

Educational Nominating Panel Meeting  
April 4, 2022, 11am  
Virtual Meeting viz Zoom  
Meeting Minutes

Members Present at 1234 Market Street: Sozi Pedro Tulante, Sean Vereen, Dr. Barbara Moore Williams, Derren Mangum, Kimberly Pham, Joanna Otero-Cruz, Dr. Darren Lipscomb, and Ivy Olesh.

Members Joining Virtually: Tiffany Thurman

1. Christina Hernandez provided opening remarks, welcoming the public and the members of the Panel. She then had each of the Panel members introduce themselves.
2. Sozi Tulante provided a notice of consent to recording. He alerted the public that the meeting was being recorded and that it would be posted online as required by City ordinance. Additionally, he alerted the public that participation in the meeting constitutes consent to record.
3. Sozi Tulante then moved to the first order of business, adopting the rules of procedure for the Educational Nominating Panel. The rules had been circulated to each member of the Panel and copies were made available to the public. Sozi Tulante moved to adopt the rules of procedure. Ivy Olesh seconded the motion. The rules were adopted by unanimous vote.
4. Sean Vereen moved that Sozi Tulante be elected Chair of the Educational Nominating Panel. Joanna Otero-Cruz seconded the motion. Sozi Tulante was elected Chair by unanimous vote.
5. Ivy Olesh moved for the election of Sean Vereen as Vice Chair of the Educational Nominating Panel. Sozi Tulante seconded the motion. Sean Vereen was elected Vice Chair by unanimous vote.
6. Sozi Tulante moved for the election of Rev. Bonnie Camarda as Secretary of the Educational Nominating Panel. Dr. Darren Lipscomb seconded the motion. Rev. Bonnie Camarda was elected by unanimous vote.
7. Sozi Tulante then appointed Christina Hernandez as the Assistant Secretary of the Educational Nominating Panel, in order to assist in the administrative functions of the Panel. Christina Hernandez accepted the appointment and thanked Sarah Peterson, Sarah Hollister, and Abby Schottenfels for their assistance in supporting the Educational Nominating Panel.
8. Sozi Tulante then moved to the approval of the meeting minutes from December 16, 2020. He noted a copy of the minutes had been circulated to each member of the Panel. Christina Hernandez then acknowledged a typo in paragraph 8 in the copy that had been circulated that would be fixed prior to the public posting of the minutes. Sozi Tulante moved to approve the minutes subject to the typo being fixed. Ivy Olesh seconded the motion. The meeting minutes from December 16, 2020, were approved by unanimous vote.

9. Sozi Tulante then invited City Solicitor Diana Cortes to provide a presentation on the legal requirements for participation on the Board of Education. He then invited Chief Education Officer Otis Hackney to provide a presentation on the Duties and Qualities of Board of Education members. Finally, he invited Christina Hernandez to provide a presentation on expectations for the Educational Nominating Panel Process. All presentations were made available to the public online.
  - a. Joanna Otero-Cruz asked Christina Hernandez what platforms were being utilized to help disseminate information to the public. Christina asked Sarah Peterson, the Communications support for the Panel, to provide details. The Administration will be populating all City websites with information on how to apply for the Board as well as providing a social media toolkit for other departments to help spread the word. Christina added that she had communicated the same information with local, state and federal elected officials to help spread the word as well.
  - b. Pep Marie asked a question in the Zoom chat function. Abby Schottenfels read it aloud, “will you be sharing the slideshow as well for those who don’t have time to watch the whole recording?” Christina confirmed that the power point presentations will be posted online.
10. Sozi Tulante expressed his thanks to former members of the Panel for their service: Peter Gonzales, Maura McCarthy, Wendell Pritchett, and Stephanie Naidoff.
11. Sozi Tulante then moved that the Chair be authorized to take the steps necessary for the Panel to comply with Section 12-207(d) of the Education Supplement to the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, which requires the panel to invite business, civic, professional, labor, and other organizations, as well as individuals, situated or resident within the City to submit for consideration by the Panel the names of persons qualified to serve as members of the Board of Education. Sean Vereen seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. Sozi Tulanted noted that the application has been posted online, and that all applications received online or in paper would be forwarded to the Panel.
12. Sozi Tulante then invited members of the public to comment.
  - a. Lisa Haver - With the Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools, thinks the meetings should not be held “privately.” Panel should not meet at 11 am on a weekday. Calls for more transparency about the nominating panel. Could not find the agenda online. Wanted to know if there will be more people resigning from the board. Wants an elected school board. Feels the public is not involved in the decision-making process. States this is not a personnel matter, so the panel is accountable to the public.
  - b. Linda Rubin – Retired K-18 counselor. She recalls a time when teachers had full careers at one school. We are now seeing the school district as business. She wants board to refocus on all students. She would like the panel to pick new board members who understand child development. She does not like how teaching to testing schedules is the rule. Schedules don’t accommodate growth. Former educators are hollowed out from SDP in favor of staff who understand business over education.

- c. Barbara Dowdall – Former English teacher. Cites a lackadaisical effort to alert the public the meeting was happened. Asks that panel focus on finding educators for the board. Would like to see someone focused on charter board laws and regulations. Would like someone with understanding of public-school libraries. Believes students are unlikely to read books about formative leaders in civil rights struggle because they cannot access those books from school libraries though the resources exist. Suggests Susan Dejarnett to serve on the board.
  - d. Akira Drake – Christina Hernandez noted that Ms. Drake indicated she was no longer available to provide live public comment but would be submitting her comments in writing.
- 13. Christina Hernandez also noted that the written comment portal would be open as long as the applications were open. Members of the public are encouraged to submit comments that would be considered at the same time applications were being considered.
- 14. Sozi Tulante then invited members of the Panel to provide comments.
  - a. Dr. Darren Lipscomb wants the Panel to consider meeting in the evening to allow for members of the public to participate. Sozi Tulante agreed with this request.
- 15. Sozi Tulante then thanked the members of the Panel, the administrative support staff, and members of the public for their assistance, comments, and feedback.
- 16. Abby Schottenfels read a question in the chat from Scott Peterman, “can someone clarify when the window for written comment will be open?” Christina Hernandez answered that the window for written comment would be open as long as the application window is open.
- 17. Dr. Barbara Moore Williams agreed with Dr. Lipscomb’s request for an evening meeting. Additionally, she believes that having written comments open and available all of the time is very important.
- 18. Sozi Tulante then spoke about the importance of the Educational Nominating Panel’s new website that has all the information on the application process, as well as information on the members of the Panel and past documents for the Panel.
- 19. Derren Mangum then encouraged members of the public to apply for the Panel’s consideration, stating that members of the public should not be discouraged if they don’t feel like they have an impressive resume and that it’s important to apply in order to be considered.
- 20. Sozi Tulante echoed those comments, encouraging the public not to self-censor and to apply to be considered.
- 21. Sozi Tulante moved to adjourn the meeting. Joanna Otero-Cruz seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 12:11pm