

**Rochester Board of Education**  
**Board Governance Committee**  
**April 19, 2016**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Chairwoman Hallmark, President White, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Powell, Interim Superintendent Linda Cimusz, Deputy Superintendent Adele Bovard, Deputy Superintendent Christiana Otuwa, and Senior Research Analyst Kristin Pryor; Board Staff Shanai Lee.

Commissioner Hallmark convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**Agenda Item I: Acceptance of Minutes**

Commissioner Hallmark requested that the minutes of the February 9, 2016 Governance Committee Meeting be reviewed and accepted at the next meeting of the Committee

**Agenda Item II: Discussion of Pathways Proposal**

Commissioner Hallmark opened the conversation regarding how the District could develop new schools to meet the needs of the community and improve the academic performance of students. She noted that it is first necessary for the Board to operate on one accord before working to develop and adopt a structured process for evaluating ideas for new schools and programs.

Commissioner Hallmark delivered a presentation that she authored with the assistance of Dr. Otuwa to provide an overview of the current needs and opportunities for developing and evaluating new schools. Highlights of the presentation included discussion of creating new pilots within an existing District school that could allow District staff and/or community partners to establish new programming such as an optional academic track or series of courses, implementation of recently proposed concepts for new schools and models, replication of models at current schools, transformation of priority schools, expansion of Educational Partnership Organizations (EPO) opportunities, and early identification of independent receivers.

In discussion of independent receivers, Interim Superintendent Cimusz explained the State's role in approving independent receivers. She further explained that the State has an application process for vetting the qualifications of independent receivers that is well-articulated and detailed. Interim Superintendent Cimusz added that the Board could also refer to the State's process for approving charter schools to see if new concepts are viable. She mentioned a model that is used in New York City public schools where a principal is appointed and charged with developing a school and provide them with the resources necessary to do so. Ms. Pryor noted that there is a need for a process as we do not have specific protocols that outline how new schools will be developed and authorized. Commissioner Powell mentioned that the district has used a model similar to that of New York City with Principals Marlene Blocker and Wakili Moore.

Commissioner Adams mentioned that the District should promote to the community the need for school proposals for new schools and models to address those schools subject to receivership and other challenged schools. President White mentioned that given that there is a finite number of schools subject to receivership, the Board should convene meetings with the District's most challenged school communities, of which are designated as receivership schools, to understand their priorities and vision for school success. Commissioner Hallmark added that she does not want to be reactionary to only the most challenged schools of the District, and instead respond to the needs of all school communities.

Commissioner Hallmark asked for ideas and actions that could be used to establish new school models and programs. President White mentioned that the District's administrators alongside the Board should work to develop protocols for developing new schools. He suggested that the Board's Governance Committee lead this initiative. Commissioner Hallmark suggested that any protocols or proposals be vetted as a work session with the full Board and members of the Office of School Innovation. Commissioner Adams recommended that the Board be informed by the community school elements of the receivership legislation. She stated that the legislation calls for schools with receivership status to have components of community involvement. Both Interim Superintendent Cimusz and Deputy Superintendent Bovard noted that the State's charter school application process could serve as an example for how and what information is gathered in determining the viability of a new school model or program.

Commissioner Hallmark concluded that meeting by thanking all of those present and asked that the full Board be polled for availability at a Work Session tentatively scheduled for May 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.