

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

March 24, 2016

Attendance: President White, Vice President Elliott and Commissioners Adams, Campos, Cruz, Elliott and Powell; Interim Superintendent Linda Cimusz; East High School EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms; 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 a young audience member selected by President White.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the February 25th Business Meeting, March 8th Special Meeting, March 14th Special Meeting, March 15th Special Meeting, March 15th Special Meeting, and March 22nd Special Meeting was made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Recognition:** Timothy Kremer, Executive Director of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) recognized Board President White for his service on the NYSSBA Board of Directors.

Interim Superintendent Cimusz recognized the following schools, for remaining in Good Standing or advancing in designation status:

- Schools that remained at Good Standing
 - Francis Parker School No. 23
 - Montessori Academy School No. 53
 - School Without Walls
 - Schools that advanced from Focus to Good Standing
 - Nathaniel Hawthorne School No. 25
 - Adlai E. Stevenson School No. 29
 - Early Childhood School of Rochester No. 57
 - Virgil I. Grissom School No. 7
 - School of the Arts
 - The Children's School of Rochester No. 15
 - Schools that advanced from Priority to Focus or Good Standing
 - Northwest College Prep Junior High School
 - Abraham Lincoln School No. 22
 - Dr. Louis A. Cerulli School No. 34
 - Lincoln Park School No. 44
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- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Eileen Graham spoke about the need to District's existing policies and practices as they relate to parental engagement. Parent Ricardo Adams, Community member Adrian Elim, Community member Jennifer Banister, Staff member Brandon White, and Parent Melanie Funchess spoke against the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the

Rochester Teachers Association, particularly those sections related to student discipline and the personal injury of teachers.

- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Felix Schneider asked the Board for continued support of programming at Francis Parker School No. 23. Students U’Nisia Calloway, Janetta Cook, and Yusuf Amadi spoke about the need for the Board’s Code of Conduct to address the socioemotional needs of the District’s students. Community member Bill Sullivan and Parent Dagmar Kaufmann spoke about the value of the programming provided at Francis Parker School No. 23 and the supports offered by the school community.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Cruz at 7:10 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to go into open session made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Cruz at 7:25 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.

- VI. **Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Shaun Nelms, East High School EPO Superintendent, introduced April Luehmann, Associate Professor of Science Education, and Andrea Hyatt Cutt, Visiting Assistant Professor of Science Education, to present information on the Science STARS (Students Tackling Authentic and Relevant Science) program at East High School. The professors explained that approximately 60 students participated in STARS programming in the fall 2015 with pre-service teachers where they were engaged in lab teams and conducted seven studies. During spring 2016, about 15 students are participating in film production teams to produce one or two films on topics selected by students. Professor Hyatt Cutt and Professor Luehmann concluded the presentation by noting that partnership with East High School to interest students in science is working to making science attractive to young students, particularly female students.

Interim Superintendent Cimusz provided a monthly update to the Board. During her presentation she noted that the District is in the process of testing tap water, with a focus on pre-K classrooms, will report results and recommend next steps to the Board and community in the near future. Ms. Cimusz also noted that the Joint Schools Construction Board has revised the Phase 2 plan based on input from the public, Board of Education and District facilities team. In Phase 2 the following schools will be modernized: School No. 7, School No. 16, Monroe High School, East High School, School No. 1, Freddie Thomas Campus, Edison High School, School Without Walls, School No. 2, School No. 4, School No. 10, School No. 6, and School No. 54. Ms. Cimusz mentioned that the updated plan assumes the state will allow a maximum cost allowance (MCA) various for the Phase 2 projects. This variance would allow for the complete renovation of school buildings over one or two years versus 10 to 15 years with traditional MCA limits. Ms. Cimusz also provided an overview of the proposed budget for the 2016/17 fiscal year with emphasis on the District’s work to maintain programs with minimal staff reductions. She concluded the presentation with mention of new opportunities for secondary students to participate in shared-time CTE programs at Edison High School, including Cosmetology, Automotive and Construction, and the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC), including Firefighting and Protection, Police and Security, Emergency Communications and EMT,

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on March 1, 2016 to receive an update on the status of Office of Auditor General projects. The Committee reviewed an update on actions performed by management on the Office of Parent Engagement recommendations issued in October 2015, but significant work is still required. There has been a transition in the leadership of the department, so remaining management must remain focused on the improvements required to support our parents. The Committee also reviewed and approved for Board consideration the following Audit Reports: Joseph C. Wilson Foundation Academy Cash Audit, Charles Carroll School 46 Elementary Activity Account Audit, Office of Adult & Career Education Services Cash Audit, Joseph C. Wilson High School Student Activity Funds Audit, Joseph C. Wilson Foundation Purchasing Card Audit and Edison Career and Technology High School Student Activity Funds Audit. Motion to approve the abovementioned reports for posting made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 7-0.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, March 17, 2016 to consider Resolution Nos. 2015-16: 614 through 622, as well as two resolutions that were late submissions. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the February 2016 Financial Report by the full Board. The following resolutions were also reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions 614 and 615 for Procurement & Supply; and Resolutions 616 through 622 for Facilities. Committee members also reviewed two late-submission resolutions, which are also advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolution No. 2015-16: 628 and Resolution No. 2015-16: 629. A number of presentations were also given in this month's Finance Committee meeting, including: an update regarding the WiFi Feasibility Study, an overview of Phase 2 of the Facilities Modernization Plan, a presentation of the functions, priorities, and decision-making process of the Position Control Committee, and a presentation of a report by Consultant Barbara Smith regarding Potential Efficiencies. The next scheduled Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21st at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday, March 17th and discussed: The RFP for Contracts with Supplemental Academic Service (SAS) and Expanded Learning providers: a presentation was given to show the number of additional instructional hours to be provided in each expanded learning/extended learning school in 2016-17, the community organizations that provided services under the 2014-15 RFP, and the evaluation rubric used to examine the effectiveness of services. The following areas were identified as in need of improvement:

1. Continuity in programming to provide an opportunity for students to build skills;
2. Enhanced assessments to inform parents and students of progress in enrichment activities;
3. Use of evaluations to provide feedback to staff about performance;
4. Community partners providing training to staff about developing relationships with students; and
5. Opportunities for community partners and staff members to meet to exchange information and ideas.

The Committee also participated in discussion regarding Neighborhood Schools. Committee members, District administrators, and a teacher from East High School engaged in a productive discussion about ways to encourage students to attend their neighborhood school. The District recognizes the significant benefits from neighborhood schools: greater student, family, and community engagement in education; community development and establishing networks among students and families in the neighborhood;

improved access to recreation and school-based activities; enhanced security from greater personal knowledge and relationships among neighborhood residents.

This discussion generated a number of ideas, including the following:

- » Re-examining the District's focus in promoting school choice;
- » Simplifying and closely monitoring the student placement process to determine how decisions are actually made;
- » Identifying ways to reach out to families that do not participate in the school choice lottery process;
- » Establishing partnerships with community organizations to provide continuity of care and programming for children (e.g. partner with Childcare Council, offer child care and afterschool programming at schools)
- » Changing the narrative to emphasize the positive aspects of neighborhood schools and offering additional supports to meet needs in the immediate community

The Committee plans to continue this discussion, and additional information has been requested to examine trends/patterns in school selection and the way in which placement decisions are made in the District. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21st, following the Finance Committee Meeting.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. Deputy Superintendent Adele Bovard and Chief of Operations Mike Schmidt presented and provided an update on the universal transportation program. There is current legislation called the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Transportation Pilot Program, which would provide transportation to K-6 students of the Beechwood neighborhood to Schools 9, 20, 25, 33, and 45. Deputy Superintendent Bovard stated that the pilot program is a three year program that will be funded by bullet aid during the first year and then self-funded going forward. The goal of this program is to give parents the option to choose their neighborhood schools, provide access to the school and community services, and increasing student attendance. There was also discussion about aidable v. non-aidable transportation and negotiating transportation schedules with charter schools.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, March 10, 2016. Executive Director of PE/Athletics/Health Carlos Cotto returned to the Committee with changes to the new policy consideration for the Board's recognition of booster clubs. The Committee advances this draft policy to the full Board as an Information Item.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Christiana Otuwa, Chief of Curriculum and Programs Dr. Jennifer Gkourlias, and Research Analyst Dr. Donna Harris provided the Committee with policy recommendations for the Policy 4350: Multicultural/Global Education. They will return to the Committee next month with a new draft policy.

President White authorized the establishment of an ad hoc committee on the Policy 5153: Parent Preference/Managed Choice to be facilitated by Commissioner Elizabeth Hallmark.

Board Clerk Shanai Lee and General Counsel Chuck Johnson presented on recommended changes to Policy 2300: Board by-laws. The Committee supported Ms. Lee's recommendation of adding Board professional development to the Board by-laws. The Committee also supported changing the business meeting agenda. Policy 2300: Board by-laws will be revisited at a later time by the Committee.

The Committee is still reviewing the Policy Manual concentrating now on Series 1000: Districtwide Goals in order to pass the entire manual. During the February Business Meeting, the Students with Serious and/or Life Threatening Medical Condition draft policy was advanced to the Board as an Informational Item and is a Discussion Item this month.

During the April Policy Committee, the Committee will revisit the Policy 4350: Multicultural/Global Education, discuss the topic of District employees who live outside of the District and enroll their child(ren) into District schools, discuss Policy 1900: Parent and Family Engagement Policy if there are policy recommendations, and the review of the Policy Manual. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: The next Governance meeting is scheduled as a Committee of the Whole of the Committee for Tuesday, April 19th at 5:30 p.m. At this meeting, the Committee will discuss whether and how we might lay out pathways for partnerships, pilots, and new schools.

VIII. Resolutions

2015-16: 586-587: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2015-16: 589-590: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 592-593: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2015-16: 594: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 595-596: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2015-16: 597-600: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 607-608: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 610-613: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2015-16: 614-622: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 624: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 625: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Vice President Elliott abstaining due to professional relationship.

2015-16: 627: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2015-16: 628: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 629: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2015-16: 630: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 631-634: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Adams. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.

2015-16: 635: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

No requests submitted for Resolution No. 575-585, 588, 591, 601-606, 609, 623, and 626.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Powell introduced the Booster Organizations Policy to the Board as an Information Item and submitted the Students with Serious and/or Life Threatening Medical Conditions Policy to the Board as a Discussion Item. No comments regarding the policy were made by members of the Board.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Vice President Elliott at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Evans at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Evans at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 9:55 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.