



Board Special Meeting
School Board District VII Candidate Forum
Wednesday, August 7, 2019, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Paul Robeson Performing Arts Center, Rainier Beach High School
8815 Seward Park Ave S Seattle, WA 98118

Minutes

Call to Order

Director Harris called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Directors Harris, Burke, DeWolf, Geary, Mack and Pinkham were in attendance.

School Board District VII Candidate Forum

Director Harris welcomed audience members and candidates to the forum and introduced the moderator, Ron Sims. Director Harris announced the next steps in the appointment process for the School Board District VII Director position, as follows: On August 12, there will be a public Work Session from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room at the John Stanford Center for Directors to discuss the logistics of the appointment process. On August 21, there will be a public Board Special Meeting in the auditorium at the John Stanford Center from 4:30-6:30 p.m. to select the three finalist candidates. On September 11, there will be a second District VII candidate forum at the Rainier Beach High School Performing Arts Center from 6 - 9 p.m. On September 18, the School Board will vote on an appointment to the District VII seat during the Regular School Board meeting, which begins at 4:15 p.m. at the John Stanford Center auditorium, and the applicant that is selected will be sworn in during the meeting.

Director Harris noted that input into the appointment process may be submitted by comment card during the forum and through the school board website until August 13 at 5 p.m.

Mr. Sims explained the format for the forum, which would begin with each candidate being given an opportunity to provide a two-minute opening statement followed by a series of questions developed by the Board during a public Work Session held August 7. Mr. Sims noted that each candidate would be given an opportunity to respond to each question and that candidates had been seated based on a random drawing held during the August 7 Work Session. Mr. Sims noted that the order in which candidates speak will rotate each time a question is asked and that responses would be limited to one minute for each question, with lights and placards being displayed to indicate when time had expired.

Candidates Sofia Voz, Brandon Hersey, Jason Hahn, Barbara Rockey, Emijah Smith, Chukundi Salisbury, Dionne Foster, Julie van Arcken, and Romanita Hairston provided opening statements.

Mr. Sims asked question one: Given the Strategic Plan's focus on predictable and consistent operational systems, which of the district's operational systems do you think we should focus on and why? (For example, transportation, nutritional services, and buildings).

Candidates Hersey, Hahn, Rockey, Smith, Salisbury, Foster, van Arcken, Hairston, and Voz responded to question one.

Mr. Sims asked question two: What are your comments and concerns about special education delivery in Seattle Public Schools?

Candidates Hahn, Rockey, Smith, Salisbury, Foster, van Arcken, Hairston, Voz and Hersey responded to question two.

Mr. Sims asked question three: Tell us about the impact of curriculum and instructional materials on student success.

Candidates Rockey, Smith, Salisbury, Foster, van Arcken, Hairston, Voz, Hersey, and Hahn responded to question three.

Mr. Sims asked question four: Given the aspirational language of the strategic plan and budget limits, how will you manage stakeholder priorities and requests?

Candidates Smith, Salisbury, Foster, van Arcken, Hairston, Voz, Hersey, Hahn, and Rockey responded to question four.

This meeting recessed at 7:22 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Sims asked question five: What is your experience around utilizing racial equity analysis in decision-making?

Candidates Salisbury, Foster, van Arcken, Hairston, Voz, Hersey, Hahn, Rockey, and Smith responded to question five.

Mr. Sims asked question six: What are your ideas for equitable access to appropriate advanced learning services?

Candidates Foster, van Arcken, Hairston, Voz, Hersey, Hahn, Rockey, Smith, and Salisbury responded to question six.

Mr. Sims asked question seven: What do you understand to be the highest priorities for your District VII constituents?

Candidates van Arcken, Hairston, Voz, Hersey, Hahn, Rockey, Smith, Salisbury, and Foster responded to question seven.

Mr. Sims asked question eight: What is your position on charter schools in Seattle?

Candidates Hairston, Voz, Hersey, Hahn, Rockey, Smith, Salisbury, Foster, and van Arcken responded to question eight.

Mr. Sims asked question nine: What are your thoughts on the student assignment plan and boundary adjustments in District VII and the rest of the school district?

Candidates Smith, Salisbury, Foster, van Arcken, Hairston, Voz, Hersey, Hahn, and Rockey, responded to question nine.

Candidates Salisbury, Foster, van Arcken, Hairston, Voz, Hersey, Hahn, Rockey, and Smith provided closing statements.

Director Harris provided closing remarks and noted next steps in the appointment process.

Adjourn

Director Harris adjourned the Board Special Meeting at 8:45 p.m.