



The School District of Philadelphia

Presentation to the School Reform Commission (SRC)

From the Office of General Counsel

October 19, 2017



The School District of Philadelphia

Topic: Statutory Framework Concerning the Dissolution of the SRC

Background:

- December 21, 2001 – Secretary of Education declared School District of Philadelphia as a distressed school district for the reasons that it:
 - Failed to adopt a valid budget; and
 - Failed or will fail to provide an educational program in compliance with State laws and regulations.
- Pursuant to the Public School Code, the SRC was established consisting of 5 members (3 appointed by the Governor and 2 appointed by the Mayor).
- There is no term set forth in the Public School Code for the life of the SRC.



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Dissolution process:

As per Section 696(n) of the Public School Code:

1. SRC deliberates and votes to adopt a resolution recommending the dissolution of the SRC at a regular Action meeting or special meeting called by the Chair.
2. Secretary of Education may then issue a declaration to dissolve the SRC.

Timeline for dissolution:

- The Secretary's declaration must be issued at least 180 days prior to the end of the current school year and becomes effective at the end of that school year.
- The current school year ends June 30th, 2018.



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Activities Outside the Scope of the Responsibilities of the SRC:

- The Mayor may appoint members to the Board of School Directors prior to the dissolution of the SRC.
- Current provisions in the Home Rule Charter & Public School Code.

Changes from the SRC to a Board of School Directors:

- Five (5) member Commission to nine (9) member Board of School Directors.
- Certain provisions of Section 696 would cease to be in effect such as:
 - Section 696(n): Maintenance of Effort.
 - Section 696(1): Prohibiting all School Employees from engaging in any strike.
 - Section 693(a)(1): Cancel or renegotiate any contract other than teachers' contract



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Question & Answers