

**Rome Board of Education**  
**March 22, 2022**  
**Rome City Schools College and Career Academy**  
**Room A201**  
**Called Meeting**

**Called Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Jill Fisher, Chairperson  
Will Byington, Vice-Chairperson  
Pascha Burge  
Faith Collins  
Melissa Davis  
Alvin L. Jackson, Sr.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Louis C. Byars; Dr. Dawn Williams; Chris Twyman, Courtney Crumley;  
Kristina Wilder; Teresa L. Price; Imani Beverly-Knox, Rome News-Tribune;  
Oliver Robbins, U Public Relations; and General Public

At 5:30 p.m., after determining the Board had a quorum, Mrs. Fisher called the meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the letters of interest and discuss the interview process to fill the board seat vacated by the resignation of Mr. John H. Uldrick.

Letters of intent and resumes were received from the following individuals (listed alphabetically): Ms. Antonia LaShun Blanchard, Mr. Joseph J. Costolnick, Mr. Moises Delgado, Ms. Debra D. Hall, Mrs. Erin A. Hernandez, Mr. Victor Hixon, Ms. Mandy Maloney, Ms. Tracy D. McDew, Dr. Vincent J. Mendes, Mr. Ronnie D. Roach, Mrs. Virginia "Ginger" Green Rowston, Mr. Chris Tilley, and Dr. Erica M. Paez Zapata.

Mrs. Fisher stated that all 13 applicants seemed to be fully qualified for the position.

She suggested narrowing the list down and setting up interviews.

Mrs. Collins said that the process has always been to interview all applicants, choose finalists, and then select a person to appoint. She said she felt that would be the best way to go.

Mrs. Burge agreed, saying while she knew time was important, she felt the Board would be doing a disservice if they did not interview all applicants.

Mr. Jackson agreed, saying it was hard to judge applicants on paper only and that interviews for all would even out the playing field.

Mrs. Collins said she felt a 15-minute interview for each applicant would take approximately four hours and thought this was manageable.

The other board members agreed that they were fine with interviewing everyone.

There was some discussion about moving the interview day from the previously agreed-upon date of Friday, March 25, 2022. Some board members felt it would be best to leave it on the announced date since some applicants have possibly already cleared that day.

Mrs. Burge questioned whether the replacement board member had to be appointed right away and if it could not wait. Mr. Twyman stated that the replacement board member must be appointed prior to the November election.

Mrs. Fisher said she had hoped to have a new board member in place for the April meeting so the new member would be involved in the superintendent search process.

After discussion, it was suggested that the interviews of all 13 applicants be held Friday, March 25, 2022, starting at 8:00 a.m.

On a Davis/Collins motion, the Board voted five (Collins, Byington, Fisher, Davis, and Jackson) to one (Burge) to hold the interviews on Friday, March 25, 2022, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Rome Board of Education Administrative Offices in the former Boardroom located at 508 East Second Street.

At 6:16 p.m., on a Jackson/Collins motion, the Board unanimously decided to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

At 8:18 p.m., on a Burge/Jackson motion, the executive session adjourned and the Board returned to regular session. No action was taken on personnel.

Under other items, Mrs. Burge stated that she felt Mrs. Fisher's position as District 7 Director for the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Board of Directors was a conflict of interest in being the liaison for the GSBA superintendent search for Rome City Schools. Mrs. Burge stated she would be willing to assume the liaison position for the GSBA superintendent search if there was a conflict of interest. Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Collins explained that the board chairperson typically acts as the liaison between the district and GSBA during a superintendent search.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.