

YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSION

Members:

Dr. John Richard
Nicholas Santucci
Vincent Shivers
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster
Dr. Ben McGee

Anthony J. Farris, Office of the Attorney General

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019 ~ 12:30 P.M.

EAST HIGH SCHOOL, LIBRARY

- I. The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m. by Dr. John Richard, ADC Chair. The meeting was held in the library at East High School, 474 Bennington Avenue.

II. Roll Call

Present

Absent

Dr. John Richard	<u> x </u>	_____
Nicholas Santucci	<u> x </u>	_____
Vincent Shivers	<i>(Was not present at roll call, arrived at 12:35 p.m.)</i>	
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	<u> x </u>	_____
Dr. Ben McGee	<u> x </u>	_____

III. Approval of April 3, 2019 Agenda

Motion by: M. Hoffmaster *Seconded by:* B. McGee

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. John Richard	Yes <u> x </u>	No _____
Nicholas Santucci	Yes <u> x </u>	No _____
Vincent Shivers	Yes _____	No <i>(Not present)</i>
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes <u> x </u>	No _____
Dr. Ben McGee	Yes <u> x </u>	No _____

IV. Approval of February 19, 2019 meeting minutes

Motion by: M. Hoffmaster *Seconded by:* B. McGee

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. John Richard	Yes <u> x </u>	No _____
Nicholas Santucci	Yes <u> x </u>	No _____
Vincent Shivers	Yes _____	No <i>(Not present)</i>
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes <u> x </u>	No _____
Dr. Ben McGee	Yes <u> x </u>	No _____

Dr. Richard opened the meeting with a brief overview of the meeting agenda and the next steps of the process of selecting the next CEO. He explained that the first round of semi-finalist interviews for the CEO will take place April 10 and 11, 2019 which will be held in executive session with ADC members. The second round of finalist interviews for the CEO will be held April 23 & 24, 2019 in executive session with ADC members and two members from the Youngstown Board of Education.

Vincent Shivers, ADC member arrived at 12:35 p.m.

The meeting continued with a presentation from Steve Farnsworth & Paul Pendleton consultants from Finding Leaders search firm. Mr. Farnsworth provided a background of Finding Leaders and the process of developing a profile of the next CEO based upon the input from the stakeholders within the focus groups. He further explained how Finding Leaders facilitated focus group sessions within the district and community to gather input for the CEO Search. There were eleven (11) focus groups which were all well attended and included representatives from: 1.) Youngstown School Board Members 2.) Administrative team members 3.) Central office staff 4.) Principals 5.) Business Leaders 6.) Classified Staff 7.) District Parents 8.) Community 9.) Office of the Mayor 10.) Other Community Groups and 11.) District teachers

Mr. Farnsworth shared common threads within the documented responses from the various focus group sessions. (*Refer to meeting artifact for detailed responses*). The following questions were presented to each focus group:

1. What are the most significant attributes/strengths of this School District?
2. What are the areas of greatest concern/needs?
3. What are the opportunities in Youngstown for an educational leader?
4. What qualities and characteristics of the new leader do you desire?
 - What are you looking for in the new leader?
5. What experience would you expect the new leader to have?
6. If you could give the next CEO one piece of advice as he/she begins this leadership role, what would you say?
7. If you had the opportunity to ask one question of the final candidates, what would you ask?
8. *Additional Question: If we find the right person exemplifying the qualities and the characteristics that you mentioned; Can that person with your help, turn the district around?*

Mr. Farnsworth thanked Joseph Meranto, Superintendent and Pat Lowry, Strategic Initiatives for their assistance in making the necessary arrangements for the focus groups. Lastly, Mr. Farnsworth thanked everyone for their participation and that he was impressed with the people that participated and the pride displayed in Youngstown.

Dr. Richard thanked Finding Leaders and the community as a whole for their participation in the focus groups. He questioned what should be the next steps of incorporating what has been heard from the focus groups into the ADC's decision in selecting the next CEO? Also, what will be the criteria that should be followed when interviewing a candidate while being respectful of the input from the stakeholders?

Mr. Farnsworth said the responses should be a constant point of reference and criteria that is looked at when you are interviewing candidates. Mr. Peddleton responded that a basic rubric will be given to the ADC members during their interview sessions that will have components from the input from the focus groups in addition to the state standards for educational leaders.

Dr. McGee commented that from what he has heard from the presentation, the community focus group responses are in alignment with what the ADC is thinking.

V. Mr. Santucci, Vice Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee and Dr. McGee, ADC member representative for the financial advisory committee provided an update on the status of the financial advisory committee. Mr. Santucci reported that he and Dr. McGee recently met and that all interested candidates seeking to be a part of the committee are being vetted over the next months. Those individuals will be contacted regarding the status of the committee. Dr. McGee added that in looking through the various resumes they are being sensitive to diversity, community support and knowledge of the community. A financial background is important, but it is just as important to have someone with interest in the community, willingness to learn and provide supportive input. A formal meeting of the financial advisory committee is projected for May. Dr. Richard commented that the timing should be good, with intentions that the new CEO will be in place at that time.

VI. **Executive Session:** The Commission entered into executive session at 1:00 p.m. to consider the employment, promotion, demotion, compensation and/or discipline of public employees; as it relates to the selection of the next CEO of Youngstown City School District. It was announced that no further formal action would take place.

Motion by: M. Hoffmaster Seconded by: V. Shivers

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. John Richard	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Nicholas Santucci	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Vincent Shivers	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Dr. Ben McGee	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>

VII. **Return to open meeting 3:34 p.m.**

Motion by: M. Hoffmaster Seconded by: B. McGee

Roll Call:

Dr. John Richard	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Nicholas Santucci	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Vincent Shivers	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Dr. Ben McGee	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>

VIII. **Adjournment at 3:35 p.m.**

Motion by: V. Shivers Seconded by: B. McGee

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. John Richard	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Nicholas Santucci	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Vincent Shivers	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Dr. Maria Hoffmaster	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>
Dr. Ben McGee	Yes	<u> x </u>	No	<u> </u>