

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 ~ 7:30 A.M.

EAST HIGH SCHOOL, LIBRARY

- I.** The Youngstown Academic Distress Commission special meeting was called to order at 7:28 a.m. by Dr. John Richard, ADC Chair. The meeting was held in the library at East High School, 474 Bennington Avenue.

| II. Roll Call | <i>Present</i> | <i>Absent</i> |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Dr. John Richard | <u> x </u> | <u> </u> |
| Nicholas Santucci | <u> x </u> | <u> </u> |
| Vincent Shivers | <u> x </u> | <u> </u> |
| Dr. Maria Hoffmaster | <u> x </u> | <u> </u> |
| Dr. Ben McGee | <u> x </u> | <u> </u> |

III. Approval of April 25, 2019 Agenda

Motion by: M. Hoffmaster *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> |

- IV. Executive Session:** The Commission entered into executive session at 7:30 a.m. to consider the employment, promotion, demotion, compensation and/or discipline of public employees; as it relates the next Chief Executive Officer for the Youngstown City School District. The Commission may take action upon returning to open session. Atty. Anthony, Farris, legal counsel was invited into executive session.

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> |

V. Return to open meeting 7:35 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> |

VI. Discussion regarding the CEO candidates

Dr. Richard thanked Finding Leaders, the search firm that facilitated the search for the next CEO. He also thanked the community as a whole for their input which provided a filter and guide through the process of selecting the next CEO. Dr. Richard thanked the following for their respective participation in the process: Krish Mohip, CEO; Joseph Meranto, Superintendent; Philecia Carpenter, secretary; Brenda Kimble, Youngstown School Board President; Ronald Shadd, Board member and Tina Cvetokovich, Board member. Lastly, he thanked his fellow ADC colleagues for their participation.

Dr. McGee commented about the process of interviewing and selecting the next CEO. He stated that the ADC members and Board members were very investigative and thoughtful in their approach. He also thanked the community for their involvement in the process and commended everyone that was involved. He conveyed that all three candidates were qualified individuals that brought positive attributes and skills to the table. He emphasized that there were those with a strong background in student improvement, academics, finance and/or public relations which are all needed for the next CEO. The ADC arrived at their decision with the candidate that holds all of the attributes and that would be the best fit.

Dr. Hoffmaster commented and expressed that all three candidates were qualified and provided invaluable attributes. All three candidates expressed a desire for shared leadership and they expressed the need to appreciate the good work that has been done.

Mr. Santucci commented that it was a pleasure working with fellow ADC members and representatives from the Board of Education. He expressed that for the betterment of the district and students, the cohesiveness that took place through this process has to continue and that the relationships that were built will be beneficial moving forward.

Note: Dr. Richard stated that no candidate has been contacted or entertained any decisions because the candidate is being decided in public session.

VII. Possible Action: Motion to authorize the Chairman to enter into a contract with Justin Jennings as the Chief Executive Officer of the Youngstown City School District.

Motion by: B. McGee Seconded by: N. Santucci

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> |

Dr. Richard shared that through the interview process Mr. Jennings expressed a strong love for students. He has a strong background in curriculum, special education, personal leadership and noted improvement in student performance scores. He stated that Mr. Jennings exhibited a high level of transparency and integrity.

Dr. McGee commented on Mr. Jennings career experience within several districts and his history with community engagement. He expressed that Mr. Jennings understands what is needed to stabilize common ground for stakeholders. Most importantly he was able to identify and label the necessary conditions to achieve school district turnaround.

Dr. Hoffmaster agreed with prior comments and expressed that Mr. Jennings attributes were strong in special education and curriculum. And he shared a strong desire for literacy within the district.

Dr. Richard stated that he would contact Mr. Jennings immediately and that the next regular ADC meeting will be held on Friday, May 10, 2019. At that meeting more information and details about the transition of the CEO will provided.

viii. Adjournment at 7:50 a.m.

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

Ayes: Richard, Santucci, Shivers, Hoffmaster, McGee
Nays: None