

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

January 26, 2017

Attendance: President White and Commissioners Adams, Cruz, Evans, Hallmark, and Powell; Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams; EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms; and Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a young audience member.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the December 15th Business Meeting and January 3rd Organizational Meeting was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Evans absent.
- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Davion Leslie spoke about the implications of the Contract for Excellence and related funding. Student Juan Collado spoke about the recently adopted Code of Conduct and encouraged the Board to add more counselors. Parent Tonya Stevens spoke in opposition to the proposed military academy and encouraged the Board devote resources to support existing schools. Parent Ricardo Adams spoke about the relevance and importance of the Black Lives Matter in School observance. Staff member Bryan Teegardin spoke about his discontinuance of employment.
- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Pia Moller and Community members Doug Noble and Sallie Williams spoke in opposition to the proposed military academy. Community member Tarik Grandiot asked to have stakeholder input on how the My Brother's Keeper. Community members Jack Spula and Gregory Rice spoke in opposition to the proposed military school and encouraged the Board devote resources to support existing schools. Staff member Don Gerhold expressed concern about the academic services afforded to students.

Commissioner Evans arrived at 7:30 p.m.

- V. **Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms, Superintendent of the East High School EPO introduced a special edition of the *Eagle Eye Report*, a student-led news report highlighting the academic progress, community partnerships, and new initiatives of the school. He recognized several of the students featured in the video, noting that students produced, recorded, and contributed to the video. Dr. Nelms also announced the retirement of Tim Clasgens, the School Business Official assigned to East High School, and recognized him for his contributions to the school.

Superintendent Deane-Williams delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives. She spoke about the results of the 100-Day Listening and Learning Plans and explained how she plans to work to address various focus areas designed to increase accountability. These areas are as follows: prioritizing educational equity, building relational capacity, nurturing innovation, and creating coherence. Ms. Deane-Williams also mentioned that beginning in February, Teaching and Learning School Partnership and Support Teams will begin visiting District schools to listen, learn and focus support where it is needed. She explained that the teams, led by the School Chief who supports each school, are comprised of member educators from our Teaching and Learning Department. And, these

teams would work to visit principals and teachers to highlight the bright spots that can serve as models for other schools and classrooms and learn how to better support schools. Ms. Deane-Williams also elaborated on strategies to address teacher recruitment, curriculum development, and the implementation of individualized student supports and family engagement.

VI. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

Commissioner Adams highlighted her efforts in working with the Wellness Task Force, noting that the Task Force will host a roundtable discussion on February 2nd to gather input from physical and health educators on the current Local Wellness Policy.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, January 19th to consider Resolution Nos. 2016-17: 452, 483 through 491 and 498. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the December 2016 Financial Report and the Quarterly Change Order Report (October – December 2016). Motion to accept the November 2016 Financial Report made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark; motion carries with consensus. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolution 452 for East High School EPO (Other Category), Resolutions 483 through 489 for Educational Facilities; and Resolutions 490, 491, and 498 for Other Category. The Committee discussed to the draft calendar for review and acceptance of the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget at the next meeting. It is expected that the calendar will be forwarded to the full Board for acceptance in February. The next Finance Committee Meeting: Thursday, February 9th, at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday, January 19th to learn of the evaluation findings of PreK and Early PreK (EPK) educational programs under the Rochester Early Childhood Assessment Partnership (RECAP). This Partnership includes the District and a wide range of community partners, such as the Children's Institute, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Head Start, United Way, Early Childhood Education Quality Council, Family Resource centers from Crestwood Children's Center, Community Place, YMCA programs, MCC Child Care Center, and Stepping Stones Learning Center. RECAP partners have collaborated for almost 25 years to support quality early childhood education, and this collaboration has been instrumental to the success of our PreK programs.

Each year, a comprehensive assessment is conducted using a multitude of measures to evaluate program quality, student performance, teacher self-efficacy, and parent involvement and satisfaction.

Some of the key findings from the most recent assessment (2015-16):

- A greater percentage of three-year-old children are arriving in PreK developmentally ready for school (72-79%), as compared to four-year-old children (64-67%). This finding indicates how critical it is to begin education earlier in a child's life.
- On average, four-year-old children attained 1.7 years of growth from attending PreK programs.
- Children who were the most behind developmentally realized the greatest gains: those in the lowest 15% upon entering PreK gained an average of 24 months developmentally by the end of the year.

- Even with these tremendous gains from attending PreK programs, many children are still not ready developmentally for Kindergarten (53% of four-year-old children). This finding is consistent with assessment results over the last several years, and reflects the extent of our children's developmental delays by the time they enter PreK.
- Our children need the most help with language development, literacy, and communication –these delays begin even before PreK and continue through every grade level. This finding points to the crucial need to introduce all forms of language to our children, even before birth. A child is able to hear in the womb, and speaking, singing, reading, and poetry are all critical in aiding their language development, literacy and learning ability.
- The RECAP evaluation showed that PreK attendance significantly influences outcomes for students: 60% of children were found to be ready for Kindergarten when they had PreK attendance rates of at least 90%, whereas only 42% of the children with a PreK attendance rate of 80% or below were found to be ready for Kindergarten. On a positive note, the percentage of PreK children with an attendance rate of 90% or higher has doubled in the last year.
- Another critical finding is the impact of summer learning loss on PreK students. At the end of the school year, 55% of PreK students were found to be ready for Kindergarten. By attending the SummerLEAP program, this percentage rose to 76% of PreK students.
- In terms of program/classroom quality, the District's PreK program has consistently scored highly on all measures. However, improvements are needed particularly for instructional support, and the Early Childhood Education Department is planning to focus on this aspect of professional development for PreK Teachers.
- RECAP assessments are "low stakes" and used only to inform and assist teachers in improving instructional practices. As a result, PreK teachers have been able to attain mastery in a significantly shorter period of time (six years, rather than ten years).
- Assessments of parent involvement and satisfaction with the PreK program remained very high again this year, with parents indicating satisfaction particularly with their child's teacher.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. No report was submitted.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: On Tuesday, January 10th, the Policy Committee convened to review a number of policy revisions recommended by General Counsel. Committee members unanimously approved these policy proposals to be forwarded to the full Board, and are presented this evening for your consideration as Information Items:

- Code of Ethics (2160): The changes proposed to this policy add a provision prohibiting District employees from supervising, evaluating, promoting, reviewing or disciplining any employee with whom they have a romantic or sexual relationship. Clarification is also added that building-based administrators are prohibited from having a romantic or sexual relationship with a staff member in their building. Even if not under their direct supervision, building administrators are responsible for all staff members on site.
- Policy Dissemination (2450): This policy has been updated to reflect the fact that hardcopies of the Policy Manual are no longer provided, and policies are accessible and updated regularly on the District website. To allow accessibility for those who may not have Internet access, the proposed policy stipulates that a hardcopy of the Policy Manual will be available in the Board Office.
- Membership in School Boards Associations (2530): The proposed policy includes specific organizations that the Board wants to ensure sustained membership: the National School Boards

Association, Council of Urban Boards of Education, Conference of the Big 5 School Districts, and the Council of Great City Schools.

- **Visitors to Schools (1240):** Proposed amendments to this policy were presented to the Board in the September 22, 2016 Business Meeting as an Information Item and in the October 27, 2016 Business Meeting as a Discussion Item. Commissioner Adams suggested additional changes, which have been incorporated into the policy proposal presented this evening as an Information Item.
- **Videoconferencing (2350):** A technical change has been proposed to this policy to reflect the various platforms that can be used for videoconferencing, rather than just limiting it to “Skype”. This policy proposal was submitted to you for consideration as an Information Item in a memo on January 13, 2017.

Commissioner Powell made a motion to waive the requirements of the “Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies” (2410) to expedite adoption of this policy revision in this evening’s meeting (Resolution No. 500); seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries with consensus. The members of the Policy Committee also considered proposed amendments to the Board Bylaws (2300) that were recommended by General Counsel, but decided to table consideration of this policy proposal to incorporate additional changes forthcoming from the Board Governance Committee. The Parent Advisory Council reviewed applicants to serve as the Parent Representative to the Policy Committee, and submitted their recommendations of the top three candidates. The Policy Committee selected a new Parent Representative based on these recommendations. Members of the Policy Committee also reviewed evaluations of the Medicaid Compliance policy (8600) and the Equivalence in Instructional Staff and Materials policy (4010). No policy changes were recommended in these evaluations, which also described ways in which the District has been complying with legal requirements.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The Board Governance Committee has not met since the last Business Meeting. The Committee will host a work session with Superintendent Deane-Williams to discuss aligning work and priorities on Saturday, December 17th at 12:30 p.m. No report submitted.

VII. Resolutions

2016-17: 447-453: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 454: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 455-475: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 476: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with President White abstaining due to familial relationship and Vice President Elliott absent

2016-17: 477-482: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 483-489: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 490: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 491: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting and Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 492-504: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

2016-17: 505: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-2 with President White and Commissioner Cruz dissenting and Vice President Elliott absent.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: Commissioner Powell introduced the following policies as Information Items: Code of Ethics, Policy No. 2450; Membership in School Boards Association, Policy No. 2530; Visitors to Schools, Policy No. 1240; and Videoconferencing, Policy No. 2350.

X. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Evans at 9:25 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

XI. Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 10:00 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Vice President Elliott absent.