

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

February 27, 2014

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

President White convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. following the Board's Black History Month Observance.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by a young audience member selected by President White.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the January 23rd Business Meeting, February 6th Special Meeting, February 20th Special Meeting, and February 25th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Recognition:** The Rochester Board of Education recognized School No. 4 with the "Yes We Can" award for its extraordinary efforts in improving student attendance this school year. During the 2011-12 school year, the school had one of the four lowest performing records for average daily attendance. District leaders made School No. 4 a target school in its attendance initiative for 2012-13. Because of several measures taken by school staff, the school now has the second highest rate of attendance (95.2 percent) in the District.

In an effort to improve attendance among students, Principal Karon Jackson created monthly grade level contests to closely monitor student attendance, and to make sure students were involved in their efforts. So far this school year, 50 students have achieved perfect attendance. Principal Jackson also works with parents to help them overcome barriers related to homelessness, transportation, and other concerns at home that can impact student attendance.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Students Tony Tisdale and Tajanae Howard spoke about the efforts made by particular social workers to assist them with educational and social services. Student Ronald Dent spoke about the work and efforts of social workers. Parent Anthony Canty spoke about the work and efforts of social workers. Community members David Fraser, Elaine Johnson, Elizabeth Laidlaw and Briana Britt spoke about the work and efforts of social workers. Community member Father Laurence Tracy spoke in support of the Ibero Education Taskforce and the proposed recommendations. Staff member Tamara Minter spoke the proposed closure of Henry W. Longfellow School No. 36.
- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the District's mid-year achievement results. He spoke about the District's mid-year graduation, noting that 47 students were able to receive diplomas in January. In discussing the graduation results, Dr. Vargas spoke about the January 2014 Regents results noting that the District's students outperformed previous results in Comprehensive English, Integrated Algebra, and Global History. Dr. Vargas also presented information on the District's student growth scores noting that many of the schools are realizing growth in NYS 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments. Dr. Vargas concluded by noting that chronic absenteeism is still an issue that plagues many of the District's schools.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee did not meet in February 2014.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, February 13th to consider Resolution Nos. 2013-14: 499 through 507. The Committee recommends approval of the January 2014 Financial Report. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 7-0. The Committee also met just prior to this meeting to review Resolution No. 2013-14: 507 and decided to advance this resolution with/without recommendation to the full Board this evening. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20th, at 5:30PM.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, February 11th. Beverly Burrell-Moore, Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, provided a presentation on School Counseling and Guidance Overview. Key points of the presentation included how counselors serve our students by providing the following:

- Individual student academic program planning
- Interpreting cognitive, aptitude and achievement tests
- Providing counseling to students who are tardy or absent
- Providing counseling to students who have disciplinary problems
- Providing counseling to students as to appropriate school dress
- Collaborating with teachers to present School Counseling Core Curriculum Lessons
- Analyzing grade-point averages in relationships to achievement

Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11th, immediately following Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The CIGR Committee did not meet in February 2014.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: On Thursday, February 13th, the members of the Policy Committee met to discuss a number of policy proposals:

- Revisions to Parent & Family Engagement policy (1900)
- Revision of the School-Based Planning policy (2265)
- Substantial overhaul of Major Achievement Program (MAP) policy (4350)
- Revision of the Acceptable Use of the District Network policy (1950)

The Policy Committee has been working with the district-wide Parent Advisory Council since July 2013 to develop amendments to the existing Parent & Family Engagement policy to address parents' concerns. Although the Committee unanimously approved the proposed revisions, a request has been made to refer the proposed policy back to the Committee for further consideration.

Also considered in the February 13th meeting were revisions proposed to the School-Based Planning policy. A cross-functional team crafted the proposed amendments to this policy, and the team was comprised of representatives from the Parent Advisory Council and various bargaining units. Input was

also obtained from the Deputy Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Beverly Burrell-Moore, to integrate the Common Core into the policy. The members of the Policy Committee voted unanimously to advance this proposed policy to the full Board for consideration in this evening's meeting as an Information Item.

To follow up on discussions in previous meetings, the Policy Committee included substantial revision of the Major Achievement Program (MAP) policy on the agenda for the February 13th meeting. However, this could not be addressed because key staff members were not in attendance.

Finally, the Policy Committee considered proposed changes to the Acceptable Use of the District Network policy to improve accountability and establish internal controls in the course of conducting investigations of District employees. Specifically, the policy proposal would require approval by two different and independent administrators in the District (General Counsel and the Auditor General) to allow review of an employee's email messages. The members of the Committee voted unanimously to advance this proposal to the full Board in this evening's meeting as an Information Item.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20th, following the Finance and Board Governance Committee meetings.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on Thursday, February 13th to discuss an upcoming retreat and a resolution proposed by President White that would link the Board President's salary to student outcomes and operational efficiency of the District. President White joined the Committee meeting and introduced a resolution that would allow the salary of the President of the Board of Education to be contingent upon the attainment of predefined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Goals for student and District performance. In that 100% of the salary would be paid only when the actual performance indicator meets or exceeds KPI Goals; otherwise the salary would be decreased (by a proportionate percentage) when the actual performance indicator falls short of the KPI Goals. He also noted that the proposed resolution has a sunset provision that is tied to each one-year term of the President's office. The Committee asked President White to develop and define the KPIs referenced in the proposed resolution for presentation to the Committee at a future meeting.

In March, the Committee will receive a presentation from Vice President Elliott on reinstating the District's personnel committee. We look forward to receiving a detailed charge for the personnel committee and continued discussion of the proposal. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 20th following the Finance and Policy Committees.

Student Leadership Congress

Student Representative Sophie Gallivan: No report.

VIII. Resolutions

2013-14: 471: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 472-473: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 474: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 475: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 476-477: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 478: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 479-483: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 484: No resolutions submitted.

2013-14: 485: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 486-488: No resolutions submitted.

2013-14: 489-492: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 493: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 4-2 with Commissioner Evans abstaining due familial relationship, Vice President Elliott dissenting, and Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2013-14: 494-497: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2013-14: 498: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with President White abstaining due to familial relationship.

2013-14: 499-502: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 503-506: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2013-14: 507 made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion fails 3-4 with President White, Commissioner Evans, Vice President Elliott, and Commissioner Campos dissenting.

2013-14: 507: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Powell dissenting.

2013-14: 508-509: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

President White referred Resolution No. 2013-14: 510 to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee for further discussion.

2013-14: 511: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2013-14: 512: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Rejected 1-6 with President White, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Campos, Commissioner Cruz, Commissioner Evans, and Commissioner Powell dissenting.

Motion to amend the proposed revision to the Acceptable Use of the District Network Policy, No. 1950 to delete the following language: “provide explanation for reasonable suspicion to obtain the information” made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to waive the rules and regulations presented in the Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies Policy, No. 2410 for the purpose of adopting the proposed amendment of the Acceptable Use of the District Network Policy, No. 1950 made by Commissioner Powell, adopted by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.

2013-14: 513: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented the proposed revisions to the School Based Planning Policy, No. 2265 to the full Board as a Information Item, the policy is scheduled to be considered by the Board at the April 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 9:52 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 10:15 p.m. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 10:15 p.m.