

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

January 23, 2014

Attendance: President White, Vice President Elliott and Commissioners Adams, Cruz, Evans and Powell; Superintendent Bolgen Vargas; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

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

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Elliott.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the December 16th Business Meeting, December 16th Urban Choice Charter School Public Hearing, December 16th Rochester Academy Charter School Public Hearing, and January 2nd Organizational Meeting was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Campos absent.
- III. **Recognition:** Student Hodan Aden and teacher Michelle Valentino were honored with the I Believe I Can Award.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community members Jacqueline Cady and Mary Louise Musler spoke about the importance of early childhood education.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Charlie Richardson spoke about the importance of educational and employment opportunities for youth. Community member Lori Thomas spoke about the importance of the office held by the recent elected commissioners. Community member Ann Hood spoke about poverty and the impact of poverty on education. Staff member Candace Rubin spoke about the effects of Common Core on student education.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the proposed 2014-15 budget priorities and trends, assumptions and projections, and strategies to fund achievement and close the structural budget gap. He spoke about the Governor's proposed state budget, charter schools, and the impact of the 2014-15 budget gap. In discussing the proposed state budget, Dr. Vargas noted that the budget's estimates assume \$6.3 million lower than our projected revenue for 2014-15, but includes other opportunities for grant funding that align closely with the District's priorities. These opportunities include funding for Smart Schools, Universal Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten, After-School Programs, Teacher Excellence Fund, and Pathways in Technology and Early College High School (P-TECH) programming. Dr. Vargas also stated that three new charter schools are approved to open in Rochester in 2014-15 and six additional schools are continuing to expand by adding grade levels. These charter school projections will increase our budget gap by \$2.5 million. Dr. Vargas concluded by noting that the revised budget gap is \$42.0 million, as compared to a previous estimate communicated to the Board on December 16th which indicated that the projected budget gap was \$33.2 million.
- VII. **Board Reports:**
Audit Committee
Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on January 16th to select a Chairperson and perform their annual review of the Audit Committee Charter. The Committee voted that Mary Adams would continue as Audit Committee chairperson for the 2014 year. In addition, the Committee reviewed and

discussed the Audit Committee Charter and determined that there are no changes required at this time. The Committee also received a status update on the activities performed by Office of Auditor General.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, January 16th to consider Resolution No. 2013-14: 437 through 442. The Committee recommends approval of the December 2013 Financial Report. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent. The members of the Finance Committee also approved a few changes to the Draft 2014-15 Budget Calendar: to conduct the 1st public budget hearing on April 3rd, 10 days after the Superintendent presents the proposed 2014-15 budget; and to convene the final deliberation session on May 1st, 9 days after the final public budget hearing and responses have been provided to the final set of budget questions. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the budget calendar for 2014-2015, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, January 13th. A presentation was delivered by John Bliss, Substitute Teacher at RCSD and the former CEO and Founder at Urban Choice Charter School. The presentation title was “School within a School Proposal”. It presented a new school environment that considered a hybrid model that “asserts that every school should be more self-contained. The next month’s Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, January 14th. District Attorney Sandra Doorley accepted the Committee’s invitation to present and review programs offered through the criminal justice system. The goal was to review programs that the District can possibly emulate to develop alternative school suspension programs and solutions for students. District Attorney Sandra Doorley reviewed programs offered through Pre-Trial Diversion and other departments and provided exceptional and viable options to consider and explore. The list of programs presented to the committee was well received and can serve as a starting point for the committee to suggest alternatives instead of punitive consequence in student suspensions. The programs offer learning opportunities for our students to correct negative or disruptive behaviors that ultimately lead them into suspension and/or the criminal justice system. The committee will continue to explore programs that can be replicated at the District and be used as alternative to suspensions. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: On Thursday, January 16th, the members of the Policy Committee met to discuss a number of policy proposals including: revisions to Parent & Family Engagement policy (1900), a revision of the Values Education policy (4311.2), a substantial overhaul of Major Achievement Program (MAP) policy (4350), and a revision of the School-Based Planning policy (2265). The Committee has been collaborating with Bill Benet to revise the Values Education policy. Bill was a member of the original advisory committee that developed the policy, and he has generously given his time and effort to craft substantial revisions. The Policy Committee will continue to work to simplify this policy, and clarify its applicability (for instruction to students to understand the tension between different values in a democratic society v. set of values delineated for staff and students to govern their conduct). Unfortunately, the Policy Committee was unable to consider any of the other policy proposals on the

agenda because key staff members did not attend the meeting. Consequently, the other proposals will be considered in the February meeting. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13th at 5:30 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on Thursday, January 16th to discuss the 2012-13 Evaluation Process for the Board's staff and an upcoming retreat for the District's Leadership Team. The Committee noted that the Board's staff evaluations have been completed and recommended that the staff evaluations be delivered to staff evaluations by early-February. In discussing the upcoming retreats, the Committee received a presentation from Michael Doughty, a suggested presenter for the retreat. Dr. Doughty is the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction at Monroe 1-BOCES and an adjunct professor at the University of Rochester. He provided the Committee with an overview of his professional background and strategies he might use to facilitate a workshop, if selected, including ice breakers to establish trust and other activities to learn about the working and leadership styles of members of the District's leadership team. In the coming weeks, Commissioner Campos announced that work with members of the Board and the Superintendent's cabinet to design and schedule a retreat. In February, the Committee will receive a presentation from Vice President Elliott on reinstating the District's personnel committee. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: Ms. Gallivan spoke about recent accomplishments of the Student Leadership Congress and their efforts to promote student leadership throughout the District as well as in their communities.

Commissioner Cruz left at 7:20 p.m.

VIII. Resolutions

2013-14: 409: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 410-411: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 412: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 413: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 414: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 415-416: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 417: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 418-420: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 421-422: No resolutions submitted.

2013-14: 423: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 424-426: No resolutions submitted.

2013-14: 427-430: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 431-432: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2013-14: 433 into Resolution No. 2013-14: 433a, Resolution No. 2013-14: 433b, and Resolution No. 2013-14: 433 made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries with consensus.

2013-14: 433: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 433a: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Rejected 3-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 433b: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Rejected 3-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 434-436: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 437-443: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 444: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 445: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 446-451: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 452-454: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Rejected 3-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 455-456: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 4-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 457: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Rejected 3-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 458-464: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 465: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Rejected 1-4 with President White, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Evans, and Commissioner Powell dissenting and Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented the proposed revisions to the Preschool Education Programs Policy No. 4320.5 to the full Board as a Discussion Item, the policy is scheduled to be considered by the Board at the February 2014 Business Meeting.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Evans at 8:52 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Evans at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Evans at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.