

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting

January 22, 2015

**Attendance:** President White, Vice President Elliott and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Cruz, Evans, and Powell; Student Representative Unique Fair-Smith; Superintendent Vargas; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

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

- I. President White selected a group of students from the Rochester International Academy to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the December 18<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and January 2<sup>nd</sup> Organizational Meeting made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Student Recognition:** The Board recognized the Rochester International Academy for instilling an appreciation of cultural diversity among students and staff. Children from many different backgrounds attend this school, where opportunities to learn from one another abound and cultural differences are viewed as an enriching aspect of the school community. The Rochester International Academy is attended by 246 students from families who have recently immigrated to the United States, from places as far-flung as Burma, the Sudan, and Central America. These students and their families have survived tremendous obstacles and hardships, and face unique challenges and opportunities in adapting to American life.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present.
- V. **Speakers on other that Agenda Items:** Parent Myrna Gonzales and Community member Ana Casserly spoke about the need to enhance the District's specialized services and programming for bilingual students. Parents Harriett Fisher and Bridget Monroe advocated for the Board to support the Social Economic Integration Grant for the Montessori Academy School No. 53.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation to update the Board on the proposed 2015-16 budget for the District, the school selection process, and the Facilities Modernization Plan. In the presentation he highlighted the ways in which he proposes to improve student achievement while maintaining stability for students, families, and staff with the elimination of the structural budget gap. Dr. Vargas stated that he and members of the District's Leadership Team held multiple community forums to gather input from stakeholders on how to close the projected \$40.5MM gap, invest \$15MM to fund academic priorities, and invest \$10.1MM for the transformation of East High School. In discussing school selection, Dr. Vargas spoke about upcoming registration deadlines and efforts to streamline the placement process for parents.

Dr. Vargas spoke about the school facilities that were modernized during Phase I of the Facilities Modernization Program, including School No. 5, School No. 12, School No. 17, School No. 28,

School No. 50, School No. 58, Charlotte High School, East High School, Edison High School Campus, and Franklin High School Campus. He detailed legislation for Phase 2 of the modernization program noting that it calls for \$435MM for up to 26 school modernization projects.

## **VII. Board Reports:**

***Audit Committee, Chair Mary Adams:*** The Audit Committee met on January 2<sup>nd</sup> after the Board's Organizational Meeting to perform the annual review of the Audit Committee Charter. The Committee determined that no changes are required at this time. In addition, the Committee agreed to send a formal request from the Audit Committee to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee to invite management to an upcoming meeting to present and discuss the progress made by the internal Discipline Committee on Student Behavior Management. The next Audit Committee is on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:45 p.m.

***Finance Committee, Chair Willa Powell:*** The Finance Committee met on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> to consider Resolution Nos. 2014-15: 430 to 441. Resolution No. 2014-15: 379. The Committee recommends approval of the December 2014 Financial Report. The Committee also recommends approval of the Quarterly Change Order Report and proposed budget calendar for deliberations on the proposed 2015-16. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the December 2014 Financial Report, recently issued Quarterly Change Order Report, and Calendar for 2015-16 Budget Deliberations, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 7-0. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

***Excellence in Student Achievement Committee, Chair Malik Evans:*** The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting was held on January 13<sup>th</sup>. The Committee received an update on the graduation rates for 2014-15 and a presentation from 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from Roberto Clemente School No. 8 on a recent lesson plan about the experiences and cultures of refugees assimilating into American culture. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

***Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Chair Cynthia Elliott:*** The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and primarily focused on the feedback received from the Legislative Breakfast held on November 15, 2014 and on updating the Legislative Agenda accordingly.

More specifically, Committee members discussed:

- 1.9M in funding available to each school awarded a grant under the "All Children Are Equal Act", which was supported by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. RCSD will apply for these grant funds and is eligible to obtain funding for up to three schools. The NYS Education Department has not yet issued guidelines regarding applying for these competitive grants.
- Rather than advocating for increased funding for UPK and Early Childhood Education, CIGR Committee members decided to promote the sustainability of funding for these programs.
- Committee members also pointed out the need for reliable, accurate and consistent data to evaluate the impact of early childhood programs on later academic achievement. The Committee examined the need to continue providing supports to children to assist with the transition from PreK into the early grades (i.e. kindergarten through 3rd grade). Further discussion identified the need for supporting parent engagement also during this critical

transition period, particularly with continuing the Parent Group Leader program to build community among parents.

- The need to continue to promote additional funding in NYS Foundation Aid, particularly for additional Reading Teachers. Committee members noted that additional Reading Teachers are critical to enhancing early childhood literacy and to align with the Superintendent's priorities.
- Members of the CIGR Committee decided to remove the item from the Legislative Agenda that proposed lengthening the school year from 180 to 200 days. This decision reflected a consensus that it would be preferable to support current efforts to extend the school day and provide summer school programs.
- The current bill in the NYS Assembly, sponsored by Assemblyman David Gantt, proposes allowing RCSD to transport students who live more than 0.5 miles from school – but on a five-year pilot basis. Students in grades K-3 would be allowed to receive this enhanced transportation beginning in the 2016-17 school year. In 2017-18, this would be extended to students in grades K-6. This proposed transportation plan is on a pilot basis to allow time and opportunity for the District to demonstrate that no additional costs are incurred.

The Legislative Agenda will be updated based on the recommendations made in this month's meeting. The updated Agenda will be reviewed in next month's meeting, with the intent of forwarding it to the full Board for approval in the February Business meeting.

The next meeting of the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee will be on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

***Policy Committee, Chair Jose Cruz:*** On Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> the Policy Committee met to discuss required policy deliverables from the Superintendent. There are a total of **23** required reports and a total of 19 report received year to date. The Administration continues to deliver reports the Committee continues to review the reports to ensure that all reporting requirements are met. All reports are currently stored on BoardDocs. The following policies are submitted to the Board for discussion the Business Meeting, Policy No. 5220 (NYS Concussion Management) and Policy No. 6741 (Professional Services Contracting). The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

***Board Governance Committee, Chair Melisza Campos:*** The Board Governance Committee did not meet since the December Business Meeting. The following items will be added to the agenda of the next Committee meeting: the Superintendent Evaluation Process and Performance Objectives, the Board's governing Bylaws Policy, and the Board Staff Evaluations. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Special Meeting.

## **VIII. Resolutions**

**No resolutions submitted for Resolution Nos: 2014-15: 403, 406, 408, 416, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, and 424**

**2014-15: 404-405:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 407:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting

**2014-15: 409-415:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 417:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 423:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 425-428:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2014-15: 429:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with President White abstaining due to familial relationship and Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2014-15: 430-440:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**Motion to table Resolution No. 2014-15: 441 made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.**

**2014-15: 442-443:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 444-445:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting.

**2014-15: 446-447:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**2014-15: 448:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2014-15: 449:** Resolution withdrawn.

**2014-15: 450-454:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**IX. New Business:** For tonight's meeting the Policy Committee is presenting two Discussion items for considerations. Both were previously were informational items for the November's business meeting. The two policies for discussion are Policy 5220 NYS Concussion Management and Policy 6741 Professional Services Contracting. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

- X.** President White announced that the next meeting of the Board would be a Special Meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and the next Business Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn** made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0 at 8:54 p.m.