



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CONNECTICUT
 Board of Education Committee
 Special Board Retreat Meeting – Facilitator, Attorney Mooney
 June 8, 2021 via Zoom

I Called to Order	The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Ms. Rivera
Attendees:	Ms. Yesenia Rivera, President; Mr. Matt Wilcox, Vice-President; Mayor Justin Elicker, Dr. Edward Joyner, Secretary, Mr. Darnell Goldson, Dr. Tamiko Jackson-McArthur, Dr. Iline Tracey, Mr. Larry Conaway, Attorney Mooney, Attorney Alexaides
II Pledge of Allegiance	Mr. Conaway led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
III Board member responsibilities operation i. Freedom of Information Issues	<p>Allocation of Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board’s Hiring Role Supervise and approve Superintendent’s decisions in staff employment setting general direction through employment policies. Under the By-Law 9000 series (Board related responsibilities) the Board employs a qualified Superintendent of Schools and upon recommendation, it reserves the ultimate authority to appoint, dismiss all certified and non-certified personnel subject to applicable Law. • Role of the Superintendent - Staff Hire Responsible for interviews and hire, this also includes administrators as stated in the Connecticut Law. However, under the Teacher Tenure Law, the Board hires teachers, in addition, the Board can delegate the responsibility to the Superintendent, this practice differs with each school district regarding administrative positions. <p>In the By-Law, The Board has the ultimate right to decide to retain the ultimate vote on employment of teachers and only the Board can dismiss an employee.</p>
	<p><u>Purchasing Responsibilities</u> Superintendent authority regarding budget funds is relatively restricted. The Superintendent and CFO has created transparency, trust and accountability upon the Board’s demand. Final decisions of expenditure over \$20,000.00 requires Board’s approval. Presently the fiscal system is effective and trust has been established with the Superintendent. The Board’s oversight responsibilities and is intentional in understanding the key responsibility of budget creation.</p> <p><u>Policy Making</u> Formulation of policies in the District is a collaborative effort of the Board and the Superintendent along with her front-line staff. Superintendent recommends policies which the Board approves.</p>



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<p>ii. Board By-Laws</p>	<p>Robert Rules of Order manages debates in healthy, efficient and productive manner. The intent of the Board’s parliamentary procedures is to effectively manage meetings. Other training points focused on accuracy in the formulation of motions as well as the process to present motions to the Board. It was determined that there is a continuous need to refresh parliamentary procedures.</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read information packets prior to Board meeting to be adept about questionable matters • Change By-Laws to establish written template motions – seek Attorney Mooney • Communicate with members prior for motion clarity • Establish a deliberate process to execute motion and discussion • Limit time for motions to be presented/defended e.g. (Round Robin format) • Adopt a rule of order to incorporate the Robin Rule of Order • State motions succinctly <p>Dr. Jackson-McArthur expressed concerned re position for parliamentarian as a conflict of interest as the parliamentarian works as Corporation Counsel for the City of New Haven. Attorney Alexiades defined his legal ethical responsibility to the Board as a client as well as his position as a charter to the City.</p>
<p>iii Parliamentary Procedure (Robert’s Rules of Order)</p>	<p>Training discussion Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOIA Laws regarding accurate use of emails and texts • Appropriate usage of personal and the Board’s email address for business • Custodian records and diligent search • Searchable communication among a quorum by electronic means • Board members written communication and public records • Constituent confidentiality in communication via email re public record • Search terms – Differ to the District IT to conduct • In-camera inspection of Board members email • Forensic examination and personal email • Illegal meeting among quorum • Preliminary drafts, notes, confidentiality and public record disclosure • Review Board’s By-Laws • Formulate, Amend and Adoption of By-Law and policies • Attorney Mooney to recommend procedures By-Law review <p>Suggested consideration: (Public participation, By-Law 9235) By-Law is restricted in procedures, standard and comments by the community.</p>
<p>IV. Adjournment</p>	<p>Session adjourned at 8:30 p.m.</p>

Respectfully Submitted
Myrtis Mason
Recording Secretary