Educational Nominating Panel Meeting
December 16, 2020, 3pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Maura McCarthy, Ivy Olesh, Ellen Mattleman Kaplan, Sean Vereen, Wendell Pritchett, Rev. Bonnie Camarda, Derren Mangum, Dan Fitzpatrick, Peter Gonzales, Kimberley Pham, Dr. Barbara Moore Williams

1. Mayor James F. Kenney provided opening remarks, thanking the members of the Panel for their time in selecting candidates for the Board of Education, and thanked members of the public for their participation in the process.

2. Mr. Pritchett welcomed the members and explained the agenda for December 16, 2020. The Panel would be voting on the nominees to submit to the Mayor and would also explain the process by which they arrived at those names.

3. Mr. Pritchett asked if there were questions on the minutes from the last meeting on November 17, 2020. The minutes had been circulated to each member of the Panel and copies were made available to the public. There were no questions on the minutes. Sean Vereen moved to approve the minutes from November 17, 2020. Ivy Olesh seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

4. Mr. Pritchett explained the process by which the Panel deliberated over the applicants to the Board of Education, including a recitation of dates on which the Panel held executive sessions [Thursday December 10, 2020 via Zoom, Saturday December 12, 2020 via Zoom, Monday December 14, 2020 via Zoom], and how the Panel narrowed the pool of applicants to arrive at the names to be nominated.

5. Mr. Pritchett announced the potential candidates around which he believed the Panel had consensus:

   Karima Bouchenafa
   Tariem Burroughs
   Natalia Dominguez Buckley
   Gavin Keirans
   Azeb Kinder
   John Lynch
   Lisa Salley
   Reginald Streater
   Cecelia Thompson

6. Mr. Pritchett then asked the Panel to disclose any conflicts of interest that may impact their ability to discuss or vote on any individual being considered. Derren Mangum recused himself

from the discussion and vote around Karima Bouchenafa and Azeb Kinder due to personal relationships.

7. The Panelists then each read short biographies for each of the candidates; Panel members had the opportunity to comment following each description:

   a. Ivy Olesh read a short biography about Karima Bouchenafa

   b. Derren Mangum read a short biography about Tariem Burroughs

   c. Peter Gonzales read a short biography about Natalia Dominguez Buckley

   d. Kimberly Pham read a short biography about Gavin Keirans

   e. Ellen Mattleman Kaplan read a short biography about Azeb Kinder

   f. Sean Vereen read a short biography about John Lynch

   g. Dan Fitzpatrick read a short biography about Lisa Salley

   h. Dr. Barbara Moore Williams read a short biography about Reginald Streater

   i. Maura McCarthy read a short biography about Cecilia Thompson

8. Mr. Pritchett invited members of the public to comment.

   a. Bilal Qayyum believes we need more black males on the school board. He requests that two black males be selected to serve on the BOE. He serves on the Mayor's Commission of African American Males.

   b. Karel Kilimnik indicated confusion around how to sign up. Ms. Kilimnik also highlighted that the meeting agenda was not available to her. Additionally, Ms. Kilimnik indicated displeasure over executive session and lack of transparency. Ms. Kilimnik highlighted that Panel members must be registered Philadelphia voters and that she believed that one or more were not in fact registered Philadelphia voters.

   c. Dana Carter offered concerns around the miseducation of black youth under the leadership of Superintendent Hite. She asked that parents and activists be engaged to make the process as transparent as possible.

   d. Lynda Rubin spoke about the role of the Board Members and the importance of the role. She spoke about the past process of hiring leadership from within the District and how this process benefits the neighborhoods. Board of Education members must be open to public comment and concerns.

e.   Lisa Haver indicated alarm over the list of nominees presented. She also indicated alarm that the public was not involved in the review of the candidates. Lisa Haver believed that the current Board of Education is a rubber stamp for the Administration. She also asked for the financial disclosure statements for Panel members as well as expressed general concern over a lack of transparency during the process.

f.   Stacey Mandel (not present to provide comment).

g.   Jennifer Byiers echoed Lisa Haver's concerns. She wanted to speak about transparency on the Board of Education. She works in the private sector and has a vigorous transparency policy in all her work. She points out that there may be conflict of interest regarding contracts members of the Nominating Panel have received from the Board of Education. Asks that the Board and Nominating Panel publicly declare any conflicts.

h.   Diane Payne also echoes the remarks of Lisa Haver for transparency. She points out that Philadelphia is one of the only school boards that is not elected. She asks if the members of the Panel represent the demographics of Philadelphia. Asks for more transparency about the candidates who applied and more public engagement opportunities. Asks for Panel interviews to be public. She finds the public testimony today to be performative.

i.   Tonya Bah states that the Education Nominating Panel is contributing to mass incarceration. Tonya says the Nominating Panel chose to bring businesses to the table rather than parents, students and community members. Engaging these members would lead to quality education. She asks why there is not a permanent seat for Philadelphia Home and School Association and students. She asks politicians to uphold the promises they made during their campaigns. She asks for more transparency from the Board and to push back the deadline for selecting a candidate.

j.   Jemille Duncan is a junior at Multicultural Charter schools and the deputy director of Urban Ed Advocates. His organization fervently supports Our City Our Schools. He asks for more transparency about how the Nominating Panels are selected. He believes that students should have a seat at the Nominating Panel table.

9.   Mr. Pritchett invited a motion to close nominations. Sean Vereen moved for the nominations of potential members to be closed. Rev. Bonnie Camarda seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

a.   Sean Vereen moved for the Panel to nominate Karima Bouchenafa. Ivy Olesh seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote (Derren Mangum recused himself).

b.   Derren Mangum moved for the Panel to nominate Tariem Burroughs. Peter Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

c.   Kimberly Pham moved for the Panel to nominate Natalia Dominguez Buckley. Ellen Mattleman Kaplan seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

d. Sean Vereen moved to nominate Gavin Keirans. Maura McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

e. Peter Gonzales moved to nominate Azeb Kinder. Ivy Olesh seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote (Derren Mangum recused himself).

f. Rev. Bonnie Camarda moved to nominate John Lynch. Sean Vereen seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

g. Derren Mangum moved to nominate Lisa Salley. Ivy Olesh seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

h. Maura McCarthy moved to nominate Reginald Streater. Dr. Barbara Moore Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

i. Kimberly Pham moved to nominate Cecelia Thompson. Dan Fitzpatrick seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

10. Mr. Pritchett thanked the Panel members for their time in the review and consideration of candidates.

11. Mr. Pritchett then asked Christina Hernandez, Assistant Secretary of the Panel, to prepare a letter to send to the Mayor on behalf of the Panel with the list of nominees for the Mayor to consider.

12. Mr. Pritchett then adjourned the meeting.