

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

January 25, 2018

Board Members in Attendance: President White, Vice President Powell, Commissioner Mary Adams, Commissioner Cynthia Elliott, Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark, and Commissioner Natalie Sheppard.

Board Members Excused: Commissioner Malik Evans (resigned as of December 31, 2017).

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams, EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms, and District Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a young audience member.

The Board facilitated a recognition ceremony for retiring Board Member Commissioner Mary Adams.

- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the December 21st Business Meeting, January 2nd Organizational Meeting, and January 9th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

- III. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers.

- IV. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Bryant Keicher spoke about the District's bussing policy that prohibits students from being bussed to multiple locations during the school week. Community member spoke about proposed solutions to bullying. Community member spoke about the need to adequately fund the OACES program. Community member John Boutet spoke about a recent decision impacting the closure of neighborhood schools. Staff member Daniel Betancourt spoke about the need for security training and programming at the OACES program.

- V. **Superintendents Reports:** Dr. Nelms delivered a presentation highlighting recent parent and community engagement initiatives, proposed activities funded by the Community Schools Grant, and partnership and recruitment events. Dr. Nelms thanked Commissioner Adams for her dedication and commitment to the students of the Rochester City School District and welcomed appointed school board members Melanie Funchess and Beatriz LeBron to the Board.

Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives of the District. She opened the presentation by announcing the formation of the Bilingual Language and Literacy Academy located at the Family Learning Center. Ms. Deane-Williams noted her attendance at the NYS Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents Summit. Ms. Deane-Williams also spoke about the recent RCSD School Expo and Fair, noting that over 700 people attended the Expo held at the MCC Downtown campus. She concluded the presentation with mention of the Mayor's recognition of the Joseph C. Wilson Magnet High School's football team and the District's attendance challenge to encourage attendance in primary grades throughout the winter.

Members of Ms. Deane-Williams cabinet presented findings of the Path Forward initiative, including a discussion of student demographics and seating capacity throughout the District.

VI. Board Reports:

Student Leadership Congress Report

Genesis Silva: The following report was submitted by Daquan Hilton of the District's Student Leadership Congress:

ROC to Change Student Race Summit: Churchville Chili

Churchville Chili will be hosting this event March 23rd. The Rochester City School District will be represented. The Race Summit is a wonderful way to bring people from different schools, districts, backgrounds, races, and cultures to educate and have productive discussions about race, classism, bias, and prejudice. This is a very important topic in our country right now and we are grateful to be given the opportunity to contribute to the discussion again. It was also important to hear the thoughts and opinions of suburban students. There's power in youth, and event like this are all about our voice! We are looking into any preparation needed from us, to assist Churchville Chili. We are excited to be able to attend and speak at another Roc2Change Student Race Summit. A report will be given on the April 26, Board of Education meeting.

SLC Close Up Field Trip to Washington D.C.

This field trip is a great opportunity for students because it provides effective hands on experience that will educate and inspire us to participate in our government, strengthen our leadership in our community, and learn a more thorough understanding of American history and government. SLC is planning on utilizing this opportunity. We are currently checking our budget, deciding what date we will go, and looking into chaperones. SLC is thrilled to be able to go on a field trip like this, where we can expand our learning experience.

Victorious Minds Academy Community Forum

On November 30th, the Victorious Minds Community Forum featuring Dr. Joy DeGruy was held at Wilson Foundation Academy. The standing room only event was attended by hundreds and included parents, teachers and students. The focus of the night was the district's embrace of history and culture as an integral part of the learning experience. This is something that SLC strongly supports and wants to see more of. The highlight of the night for students was our participation in a panel discussion with teachers and parents; yet another opportunity for us to share our thoughts on the education process and learn from others as well. During that same week, Dr. DeGruy visited Leadership Academy for what was a very engaging discussion with students. We look forward to more opportunities like this for all schools.

Leadership Academy for Young Men

Speaking of Leadership Academy, we have some more good news to share. You may recall that during the SLC November report, we mentioned that the students there have not been feeling like their voices have been heard. We spoke about the absence of homecoming, pep rallies and spirit week. Well, somebody listened. Spirit week is this very week at LAYM! We want to say "thank you" for that to the Principal Wakili Moore and anyone else who made that happen. This is another example of the power of student voice. We're not done yet though. There are some suspension issues at the school (and other schools as well) that need to be addressed.

Attendance at SLC meetings

We would like to ask the district administrators to actively promote SLC in all high schools. Students from all schools have not been attending our meetings. We know there are good as well as challenging things happening at all of our schools. Our goal is to shed light on the good and bring about corrective

action to the not so good. SLC meetings are listed on the district calendar. The schools that have been primarily represented are Edison, Wilson, Leadership Academy and School Without Walls. We're asking that administrators and School Chiefs from the other schools please inform and encourage students to attend. We will also do our part as students in this growth process. The next SLC meeting is on January 31st at 3:30. We do not have an exact room where we can hold this meeting at this moment, but we are working on it.

SLC Advisor Transition

We would like to welcome Mr. Jordan as our SLC advisor. Yesterday we had our first meeting with him, and we can see his enthusiasm to work with us. We are excited to see how this year will play out. As we welcome one leader, we part with another. SLC would like to congratulate Mr. Underwood, our former SLC Advisor, on a wonderful promotion as CEO of Action for a Better Community. We are very sad that he will not be working so closely with us anymore but are extremely proud of him. A gentleman such as Mr. Underwood, is very deserving of this position. He is a strong leader who devotes his work into educating and uplifting the community, and we pray that his passion will keep taking him higher and higher. Thank you for being a great influence and role model to us, stay peaceful Mr. Underwood.

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: No report submitted.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, January 18th to consider Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 548 and 556. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the December 2017 Financial Report and the Quarterly Change Order Report. Resolution Nos. 2017-18: 548 and 556 were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the December 2017 Financial Report and quarterly change order report, seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

The Finance Committee accepted the District's Draft 2018-19 Board Budget Calendar and agreed to accept and forward the calendar for Board approval. Commissioner Powell noted that this time, it is recommended that the calendar not be approved, as the Calendar was forwarded prematurely. The Committee awaits an updated Calendar wherein additional dates are considered. Commissioner Powell made a motion to reject the calendar, seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. He calendar was unanimously rejected 0-6 with Commissioner Evans absent.

The 2018-19 Board Budget Priorities, accepted in the November Finance Committee Meeting, were tabled in lieu of forwarding for full Board acceptance. Commissioner Powell stated that this action will allow new commissioners the opportunity to provide input on the document. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2018.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Natalie Sheppard: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee held a Meeting of the Whole on Thursday, January 18th, to receive an update on Special Education. Commissioner Sheppard indicated that the Board will continue to discuss redesign plans, efforts to ensure that the underlying factors affecting performance are addressed, and that the academic, social and emotional needs of students receiving Specialized Services are being met. The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2018.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: No report submitted.

Policy Committee

No Chair Assigned: The Policy Committee did not meet since the last Business Meeting. The proposed new Equity and Educational Excellence policy (0201) will be considered by the Board via Resolution No. 2017-18: 555. The policy addresses cultural and racial inequities in District systems and practices. The proposed policy outlines methods for overcoming systemic barriers, and strategies to be employed with each stakeholder group to promote inclusion and racial, ethnic, and cultural responsiveness. The following policies are before the Board as Discussion Items:

- Proposed revision of Education of Homeless Students policy (5110) to comply with changes to the federal McKinney-Vento Act, which was reauthorized under ESSA.
- Draft resolution regarding rescission of the existing Day Care policy (4324.1): presented as an Information Item to ensure that all affected by this change are notified. This policy has not been implemented in the District for over a decade, and a recent survey indicated that parenting students require greater flexibility in their choice of child care providers to accommodate their needs. For these reasons, the members of the Policy Committee decided that these students' needs could best be met by advocating for them to be given priority in awarding County child care subsidies and pursuing collaborative partnerships with community organizations to offer child care as part of a before- and/or after-school program.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: On January 9th the Board held a Special Meeting which was convened as a Governance Committee of the Whole. At the meeting, Board members discussed a proposed scheme for school liaison assignments and master calendar for the Board.

The next meeting of the Governance Committee is scheduled on Thursday, February 1st following meetings of the Board's Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee and Excellence in Student Achievement Committee. The following topics will be discussed:

- In-Service Training: Roles of Board and Superintendent - Keys to District Success
- Discussion of Summer Retreat Dates
- Review of the Board's Goals

President's Report

Board President Van Henri White: President White presented a celebratory video honoring the Board service of Commissioner Mary Adams.

VII. Resolutions

2017-18: 507: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 508: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 518: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

Motion to amend **Resolution No. 2017-18: 519** to remove Caterina Leone-Mannino from consideration made by Commissioner Hallmark, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 519: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 520: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 523: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Evans absent

2017-18: 524-526: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

Motion to separate **Resolution No. 2017-18: 527** into Resolution No. 2017-18: 527 and Resolution No. 2017-18: 527a made by Commissioner Sheppard, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 527: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Evans absent

2017-18: 527a: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 4-1 with Commissioner Sheppard dissenting, Commissioner Adams absent, and Commissioner Evans absent

2017-18: 528-540: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 541-547: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 548: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Adams dissenting, Commissioner Elliott dissenting, and Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 549: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 550: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 551-552: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 553: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 554: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

Motion to table **Resolution No. 2017-18: 555** made by Vice President Powell, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 556-561: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

Motion to amend **Resolution No. 2017-18: 562** to read as follows: “Resolved, that the Board endorses, and encourages ~~teachers~~ all staff members to participate in, A Day of Understanding to Affirm that Black Lives Matter at School, to be held on Friday, February 16, 2018.” Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent

2017-18: 562: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 563: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Evans absent.

2017-18: 564: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Vice President Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Evans absent.

VIII. Unfinished Business: None.

IX. New Business: A revision to the Education of Homeless Children, Policy No. 5110 was presented as an Discussion Item.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of particular persons and pending litigation was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark at 10:00 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

Motion to reconvene into open session made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Hallmark at 11:44 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of particular persons was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Powell at 11:48 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

Commissioner Adams left at 11:59 p.m.

Motion to reconvene into open session made by Commissioner Hallmark and seconded by Commissioner Elliott at 12:05 a.m. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Evans absent.

X. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Hallmark at 12:09 a.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner Evans absent.