



Chester Upland School District
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2017

A Reorganization Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Chester Upland School District for the purposes of swearing in of the new Board Members and electing new directors was held this evening at the Administration Building of the Chester Upland District, located at 1720 Melrose Avenue, Chester, Pennsylvania, with the following members of the Board of School Directors in attendance:

Mr. Anthony Johnson, President
Ms. Joan Neal, Vice-President
Mr. Cephus Richardson, Secretary
Mr. William Riley, Treasurer
Mr. Charlie L. Warren, II, Member
Ms. Raushanah DeJesus, Member
Ms. Maria Wilson, Member

The meeting of the Board of School Directors opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING

Advanced Notice of the Board of School Directors Meeting was given in compliance with State Law. Copy of which is attached.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call was called.

READING OF ADVERTISED NOTICE OF MEETING

The advertised notice of meeting which was placed in the Delaware County Daily Times was read.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Judge H. Davis, Jr. swore in the following newly elected members of the Board of School Directors for the Chester Upland School District:

Mr. Kenneth Washington
Mr. Fred Green
Ms. Joan Neal
Mr. William Riley

President Anthony Johnson called to order the Meeting with the newly elected Board.

Roll called was called with the newly elected members.

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY BOARD PRESIDENT

Anthony Johnson called for a motion nominating a temporary Board President. A Motion nominating Charlie L. Warren, II as a temporary Board President by William Riley was offered. The nomination was seconded by Cephus Richardson.

VOTE- Joan Neal –aye, Cephus Richardson – aye, William Riley – aye, Fred Green - aye, Ken Washington – aye, Charlie L. Warren, II – aye, Raushanah DeJesus - aye, Maria Wilson - aye, Anthony Johnson - aye

BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 9 “IN FAVOR” TO 0 “OPPOSED”, CHARLIE L. WARREN, II WAS ELECTED TEMPORARY BOARD PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT VACATES CHAIR – TEMPORARY BOARD PRESIDENT TAKES CHAIR

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT

William Riley made a Motion nominating Anthony Johnson for Board President. The nomination was seconded by Raushanah DeJesus.

Charlie L. Warren, II asked if there were any other nominations for the President. There were none.

VOTE- Joan Neal – aye, Cephus Richardson – aye, William Riley – aye, Fred Green – aye, Ken Washington – aye, Charlie L. Warren, II – aye, Raushanah Carter - aye, Maria Wilson - aye, Anthony Johnson - aye

BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 9 “IN FAVOR” TO 0 “OPPOSED”, ANTHONY JOHNSON WAS ELECTED BOARD PRESIDENT.

NEW BOARD PRESIDENT, ANTHONY JOHNSON, TAKES PRESIDENT’S CHAIR

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Cephus Richardson made a Motion nominating Joan Neal for Board Vice President. The nomination was seconded by Ken Washington.

Anthony Johnson asked if there were any other nominations for the Vice President. There were none.

VOTE- Joan Neal – aye, Cephus Richardson – aye, William Riley – aye, Ken Washington – aye, Charlie L. Warren, II – aye, Raushanah DeJesus - aye, Maria Wilson - aye, Fred Green – aye, Anthony Johnson - aye

BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 9 “IN FAVOR” TO 0 “OPPOSED”, JOAN NEAL WAS ELECTED BOARD VICE PRESIDENT.

President Anthony Johnson's Last round of business is announcing the committee structure and chairs

*PUPIL SERVICES - Anthony Johnson
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION - Raushanah DeJesus
FINANCE - William Riley
OPERATIONS - Charlie L. Warren II.
HUMAN RESOURCES/PERSONNEL - Joan Neal.
TECHNOLOGY - Cephus Richardson.*

LIAISON TO THE STATE REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE - Fred Green.

The other board members can co-chair any other committee. Whenever they're set up, give me a call and then you can show up. There's no problem if you don't have a committee that you're not going to be involved. You guys can co-chair. So if a chair doesn't show up, then you guys for that day or that meeting are the chair. Okay, so whenever the meetings come up, we'll let you know, the other board members. Anybody have any comment before we adjourn?

Fred Green took the floor.

First and foremost, I guess I'll stand up for this, I just want to thank everyone for coming out. I want to thank this board. I look forward to serving with you. I want to thank the constituents. The 3,300 and some people that voted for me to come on this school board. I thank you sincerely for electing me and believing in me and believing in my vision to lead this school district and to

make a change and to fight for our kids. Since I was young, that's all I ever wanted to do is fight. And so I thank you so much. I think the people for coming for my former educators Mrs. Terry Trainor, Dr. Lee, Pastor Dee. There's so many people. Thank you guys so much for coming. And often times our kids, the system says no, but God said yes to me.

If any of you know my story, you know that when I was younger it wasn't easy. When I was in first, second grade, I was diagnosed with a learning disability, speech classes. Put me in special education. And I remember I was so bad, the teachers they couldn't stand me. They told me I wouldn't be anything, but I stand up here today. So, to every little boy and every little girl out there, I want you to know whatever people tell you, even when they say no, God still says yes. No matter what people tell you, you can be anything you want to be if you believe. Just believe in yourself and believe that you can do it, and you can do it. I always like to say that no matter who you are and no matter where you come from, you can be anything. You can still do great things. All you have to do is believe. If you believe, you can achieve. Thank you.

Also, I want to invite each and every one of you to a dinner reception right after this at Cianna Ballroom, which is down the street. All you are invited to join me at the reception. Love you too.

Ms. A. Jean Arnold took the floor

I would just like to stand and say on behalf of Mr. Jonas Crenshaw, the principal at STEM. He told me tonight to make sure that I offered to you his congratulations. He is excited about working with the entire board and especially the newly elected members. So, congratulations and Mr. Crenshaw sends his very best wishes to you.

Ms. Joan Neal, Vice President took the floor.

I would just like to thank everyone for coming out this evening and celebrating with us, and especially my family who came out and my granddaughter who held the bible for me for the second time. Just thanks everybody. Thank you.

Mr. William Riley, Treasurer took the floor.

I wasn't going to say anything, but I want to thank you. You gave us four years, and we think we've done some great things. I want to thank you for giving me another four years so we can carry out those programs we got started. Thank you.

Mr. Anthony Johnson, President made an additional statement:

Can you hear me in the back? Everybody can hear me in the back. 'Cause I want everybody to hear. The time is now for this local school board to get this district back. We just had an audit general report came out. It's been 23 long years of empowerment boards, controlled boards, and receivers. If you didn't see the last audit, you can go online and check that audit out. To the newly elected school board members, this is not an easy position to be in. We don't get paid. And we can't vote. The only things we can vote on is the toughest things to vote on in any school

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district. That's the student hearing. But we gotta discipline our own children. And taxes, but we gotta ask a community that's struggling for tax money. That's the two things they gave us. Everything else, they totally control the school district.

And I made a statement, I don't know if anybody was at the parent conference. It's time. A petition to our legislature. A petition to our senator. To ask or not even ask, demand this local school board be back in power. 'Cause we understand the community. I mean, board members are sitting up here that have been on this board, this is six years for me. We put out all the fires. Anytime the receivers in a jam, the first person they call is me. From in the morning to at night. Or even 3:30 in the morning, calling about if the roads are bad they want to call school off. They don't live in the community. So they gotta call somebody.

But the state says we don't have the power to vote on the budget, which we've sat in the last budget meeting and saw that we could have cut a million dollar more for people, not to say that we were into laying off people, but we walk around this school six buildings, and we see people sitting around ain't done nothing for years. And getting a paycheck off the backs of our children. Now all the contracts are signed, but the maintenance. We're in a deficit and the receiver, school teacher's got a contract and the support staff's got a contract. No other distressed school district in Pennsylvania would have done that.

So he's trying to move it forward and he's relying on his community, which is this board right here. But we need the community, not to just sit and take all them general reports or any type of report that makes the district look like it doesn't know what it's doing because they're trying to reflect back on us. But this audit general said in that report, if you heard the visual and the one he wrote, he said it's time for the local school board to take it back because the state has failed our children.

We're looking at crime. We lost about four or five children the last two year as students. Eight or nine of them been shot. And then we have three or four of them accused as murder. But they want to still control our education. So they control they way we think and learn, they control your whole community. We just think it's a school issue, but look at our community. Because if our young people were working, a working man will tell you you ain't got time to be on those corners because you've got to get up in the morning and do that hard eight. Our kids running around here don't have no opportunities because they didn't learn nothing in this situation because how they control our curriculum. They bring out consultants and tell us how to run our curriculum. It hasn't worked 23 years. It hasn't worked. So the local school board, you have to, it's not about us. It's not about us. I'm not saying that for us to be empowered that we can fix it overnight. But we understand because we live in this community, so we understand this community.

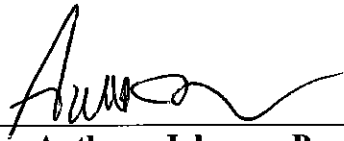
So I need the residents, somebody organize a petition drive, please to get this school district back to your local school board. Okay, thank you.

Anthony Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. William Riley seconded it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no others wishing to speak, Anthony Johnson, President, adjourned the meeting.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Anthony Johnson, President