

**TRENTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**108 North Clinton Avenue**  
**Trenton, New Jersey 08609**  
**BOARD RETREAT MINUTES**  
**Tuesday – December 18, 2018 – 5:30 PM**

**Completed January 14, 2019**  
**Convened at 6:02 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Board President Gene Bouie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Bouie called for the salute to the flag.

**Roll Call**

**Present:**

Gene Bouie  
Addie Daniels-Lane  
Yolanda Marrero-Lopez  
Taraun McKnight  
Gerald Truehart II – arrived 6:14 p.m.  
Lucy Vandenberg  
Heather Watson  
Sadé Williams

**Absent:**

Fiah Kwesseu

**Superintendent of Schools** – Dr. Fredrick H. McDowell Jr. - Present

**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.

**NO Formal action will be taken 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**

President Bouie advised that the follow up on community engagement by Khafre Solutions LLC is being pulled from tonight's agenda.

Motion was made by Ms. McKnight and seconded by Ms. Marrero-Lopez to adopt the agenda with the above change. Agenda was adopted by all Board Members present.

<b><u>ROLL CALL</u></b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Addie Daniels-Lane	X		
Fiah Kwesseu	absent		
Yolanda Marrero-Lopez	X		
Taraun McKnight	X		
Gerald Truehart	not present for vote		
Lucy Vandenberg	X		
Heather Watson	X		
Sadé Williams	X		
Gene Bouie	X		

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Vondalyn Fannin, Teacher at Franklin School and Treasurer of the Trenton Education Association (TEA), had concerns about the process and protocols for public participation. She also felt that having presentations prior to public participation is discouraging for those who wish to address the Board.

Mr. Mike Goodman, PTA President, felt that the Board does not consider the community in its actions and is not transparent.

Ms. Naomi Johnson-Lafleur, TEA, said there is a lack of ethics on the Board. She also expressed concern about the Board's vote the prior evening to approve the Superintendent's Merit Pay, stating that it was requested the item be tabled for consideration after the judge's ruling is issued on pending litigation. She asked why the Board voted after Executive Session, which she felt was disrespectful to the community.

TEA President Ms. Twanda Taylor said she is ashamed of the Board for their actions the prior evening. She said it takes advantage of the community and the children.

Ms. Janice Williams, TEA Grievance Chair, expressed concern about the contents of a recent Trentonian article. She said the Board's comments on audio tape show a lack of ethics, and that the Sunshine Law has been violated again. She asked Board Members to step down.

**BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Field Service Rep Mr. Jesse Adams from New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) reviewed with the Board its Self-Evaluation, and he also advised the Board on the steps that must be taken for Board Certification through NJSBA.

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Board questions and comments were as follows:

- Timeframe for completing the Self-Evaluation
- Improving communication
- Common practices
- Mentoring of new Board Members by more senior Board Members
- Making progress in governing
- Individual certification versus Board certification
- Levels of certification
- Advantages of full Board certification

**ADJOURN**

Motion was made and properly seconded to adjourn the Retreat at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

*Jayne S. Howard*

Jayne S. Howard  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary