

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

March 27, 2014

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

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

- I.** The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Commissioner Elliott.
- II. Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the February 27th Business Meeting and the March 25th Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.
- III. Recognition:** The Rochester Board of Education presented the "I Believe" award to Gerod Jackson, a student at Flower City School No. 54. Gerod wrote the winning 4th grade essay in this year's Dr. Martin Luther King Day Essay Contest, sponsored by the law firm Harter Secrest & Emery LLP. Over 200 hundred essays were submitted for grades 3, 5, and 6 this year. The lawyers marveled at the originality of Gerod's essay, which began as a rap and was transformed as an essay during the writing process with his teacher, Ms. Khieta Davis. Ms. Davis was also honored with the "I Believe" award for her work in inspiring and teaching Gerod.

The Board also recognized various teams of the District's athletics program for their accomplishments in Fall and Winter athletic competitions.
- IV. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** No speakers were present.
- V. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Student Iyanna Tanksley spoke about the need for strategies to address student safety. Student Gabriele Tanksley spoke about the effectiveness of the Common Core State Standards. Parent Ricardo Adams spoke about the importance of Universal Pre-Kindergarten programming. Parent Fred Tanksley spoke about the responsibilities of the Board. Community member Emma Fleming spoke about pending litigation. Community member Glenly Williams spoke about the need for strategies to address student safety. Community member Rev. Willie Harvey spoke about the need for effective teaching. Community members Dr. Mariellen Cupini, Connie Valk, and Kimberly Roberson spoke about the importance of Universal Pre-Kindergarten programming. Staff members Karen Spawton, Amy Levine, Marcus Cooper, and Patricia Dangler spoke about the importance of Universal Pre-Kindergarten programming. Staff member Tom Soule presented the Board with an award to recognize them for their support of the District's social workers and related programming.
- VI. Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the District's key assumptions for the proposed 2014/15 budget and options to address East High School for the coming year. In discussing the key assumptions for the proposed budget, Dr. Vargas spoke about the District's academic priorities of reading proficiency and attendance. He also presented targets for growth in attendance, 3rd

grade reading, graduation, college readiness, and Grade 3-8 ELA and Math. Dr. Vargas also updated the Board on planning to address East High School. He noted that the State Education Department requires that the plan for the school include at least one (1) of the following five (5) actions:

- Close the school and relocate the students.
- Phase out the school and replace it with an entirely new school.
- Enter into a contract with an Educational Partnership Organization (EPO) to take over administration of the school.
- Convert the school to a charter school.
- Allow the State University of New York (SUNY) to provide for the education of the students at the school.

In presenting the options, Dr. Vargas announced upcoming public forums to receive community input.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on March 11th to obtain a status on the Office of Auditor General work plan. The Committee also reviewed and discussed the proposed Parent Engagement Policy recommendations, which included a mandated recurring audit of Parent Engagement by Office of Auditor General. The Committee unanimously agreed that the original proposal was not the most effective means to support District-wide support of parent interaction. The Committee voted to forward alternative language to the Policy Committee that is very supportive of Parents, yet not challenge the independence of the Office of Auditor General. The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th. At that meeting, the Committee will meet with Freed Maxick, the External Auditor, to review the Audit Plan for the June 30, 2014 Independent Audit.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, March 20th to consider Resolution Nos. 2013-14: 542 through 567. The Committee recommends approval of the February 2014 Financial Report. The Committee also recommends approval of the 2nd Quarter Student Activity Funds Report. The Committee recommends approval of the following reviewed resolutions: Resolution 542 to establish non-resident tuition rates in the District; Resolutions 543 through 545 for Procurement & Supply; Resolution 546 for Information Management & Technology; and Resolutions 547 through 567 for Educational Facilities. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17th, at 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Budget Deliberation Sessions (Finance Committee Meetings of the Whole) are scheduled as follows:

- April 1st
- April 15th
- May 1st

Public Budget Hearings are scheduled for April 3rd and 22nd. All of these meetings and budget hearings will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 3A.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, March 11th and received the presentations from Today's Student Tomorrow's Teacher, Uncommon Schools regarding Resolution No. 2013-14: 510, and Vision Quest – Parent-Teacher led School. Today's Student Tomorrow's Teacher, a community based program, provides a mentorship and scholarship

program that helps prepare students for various career paths including teaching. Their model includes summer experiences and leadership training. The Committee evaluated the value of this program and its similarity to Teaching and Learning Institute program.

The committee agreed to advance Resolution No. 2013-14: 510 to the full Board for consideration. Some committee members did not approve the resolution for the Uncommon Schools to provide professional development training for RCSD teachers. Several factors were discussed in making this determination. The teaching approach of Uncommon Schools may not be appropriate at RCSD. Also there is currently an abundance of professional development training available for teachers and there is not a clear indication of how this training would be utilized any differently.

Two RCSD teachers presented a proposal for a parent-teacher led visual and performing arts magnet school. The curriculum is teacher-created, inquiry based, hands on and promotes active learning. The anticipated date of opening is in the all 2015. The parent-teacher collaboration is well organized and is continuing the next steps towards implementation. The Committee is waiting for further information to evaluate this proposal. Excellence in Student Achievement Committee members will attend the Public Hearing on April 10th at East High School as part of the Committee's objectives and goals. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13th immediately following Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, March 11th. As part of the Committee's examination of student suspension practices, staff from the LynCx Academy were invited to this meeting to provide information about the different programs offered, instruction provided to students, and the overall effectiveness of the Academy. Dr. Walter Larkin, Executive Director of the LynCx Academy, was joined by staff members, faculty, and several students.

Dr. Larkin and his staff described methods for ensuring that students receive the same instruction while at the LynCx Academy as at their home school, primarily through following each student's course schedule and syllabus and teachers utilizing the same pacing chart.

The staff members at the LynCx Academy discussed ways that they prepare students for the transition back to their home school. The emphasis among the staff is on encouraging each student to consider their future goals, helping them to overcome obstacles, and assisting students in focusing on the smaller daily choices that affect progress toward their goals. LynCx staff members also described efforts to follow students, check in, and offer support after their return to their home school in order to promote opportunities for success.

Four students currently enrolled in the LynCx Academy discussed their experience, and all commented on the benefits of the personal attention and support they have received from the staff. Two of these students plan to remain at the Academy for another year because of the benefits of having this support. One of the students stated that he plans to return to his home school with the skills he has acquired from LynCx, and knowing that he can return if this transition proves too difficult.

Dr. Larkin and the staff reported that many students have chosen to remain at the LynCx Academy rather than return to their home school.

The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee will continue to discuss issues related to student suspension, as well as ways to advance the Legislative agenda and timing for presenting legislative and budget priorities at the State, federal, and local level.

The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: On Thursday, March 20th, the members of the Policy Committee met to discuss the following policy proposals:

- Revisions to Parent & Family Engagement policy (1900)
- Options for Major Achievement Program (MAP) policy (4350)
- Proposed Revision of School-Based Planning Policy (2265) – Discussion item
- Revisions to Visitors to the Schools policy (1240) – Informational item

Parent & Family Engagement policy (1900): The Policy Committee continued working with the district-wide Parent Advisory Council to develop amendments to the existing policy. Further revisions were requested to ensure that practices within the policy would be implemented with fidelity. There were also changes to the wording of some sections to ensure consistency.

MAP policy (4350): Deputy Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Beverly Burrell-Moore and Executive Director of Student Equity and Placement, Vicky Ramos discussed the current status of the MAP program and its deviation from the current MAP policy 3450 and proposed amendments. The committee decided to forward information to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting to further consider MAP's current status and benefits to students.

Visitors to the Schools policy (1240): Commissioner Adams proposed revisions to the policy that would provide visitation allowances consistency at all schools for parents, family members and individuals who are part of the family's support system, representing parents and student. The members of the Committee voted unanimously to advance this proposal to the full Board, as an information Item.

Deliverables for the Health and Safety Program, Policy No. 8100 were advanced to the full board for consideration. These deliverables included an overview of the Health and Safety training Activities, Health and Safety reporting form and Health and Safety brochures in Spanish and English.

The next Policy Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 17th, following the Finance and Board Governance Committee meetings

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on Thursday, March 20th to receive a presentation on the organizational structure and current goals and objectives of the Human Capital Initiatives department, and continue discussion on Vice President Elliott's proposal to reinstate the Board's Human Resources Committee.

Bethany Centrone, Chief of Human Capital Initiatives, delivered a presentation that highlighted the various offices of the department, staffing metrics, and current initiatives (i.e. risk assessment and diversity recruitment efforts). Vice President Elliott joined the Committee for the presentation and continued discussion on the reinstatement of the Human Resources Committee. As noted in previous communications to the Board, Vice President Elliott mentioned that she would like the Human Resources Committee to be charged with the following:

- Guiding the development, review and authorization of personnel policies and procedures to increase recruitment and support of the District's racial and cultural diverse staff;
- Monitoring the District's recruitment and retention human capital management practices and strategies; and
- Reviewing recruitment and retention data detailing the demographics of District applicants and hires.
- Monitoring the administration of the District's compensation philosophy and programs for all staff;
- Reviewing and approving strategies for attracting, developing and motivating all staff; and
- Reviewing, considering and approving collective bargaining agreements including economic provisions and other elements necessary to permit the implementation of the terms of these agreements.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 17th following the Finance Committee meeting.

VIII. Resolutions

2013-14: 514: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 515-516: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 517: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 518-519: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 520: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 521: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 522: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 523-526: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 527: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 528-529: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 530-532: No resolution submitted.

2013-14: 533-534: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 535: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 536: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 4-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 537-541: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 542-567: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 568-570: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Cruz absent.

2013-14: 571-572: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

Motion to waive the requirement that written materials must be delivered to each Board member no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to consideration made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioners Cruz absent.

2013-14: 510: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Rejected 1-5 with President White, Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Campos, and Commissioner Powell dissenting and Commissioner Cruz absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz presented the proposed revisions to the Visitors to School Policy, No. 1240 to the full Board as an Information Item the policy is scheduled to be considered by the Board at the April 2014 Business Meeting. Commissioner Cruz also presented proposed revisions to the School Based Planning Policy, No. 2265 as a Discussion Item.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Vice President Elliott at 9:58 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Cruz absent.

Commissioner Campos left at 9:58 p.m.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Evans at 10:10 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.

Motion to adjourn was made by Vice President Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 10:23 p.m. Motion carries 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Cruz absent.