

TRSU BOARD

Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 16, 2019

5:30 p.m.

TRSU, The Roost (ZOOM electronic meeting)

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Board: Fred Marin, Joe Fromberger, Kate Lamphere, Paul Orzechowski, Dan Buckley

Staff: Michael Eppolito, Katherine Fogg, Lauren Baker, Mary Moeykens

Other Board Members: Marilyn Mahusky, Doug McBride

Public: Shawn Cunningham, Cynthia Prairie

Mr. Orzechowski called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

II. APPROVE AGENDA:

Ms. Lamphere **moved** to approve the agenda. Mr. Fromberger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Open Meeting Law Complaint

Mr. Orzechowski reported that he received a letter from the Chester Telegraph citing a violation in open meeting law. Mr. Orzechowski acknowledged that violation and apologized for that oversight. He reported that what he should have said was "Next on the agenda we will go into Executive Session. I ask for a motion to go in to Executive Session. My belief regarding (for instance) an administrator's contract and matters related place the employee and board at a disadvantage." Then after that the motion should state: "After making a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage, I move we go into Executive Session to discuss an administrator's contract and related matters."

Mr. Orzechowski asked the board for a motion that at the next meeting, June 6, the board will participate in a training on executive session. Ms. Powden is looking into this training and who will provide the training. Ms. Lamphere suggested that all board members participate in this training. Mr. Buckley questioned why there was no response prior to last night, the 9th day, when the citation needed to be addressed within 10 days. Mr. Orzechowski noted that he didn't know that the remedy needed to be done at a public meeting until yesterday. He thought that all that needed to be done was the acknowledgement and remedy by email. Mr. Buckley and Ms. Lamphere both noted concern with not being notified about the need for a public meeting until the 9th of the 10 days required for response.

Ms. Lamphere **moved** to have a legal expert come to the board and give a formal training on open meeting law and executive sessions and consider inviting the board members of the LMHUUSD and GMUSD boards if possible. Mr. Marin seconded. There was discussion about the location of the meeting if there would be more board members present. Mr. McBride understood the

reason for and supported the training session, but is confused by how that cures that violation. Mr. Fromberger noted that it is cured by section 314—the apology and acknowledgement along with the training. Ms. Mahusky noted her concern that open meeting law was violated and that the subsequent conversation was held in executive session illegally and now may need to be held in open session. Ms. Lamphere noted that the reason for the discussion was a legal reason for executive session, but the citation was not correctly done. There was discussion about the location of the training. The motion carried without opposition.

Ms. Lamphere suggested that they get guidance from someone with legal background on the concerns raised by Mr. McBride and Ms. Mahusky, attorneys themselves. There was discussion about the purpose of the executive session is valid, just not the citation and there was no action taken after the executive session.

V. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be Thursday June 6, 2019 at the Roost.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Marin **moved** to adjourn at 5:51 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Wilson
Board Recording Secretary