

Educational Nominating Panel Convening Meeting  
February 26, 2018, 2:30 p.m.  
Mayor's Reception Room, 202 City Hall  
***Meeting Minutes***

Members Present: Kendra Brooks, Bonnie Camarda, Pat Eiding, Dan Fitzpatrick, Jamie Gauthier, Peter Gonzales, Derren Mangum, Stephanie Naidoff, Ivy Olesh, Kimberly Pham, Wendell Pritchett, Sean Vereen, Barbara Moore Williams

1. Mr. Pritchett welcomed everyone and explained the agenda of the Panel for February 26, 2018. The Panel would vote on the names to submit to the Mayor for his consideration, the Panel would discuss the process by which the Panel reviewed applications, conducted interviews and deliberated on individuals, and the Panel would invite public comment before the vote.

2. Ms. Gauthier moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 19, 2018, and Ms. Brooks seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. Mr. Pritchett then explained the process by which the Panel arrived at their list of potential nominees from the review of applications, a recitation of the dates on which the Panel met for executive session to discuss potential interviewees [Saturday February 3, 2018, Thursday February 8, 2018 and Thursday February 13, 2018 all by phone].

4. Mr. Pritchett then described the process by which individuals were interviewed and the categories upon which they measured [Organizational Acumen; Commitment to Education; Diversity, Inclusion and Community Empowerment; and finally, Ethics and Integrity]. The interviews conducted by groups of 2-3 Panel members occurred on the following dates:

Wednesday February 7, 2018

Saturday February 10, 2018

Monday February 12, 2018

Tuesday February 13, 2018

Thursday February 15, 2018

Saturday February 17, 2018

Sunday February 18, 2018

5. Mr. Pritchett then described the last executive session which happened in person on Monday February 19, 2018, where the Panel discussed all 80 interviewees in an effort to narrow down the field.

6. Mr. Pritchett then asked the Panel for any reflections on the process of review of applications and the interviews. Pat Eiding spoke positively about the application review, and interview process that was taken. Stephanie Naidoff seconded Pat's comments regarding the process.

7. Mr. Pritchett then asked the Panelists if any of them or their immediate family members or their businesses could receive any private financial benefit from or to any of the individuals.

- a. Peter Gonzales abstained himself from consideration of two candidates, Anuj Gupta and Lee Huang
- b. Kendra Brooks abstained herself from consideration of Tonya Bah
- c. Sean Vereen abstained himself from consideration of Akil Parker

8. Mr. Pritchett then read aloud the potential candidates around which he believed the Panel had consensus:

Sarah-Ashley	Andrews
Jenne	Ayers
Tonya	Bah
Dario	Bellot
Suzanne	Biemiller
Laura	Boyce
Rotonya	Carr
Julia	Danzy
Susan	DeJarnatt
Stacy	Dutton
Letitia	Egea-Hinton
Mallory	Fix Lopez
Susanna	Greenberg
Anuj	Gupta
Lee	Huang
Renee	Hughes
Loree	Jones
Chad	Lassiter
Maria	McColgan
Chris	McGinley
Angela	Mclver
Folasade	Olanipekun-Lewis
Sharon	Parker
Akil	Parker
Roberta	Trombetta
Patricia	Wellenbach
Joyce	Wilkerson

9. The Panelists then each read short biographies around each of the potential nominees; Panel members had the opportunity to comment following each description.

- a. Ivy Olesh read a short biography about Anuj Gupta
- b. Bonnie Camarda read a short biography about Susanna Greenberg
- c. Jamie Gauthier read a short biography about Leticia Egea-Hinton
- d. Stephanie Naidoff read a short biography about Stacy Dutton
- e. Derren Mangum read a short biography about Susan DeJarnatt
- f. Kimberly Pham read a short biography about Suzanne Biemiller
- g. Sean Vereen read a short biography about Sarah-Ashley Andrews
- h. Barbara Moore Williams read a short biography about Tonya Bah
- i. Ivy Olesh read a short biography about Laura Boyce
- j. Peter Gonzales read a short biography about Jenne Ayers
- k. Dan Fitzpatrick read a short biography about Dario Bellot
- l. Pat Eiding read a short biography about Julia Danzy
- m. Kendra Brooks read a short biography about Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis
- n. Bonnie Camarda read a short biography about Patricia Wellenbach
- o. Jamie Gauthier read a short biography about Angela McIver
- p. Stephanie Naidoff read a short biography about Roberta Trombetta
- q. Derren Mangum read a short biography about Chad Lassiter
- r. Kimberly Pham read a short biography about Maria McColgan. Dan Fitzpatrick added additional comments regarding Dr. McColgan's strong background in education and her extensive knowledge of Philadelphia neighborhoods.
- s. Sean Vereen read a short biography about Sharon Parker
- t. Barbara Moore Williams read a short biography about Akil Parker. Dan Fitzpatrick added comments around Mr. Parker being a strong mathematics teacher and made a strong impression on the Panel.
- u. Kendra Brooks read a short biography about Renee Hughes
- v. Peter Gonzales read a short biography about Lee Huang. Jamie Gauthier added that Mr. Huang brings strong analytical skills, and is deeply committed to education and would make a great addition to the Board.
- w. Dan Fitzpatrick read a short biography about Rotonya Carr
- x. Pat Eiding read a short biography about Mallory Fix Lopez
- y. Barbara Moore Williams read a short biography about Loree Jones

- z. Wendell Pritchett read a short biography for Chris McGinley
  - aa. Wendell Pritchett read a short biography for Joyce Wilkerson
10. Mr. Pritchett invited members of the public to make comment on the Panel's processes
- a. Barbara Dowdal commented on the importance of public education and ensuring that members of the Board were as committed to public education as possible.
  - b. Lisa Haver commented on the importance of ensuring that the Board is accountable to the people of Philadelphia. She further described the process as being non-transparent and secretive. Additionally, Ms. Haver advocated for an elected school board.
  - c. Karel Kilminik commented on the Panel's process being deeply flawed, she was identified as a nominee but was not contacted. She added that there was no transparency in the process. Ms. Kilminik then advocated for an elected school board. She further commented on the timing of the meeting and asked for the meetings to occur at a more easily accessible time [Wendell Pritchett then asked staff to reach out to her regarding her nomination to see what happened].
  - d. Ivan Rivar commented on how austerity policies by Harrisburg denied students their potential. He added that the new Board would need to advocate for full and fair funding.
  - e. Maurice Jenkins commented on the importance of ensuring that the new Board be inclusive of Charter School supporters, and not be dismissive of Charter School parents and students.
  - f. Kelly Jones commented on how her children are thriving, one child doing well in school, the other going to college next year. Ms. Jones believes it is due to the teachers who helped push them to do their best. She speaks as a parent for all children and wishes for each member of the School Board to be a champion for all children.
  - g. Allen Foo commented as a teacher, he applauds the Mayor and the District for taking back control from the state. He believes the Board should not have financial conflicts of interests, he also believes that education cannot be highjacked by financial interests. He highlighted the important of the Board to be former teachers and educators. He further criticized the professional resumes of the 27 candidates. Lastly, he urged the creation of an advisory council of teachers for the Board.
  - h. Diane Payne acknowledged the work that the Panel has put in. She commented on the happiness felt when the SRC voted to dissolve itself last year, and how it opened the possibility of hope on behalf of many Philadelphians. She further talked about how the secretive nature of the Panel reduced hope. Ms. Payne then advocated for an elected school board.
  - i. Sylvia Simms commented on how the Panel is responsible for all the children of Philadelphia. Ms. Simms spoke to how she wants high quality education for all children.
  - j. Betty Icox was called and did not appear to provide comment.

k. Maureen Destefano commented on how she applied and was nominated but never received a phone call or an interview from the Panel. She then spoke to being a parent of children in Philadelphia public schools. Ms. Destefano was dismayed by not being asked for more information in order to be a nominee for the Panel. She further criticized not hearing enough about parents on the list of nominees.

11. Mr. Pritchett invited a motion to close the nominations. Jamie Gauthier moved for the nominations for potential members to be closed. Bonnie Camarda seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

12. Mr. Pritchett then opened the floor for the Panel to vote on each of the potential nominees.

a. Jamie Gauthier moved to nominate Sarah-Ashley Andrews, Stephanie Naidoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

b. Bonnie Camarda moved to nominate Jenee Ayers, Pat Eiding seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

c. Kimberly Pham moved to nominate Tonya Bah, Ivy Olesh seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote (Kendra Brooks abstained).

d. Derren Mangum moved to nominate Dario Bellot, Sean Vereen seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

e. Dan Fitzpatrick moved to nominate Suzanne Biemiller, Peter Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

f. Barbara Moore Williams moved to nominate Laura Boyce, Kendra Brooks seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

g. Jamie Gauthier moved to nominate Rotonya Carr, Stephanie Naidoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote (Wendell Pritchett abstained).

h. Bonnie Camarda moved to nominate Julia Danzy, Pat Eiding seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

i. Kimberly Pham moved to nominate Susan DeJarnatt, Ivy Olesh seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

j. Derren Mangum moved to nominate Stacy Dutton, Sean Vereen seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

k. Dan Fitzpatrick moved to nominate Letitia Egea-Hinton, Peter Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

l. Barbara Moore Williams moved to nominate Mallory Fix Lopez, Kendra Brooks seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

m. Stephanie Naidoff moved to nominate Susanna Greenberg, Bonnie Camarda seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote (Wendell Pritchett abstained).

- n. Pat Eiding moved to nominate Anuj Gupta, Kimberly Pham seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote (Peter Gonzales abstained).
  - o. Ivy Olesh moved to nominate Lee Huang, Jamie Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote (Peter Gonzales abstained).
  - p. Derren Mangum moved to nominate Renee Hughes, Sean Vereen seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - q. Dan Fitzpatrick moved to nominate Loree Jones, Peter Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - r. Kendra Brooks moved to nominated Chad Lassiter, Barbara Moore Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - s. Bonnie Camarda moved to nominate Maria McColgan, Stephanie Naidoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - t. Kimberly Pham moved to nominate Angela McIver, Pat Eiding seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - u. Ivy Olesh moved to nominate Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis, Jamie Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - v. Dan Fitzpatrick moved to nominate Akil Parker, Peter Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote (Sean Vereen abstained).
  - w. Sean Vereen moved to nominated Sharon Parker, Derren Mangum seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - x. Kendra Brooks moved to nominate Roberta Trombetta, Barbara Moore Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - y. Bonnie Camarda moved to nominate Patricia Wellenbach, Stephanie Naidoff seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - z. Jamie Gauthier moved to nominate Chris McGinley, Bonnie Camarda seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
  - aa. Bonnie Camarda moved to nominate Joyce Wilkerson, Jamie Gauthier seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.
13. Mr. Pritchett asked the Panel for any additional comments.
- a. Barbara Moore Williams thanked the public for coming to speak. She also believes the Panel did the best job that they could do and presented a great group of people to the Mayor.
  - b. Kendra Brooks says she was initially very skeptical of the process, but that she learned a lot from this process and gained a level of respect for the Mayor for being hands off through the process. She believes there is always more work to be done.

- c. Jamie Gauthier wanted to dispel the belief that the Panel's strings were pulled by the Mayor. The Panel made independent decisions from the Mayor's Office. The Panel also considered parents as part of the consideration for the nominees.
  - c. Pat Eiding shared that secret meetings could not have taken place because there was simply too much to do. The Panel read every single application and came together to come up with the best of the best.
  - d. Sean Vereen added that there are many different communities represented on the Panel, they made a lot of compromises to do the best for Philadelphia's children as they could.
  - e. Derren Mangum wanted to highlight the incredible pool of folks who applied.
14. Mr. Pritchett asked the Assistant Secretary of the Panel, Christina Hernandez to prepare the list of nominees to deliver to the Mayor on behalf of the Nominating Panel.
15. Mr. Pritchett adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Christina Hernandez, Assistant Secretary