call: Major Garcia-present, Mr. Sheehan-present, **Dr. Rivera-absent**

Subcommittee Member Mr. Sheehan called the meeting to order at **5:04** 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.

1. [Review Proposal from PVPC](#) for facilitation of the Community Advisory Team Outreach for the qualities for the next superintendent.

Motion: Mayor Garcia made a motion to take the proposal to the full school committee with the recommended changes. 2nd by Mr. Sheehan

- o Mayor Garcia stated that there is something new in the proposal, which is the DLTA match of some funds.
- o Mr. Weiss explained every year the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and other agencies receive some money from the State to work with communities in specific ways, it's called the "District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA). This runs from January to December, not through a fiscal year or federal.
- o At this time there is approximately \$2,000 in the account and will be recommended that it is used in this contract to supplement some of the cost. This will cover his time and to keep things moving easily.
- o Mr. Sheehan reminded that the school committee is the client and not the City of Holyoke. All final reports come to the School Committee as a whole and any questions will come back to the subcommittee. Mr. Weiss will add that the work will be done in collaboration with the Holyoke School Committee, so that it is clear. Mayor Garcia reiterated that this is a public engagement group that will provide a recommendation to the school board on the process of hiring a superintendent.
- o Mr. Sheehan reinforced that there are no decisions on the hiring process until the report is complete. This has been aligned with the State planning.
- o Mr. Weiss said that in collaboration with Great Schools they have offered Jose Bou to offer support. Paulina Merton who runs the Great Schools is the contact and has made this recommendation.

Motion: Mayor Garcia made a motion to take a slight recess at 5:13pm and resume at 5:15pm. 2nd by Mr. Sheehan

Mayor Garcia-yes, Mr. Sheehan - yes, Dr. Rivera-Colón - absent

Vote passed unanimously

- o Mr. Sheehan called the meeting back to order at 5:15pm and all members are currently present.

Roll Call: Mayor Garcia-present, Mr. Sheehan-present, **Dr. Rivera-absent**

- o Mayor Garcia asked about the facilitation of the grade schools? Mr. Weiss followed up with Jose Bou as a partner. Mayor Garcia asked if Great Schools can recommend another person as Jose Bou is the husband of the Chair of this subcommittee. This can be perceived as a conflict of interest. Mr. Weiss commented that he can reach out and follow up with the subcommittee's concerns and ensure a full unbiased process.
- o Ms. Lefebvre interjected if this was a rough draft as there were errors in some sections. Section 6: under compensation: it has in written format not to exceed \$31,100 then in parentheses its written \$31,125. Section 5: under time of performance: you have two different years; 2023 and 2025. Ms. Lefebvre followed up for clarity purposes she would like to know; "have you done this work before? What is the focus on the community meetings? Is this focused on the capacity building plan?" Mr. Weiss remarked that it is a precursor to the evaluation process. This facilitation group will work in conjunction with the school committee and public to provide a recommendation on the rest of the process. He continues to state that they are not looking into the evaluation but what the community would like to see in a future superintendent. Ms. Lefebvre remarked that if the subcommittee intends what they want to see in the next superintendent, that it is geared more for a superintendent search decision. Mr. Sheehan stated the work in the proposal is based on the capacity plan, which is part of the engagement with an external vendor to support the planning of a superintendent selection process including strategies to conduct broad-based, inclusive stakeholder engagement. There are 2 prongs to the Community Advisory Committee; the first is the planning and the 2nd part is feedback on action steps developed by the School Committee during the Receivers evaluation process.

Mayor Garcia-yes, Mr. Sheehan - yes, Dr. Rivera-Colón - absent

Vote passed unanimously

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

Mayor Garcia-yes, Mr. Sheehan - yes, Dr. Rivera-Colón - absent

Vote passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned ____ 533pm