

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

July 24, 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 6:35 p.m.

- I. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by a student in the audience.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the June 19th Business Meeting, June 24th Special Meeting, June 30th Special Meeting was made by Vice President Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.
- III. **Recognition:** None
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** The following speakers spoke in opposition to the removal of Principal Armando Ramirez from James Monroe High School: Student Heidi Robles, Student Jeffryn Flores, Student Mily Pabone, Student Maria Tovar, Student Daisha Vazquez, Student Quamauni O'Chea Murrell, Parent Howard Eagle, Community Member Ruby Melendez, Community Member Nathalia Rosado, Community Member Evelyn Smith, Staff Member Armando Ramirez, Staff Member Jason Muhammad, Staff Member Stephanie Rinaldi, Staff Member John Gabriele, Staff member Dwayne Snead, Staff Member Terrence Kedley, Staff Member Joann Raleigh, Staff Member Jennifer DeFranco, Staff Member Melissa Piccarreto, Staff Member Jordan Rinaldi, Staff Member Anibal Soler, Staff Member Tamika Rivera-Stokes, Staff Member Sean Coffey, and Staff Member Sandy Jordan. Staff Member Gina Porter spoke about the poor management of James Monroe High School.
- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Ricardo Adams spoke about the benefits of the Freedom School program and urged the Board to enhance and duplicate the program at other sites throughout the District. Parent Kerry Coleman spoke about integrity and the District to employ ethical practices. Staff Member Brenda Pacheco spoke about the importance of effective leadership and administration and expressed concern about the removal of Principal Armando Ramirez from James Monroe High School. Staff Member Joe Baldino spoke about the high-rate of turnover among teachers and administrators. Staff Member Kwame Donko-Hanson spoke about the importance of assistant principals and the role they play in school operations and student success.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Evans at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Evans at 9:46 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

VI. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Vargas delivered a presentation on the recent additions to his cabinet, summer learning opportunities, and supporting young men of color. In discussing the additions to his cabinet, Dr. Vargas introduced Dr. Christiana Otuwa as the Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Ms. Adele Bovard as the Deputy Superintendent for Administration, and Dr. Keith Babuszcak as the Chief of School Innovation for Career Pathways and Integrated Learning. Dr. Vargas also spoke about how the District is engaging students to reduce summer learning loss through increased summer school enrollment and the promotion of community learning programs. Dr. Vargas also spoke about his recent involvement in President Obama's nationwide effort to improve educational outcomes for boys and young men of color, "My Brother's Keeper." He noted that the District's Action Plan is closely aligned with the goals of the initiative which is also supported by business, non-profit and government organizations.

VII. Board Reports:
Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on Tuesday July 22nd. The Committee welcomed the new parent representative Donald Redman, discussed the Annual Risk Assessment and Audit Plan and reviewed several audit reports. During the Risk Assessment process, each Board member was given an opportunity to meet individually with the Auditor General to provide input. In the 2015 Audit Plan, additional emphasis was given to parent voice by including data from the Office of Parent Engagement. The Audit Plan identifies the planned work that will be performed by the Office of Auditor General during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The Committee recommended the 2015 Audit Plan for approval. Commissioner Adams made a motion for the Board to accept the Office of Auditor General 2014-15 Audit Plan, seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 7-0. The Committee also reviewed several audit reports completed during the 2013-2014 year. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the following reports for posting: Substitute Management Follow-Up Audit, Facilities Planning Audit, and the Scheduling Audit, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 7-0.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, July 17th to consider Resolution Nos. 2014-15: 28 through 69; and 71 and 72. There is no Financial Report at this time for July 2014 because of the need to reconcile end of year transactions. In August, the Finance Committee will receive the unaudited June/End of Year Financial Report, and the July/August Financial Report will be provided in the September meeting. Budget amendments are also expected to be presented in the August Finance Committee meeting to account for rollover of grant funds into the new fiscal year. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Committee and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions Nos. 2014-15: 28 and 29 for Procurement & Supply; Resolutions Nos. 2014-15: 30 through 68 for Educational Facilities; Resolution No. 2014-15: 69 for Information Management & Technology; and Resolutions Nos. 2014-15: 71 and 72 for Other. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, August 14th, following the Board Governance and Policy Committee meetings.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee did not meet in July. In August the meeting is a Committee of the Whole due to several important presentations. Agenda items for the August meeting include: discussion on East High School; summary presentation of the school reviews from the 2013-14 school year conducted by Outside Educational Experts; Comprehensive Education Plans (SCEP) for the 2014-15 school year; and School Technology Update on the pilot

blended learning programs at Integrated Arts and Technology High School and Early College Preparatory High School. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12th immediately following Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet this month, but the Committee has been planning for upcoming meetings. Invitations were extended to RPD Chief Mike Ciminelli and to SRO Moses Robinson, and they will both attend the CIGR meeting on September 16th. The focus of this meeting will be to continue discussion of options for minimizing student arrests and entry into the criminal justice system, and ways in which the District and Rochester Police Department can collaborate in this effort. The next CIGR Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee did not meet since the June 2014 Business Meeting. The Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in August based on the urgency of the agenda items for August. The agenda for August, thus far, includes a discussion of the following policies: Policy 5500, Student Records and Privacy; Policy 4090, Pathways to High School Success; Policy 4314.3, Service Learning; Policy 0400, School Improvement Plan; Policy 0220, Small School Units; Policy 1100, Public Information Policy; Policy 4000, Instructional Goals; Policy 4311.2, Values Education (There is a new version due to be adopted on July 26); Policy 4325, Compensatory Education; and Policy 4326, Instruction of Limited-English Proficient Students (LEP). Commissioner Cruz introduced two policies, revisions to Parent & Family Engagement Policy and revisions to Values Education Policy, for consideration at the meeting that were advanced by the Committee. The next Policy Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 14th.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee did not meet since the June 2014 Business Meeting.

VIII. Resolutions

2014-15: 1-4: No resolutions submitted.

Motion to amend Resolution No. 2014-15: 5 to remove the assignment of Barbara Fagan-Zelazny was made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Vice President Elliott. Motion carries 7-0.

2014-15: 5-6: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2014-15: 7: No resolution submitted.

2014-15: 8: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2014-15: 9 into Resolution No. 2014-15: 9A and Resolution No. 2014-15: 9B made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 7-0.

2014-15: 9A: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 9B: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 10-13: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 14: No resolution submitted.

2014-15: 15-17: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 18-20: No resolutions submitted.

2014-15: 21: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 22: No resolution submitted.

2014-15: 23-27: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

2014-15: 28-29: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 30-68: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 30-68: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 69: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 70: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 71: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott abstaining due to professional relationship and Commissioner Campos abstaining due to familial relationship.

2014-15: 72: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Evans abstaining due to familial relationship.

2014-15: 73: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2014-15: 74: Resolution withdrawn.

2014-15: 75: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 5-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting.

2014-15: 76: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

Motion to table Resolution No. 2014-15: 77 made by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

2014-15: 78-81: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Unfinished Business: None

Commissioner Evans left at 10:50 p.m.

- X. New Business:** President White presented the Work Plan for the 3-on-3-on-3 taskforce for acceptance by the full Board. The 3-on-3-on-3 taskforce consists of representatives from the Board, Rochester City Council and the Monroe County Legislature. He explained that the group strives to improve the quality of life of our youth by breaking down cycles of poverty, optimizing resources and removing institutional obstacles. The Work Plan was accepted by consensus, 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.

- XI. Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Commissioner Campos at 10:57 p.m. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Evans absent.