



APPROVED BY THE BOARD DECEMBER 13, 2016

**BURLINGTON BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
AD HOC POLICY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 7, 2016**

Board Committee: Commissioner Curry; Commissioner Judson; Commissioner Kirk;
Commissioner Barlow
Administration: Superintendent Obeng
VSBA: Harry Frank

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda approved by consensus *unanimously*.
3. Public Comment:
 - A. Comments and Questions from the Public: none
4. Planning for Next Steps for Policy Governance Process

Taking the temperature of the Board

The committee had a robust discussion about process of implementing the policy governance resolution versus content of policies. Committee members reflected on where they and Board as a whole are at with regard to moving forward:

- Some expressed confusion about the transition and concern about content, but willing to go for test drive per resolution.
- There is a desire to keep going; sensing skepticism but accept that it's a test drive and it will bumpy
- Committed to doing test drive; there is some concerned about deadline on board resolution
- Would like to revise schedule; there is still the task in front of addressing some material in the policies that are of concern to some Board members
- Totally supportive of policy governance
- Reflects what management world functions like
- Let's focus on the ends - not the language in the policies - look at meaning of the language and translate into ends as long as it's possible to reasonably determine what the language means

Everyone is on-board with the test drive

Need to be proactive about making sure policies are clear and feed the Ends
At the last policy governance meeting, there were board members who were on opposite sides

Idea of Resolution was to do practice sessions until March, then take formal vote
Board has been distracted by other issues and has not been able to execute

Harry Frank suggested that transition works best when Board can focus on one goal it agrees on at one meeting, and develop a monitoring report that gets put into practice at the following meeting. Fundamentally policy governance works when a group comes to agreement. If there is disagreement at a certain level, set it aside.

Winooski spent one month talking about what they were looking for in concrete terms -
Decide on what will be accomplished, decide on how that will be done,
Superintendent had a goal post to shoot for

Commissioner Porter suggested an approach that would hold discussion about a monitoring goal at Dec. 13th meeting then implement monitoring reports in Jan-Feb

Commissioner Curry suggested that the Board needs a knowledgeable facilitator who can use real world examples and guide us

How do we co-mingle existing practice with policy governance board?

Harry described policy governance as a "Self referring system" - idea is can't take just part of it

Recommend that we just do it, for next four months as an experiment
What would our first meeting look like if we were practicing finance the first meeting, but we have a lot of other business to do?

Separate the two - don't try to do policy governance for an hour then go into a regular Board meeting governing the way we do now.

Yaw recommended that we set ourselves up for success. We will not get unanimous participation or agreement but need to keep moving forward and put pieces in place.

Plan of Action:

Discuss monitoring report outcomes with Yaw at January meeting

Hold a policy governance meeting to practice for the entire meeting (either a Sat a.m. or use one of the 5 Tuesdays)

Board needs focused time to work together

Frontload the monitoring report - pick one goal at the January board meeting

Hold a second full board meeting as a policy governance meeting

6. Adjournment by consensus *at 7:17 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted by .Liz Curry