

TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
108 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08609
BOARD RETREAT MINUTES
Thursday – February 15, 2018 – 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Completed February 20, 2018
Convened at 6:10 P.M.

Call to Order

Board President Gene Bouie called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Bouie led the salute to the flag.

Roll Call

Present:

Gene Bouie
Fiah Kwesseu
Yolanda Marrero-Lopez
Gerald Truehart II
Lucy Vandenberg

Absent:

Addie Daniels-Lane
Jane Rosenbaum
Heather Watson

Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Fredrick H. McDowell Jr. - Absent

Business Administrator/Board Secretary – Jayne Howard - Present

New Jersey Sunshine Law - Read by Board President Bouie

The New Jersey Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right to the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted on.

On the rules of this act, the Trenton Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting by publicizing the date, time and place, therefore posted in the Central Services Building, 108 North Clinton Avenue, City Clerk's Office, City Hall and the Times. Anyone whose name is on the mailing list should receive a notice.

Formal action will take place at this meeting.

Mission Statement - Read by Board President Bouie

All students will graduate with a vision for their future, motivated to learn continually and prepared to succeed in their choice of college or career.

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Adoption Of Agenda

Motion was made and properly seconded to adopt the agenda. Agenda was adopted by all Board Members present.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Addie Daniels-Lane	absent		
Fiah Kwesseu	X		
Yolanda Marrero-Lopez	X		
Jane Rosenbaum	absent		
Gerald Truehart	X		
Lucy Vandenberg	X		
Heather Watson	absent		
Gene Bouie	X		

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Janice Williams, Grievance Chair for the Trenton Education Association (TEA), expressed concerns about the Superintendent's leadership. She asked the Board to consider the impact on the District, and she also asked why the Superintendent is allowed to live outside the District.

TEA President Ms. Naomi Johnson-Lafleur felt there is a lack of collaboration between the Superintendent and TEA. She also stated that community people are not included in the Day-to-Day operations of the District. Ms. Johnson-Lafleur spoke about the many helpful initiatives that TEA has brought to the District, and she said that our success is due largely to the support that TEA provides. She said that waste is problematic, and she also expressed concerns about the budget structure and the advisory council. Lastly, Ms. Johnson-Lafleur felt that the Superintendent does not have the ability to lead the District; and she stated that TEA will be giving a vote of no confidence.

BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Jesse Adams, Field Services Representative from the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), discussed the Superintendent Evaluation Process with Board Members. Handouts are available in the Board Secretary's office. Board questions and comments were in the following areas:

- Annual evaluation in combination with ongoing feedback
- Board as a whole versus individual members requesting information or reports
- Committees requesting data relative to their area of concentration
- Increasing communication
- Periodic progress updates from the Superintendent
- Board Members making motions at meetings

Mr. Adams also advised the Board on policy development and review benchmarks regarding the annual review of Board Policies.

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ADJOURN

Motion was made by Ms. Kwesseu and seconded by Mr. Truehart to adjourn the meeting at **8:45 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted

Jayne S. Howard

Jayne S. Howard
Business Administrator/Board Secretary