

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

October 24, 2012

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

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the September 27th Business Meeting, October 4th Special Meeting, October 4th Contract for Excellence Hearing, October 11th Special Meeting, and October 11th Code of Conduct Public Hearing made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner Campos and Commissioner Elliott absent.

Commissioners Campos and Elliott arrived at 6:25 p.m.

- III. **Recognition:** Members of the District's Student Leadership Congress were joined by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter in delivering a presentation on the students' recent visit to Washington, D.C. and recent community involvement initiatives.

- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** None.

- V. **Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Ricardo Adams spoke about the status of the School No. 16 campus and urged the Superintendent and Board to inform families and community members about the future use of the building.

- VI. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Vargas spoke about recent efforts to increase student achievement including APPR, truancy initiatives and the development and implementation of Common Core.

- VII. **Board Reports:**
Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: The Audit Committee met on Monday, October 9, 2012. The Committee received and reviewed 2012 Financial Schedules for the City of Rochester after they were and approved by Freed Maxick, the Board's External Auditor. The Committee approved the schedules to forward to the City of Rochester. It is anticipated that the Board will receive the draft Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) in November for review and comment. The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for December 4th with Freed Maxick the External Auditor. At that meeting, the Committee will review the results of the Financial Audit for the year ended June 30, 2012. The entire Board is invited to attend. The Auditor General provided an update on current work and reviewed several completed Audit Reports. Commissioner Adams made a motion requesting that the following reports be approved for posting to the website: Human Capital Initiatives, Payroll Administration, Payroll System Access, and Wilson Student Activity Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Reports accepted 7-0.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 18th to consider Resolution No. 2012-13: 267 through 272. The Committee recommends approval of the September Financial Report, the Quarterly Change Order Report for July – September 2012, and the following reviewed resolutions: Resolution 267 for Procurement & Supply and Resolutions 268 through 272 for Educational Facilities. The Committee also reviewed and recommends approval of two resolutions that were submitted late: District self-insuring for health care and submission of the FP-FI report to the State regarding final costs for capital projects. Commissioner Powell made a motion to accept the September Financial Report and the Quarterly Change Order Report for July through September 2012. Seconded by Commissioner White. Reports accepted 7-0. The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 8th at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Monday, October 15th, and on Monday, October 22nd, to review the District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP) and the School Comprehensive Educational Plans (SCEP) for the District's 25 priority schools and 30 focus schools.

The Administration presented the State's Diagnostic Tool for School and District Effectiveness and noted how the Diagnostic Tool is linked to the District Comprehensive Educational Plan as well as to the School Comprehensive Educational Plans. It was noted by the Administration that the DCIP, as well as SCEPs, needed to be approved at tonight's Business Meeting in order to ensure that the plans meet the State Department of Education's deadline of submission of October 31, 2012. However, because the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee was not presented with the plans at the October 15th committee meeting, the resolutions (Resolution No. 279 and 280 relating to the DCIP and SCEPs, respectively), were not considered. The committee recommended that it hold a Special Committee Meeting to review the SCEPs prior to the Business Meeting to consider the resolutions and the plans at that time. A subsequent meeting was scheduled for October 22nd.

The Committee met again to consider Resolutions Nos. 279 and 280 and to review and discuss the SCEPs. After receiving the SCEPs, it was determined by the Committee that due to the voluminous size of the plans there was not adequate time to review each one carefully enough to gain a deeper understanding of the individual plans.

The Committee concurred that the Administration should request an extension of the October 31st deadline to allow the Board the time it needed to fully review the plans.

There was no decision on advancing Resolutions 279 or 280 to the Board for approval at this time.

Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Tuesday, October 24, 2012 to further discuss the Resolution 229 (Testing Resolution) that was passed at the September Business Meeting and to discuss the committee organization.

The Committee suggested recommendations for what the next steps of the Testing Resolution should be so that it will not be a resolution that is meaningless. The suggestions included using this resolution as

an opportunity to influence the State Education Department to develop other forms of critiquing students other than standardized testing.

The Committee discussed ways to strengthen the Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee to have a greater impact at the State and federal levels, as well as the City and the Rochester community. The Committee recommended that it hosts some community forums around topics that are of concern to students, parents and the community and topics of legislative reform for the District. The next CIGR Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13th.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, October 18th to consider a proposed revision to the Drug-Free Workplace policy to require pre-employment drug testing and a proposed revision to the Code of Ethics to clarify prohibited conflicts of interest. The Committee approved the proposed revisions to these policies, which are introduced this evening as Information Items.

The Committee also considered a proposed School Closure Policy requires a preliminary plan to be developed which includes the following considerations: the academic and social impact of closure on students and the school community, physical conditions and limitations of the building, financial impact, rationale for closure, building(s) to which students would be reassigned, and alternatives to closure available to students and families.

If a school is proposed to be closed for academic reasons, the plan must also include consideration of the length of the principal's tenure, whether students were transferred from another school that closed or consolidated, and whether higher performing schools are in close proximity to meet the students' educational needs.

Under this proposed policy, the school closure plan is required to be submitted to the Board no less than three months prior to the planned closure. In addition, a public hearing must be held and input obtained from key stakeholders (Parent Advisory Council; Zone Improvement Team; School-Based Planning Team; parents, students, staff and community). The proposed policy authorizes the Board to approve, reject or modify the school closure plan.

The Committee wants to make certain that the proper sequence of steps is followed in this process to ensure that parents and community members are notified and involved in a timely manner, so additional revisions will be presented for review in the next Policy Committee meeting.

The Committee also had continued discussion of options for minimizing cross-zone student placement and transportation – a mini Summit was held on October 10th with District staff from all different departments to discuss the issues involved and the larger implications of strengthening zone boundaries. Another summit is scheduled for November 5th in which each department will present ideas for bringing students back into their zone.

Additional policies needed due to recent legislation include those to address APPR, revision of IEP Development and Provision Policy (4209) to allow greater flexibility in parent representatives attending CSE meetings, mandatory kindergarten attendance in the District, State Seal of Biliteracy on high school diplomas for students who have mastered another language than English, Concussion Management Awareness Act which has requirements regarding school districts preventing and addressing potential concussions. The Committee will continue to review the next set of priorities for updating the Policy Manual and ideas/suggestions for monitoring implementation of Board policies.

In addition, revisions to the Code of Conduct are presented this evening as a Discussion Item. The proposed revisions address the use of cell phones and other electronic devices in the classroom, specifically prohibiting their use during NYS assessments.

The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be held on Thursday, November 8th, immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Governance Committee did not since the September Business Meeting. However, the Committee did host a retreat focused on team building, the following commitments were agreed to by the "Leadership Team" (Board and Superintendent's Cabinet): proactively seek and provide information, actively work to build trust and mutual respect, and measure and communicate accomplishments. The next meeting of the Board Governance Committee will be held on Thursday, November 8th, immediately following the Policy Committee meeting.

VIII. Resolutions

2012-13: 240: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

2012-13: 241-242: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 244: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 245: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 246-247: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 248-261: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 262: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

Motion to separate Resolution No. 2012-13: 263 into Resolution No. 2012-13: 263a and 263b made by Commissioner Elliott. Motion carries without objection.

2012-13: 263a: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 263b: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 264-265: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 266: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 267: Motion to adopt made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 268-272: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 273: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Adams abstaining due to professional relationship.

2012-13: 274-276: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

2012-13: 277: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-1 with President Evans abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2012-13: 278: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 5-2 with Commissioner Adams and Commissioner White dissenting.

2012-13: 279-280: Withdrawn from consideration by Superintendent Vargas.

2012-13: 281-282: Motion to adopt made by Vice President Cruz, seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 7-0.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Vice President Cruz presented proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics, Policy No. 2160 and proposed revisions to the Drug-Free Workplace, Policy No. 9320 as Information Items and a proposed revision to the Code of Conduct, Policy No. 5300 as a Discussion Item.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner White at 9:33 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Campos. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Campos at 9:38 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.

XI. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Campos at 9:40 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 6-0 with Commissioner Elliott absent.