

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

October 27, 2016

Attendance: President White and Commissioners Adams, Cruz, Evans, and Powell; Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams; East High School EPO Superintendent Shaun Nelms; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

- I.** The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by President White.
- II. Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the September 22nd Business Meeting, September 22nd Special Meeting, and October 11th Charter School Hearing was made by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.
- III. Recognition:** None. The Rochester Board of Education celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month prior to the start of the Business Meeting by honoring outstanding Hispanic students in the District who have maintained a GPA of 4.0 or higher over the last year. Awards were also given also for academic excellence, leadership, volunteer, and community service.
- IV. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** None.
- V. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** None.
- VI. Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Nelms delivered a presentation to provide the Board with a status of the gains made towards the Demonstrable Improvement Indicator goals, including attendance and school climate. While attendance has decreased in comparison to the 2015/16 year, it was noted that there are less attendance errors this year due to the restructuring and training of clerical staff. Dr. Nelms highlighted the fact the total number of suspensions have reduced dramatically, with 16 incidents in October 2016 from 74 in October 2015. In concluding the presentation, Dr. Nelms thanked the School Food Services team for their efforts in improving school meal offerings.

Superintendent Deane-Williams delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives. She spoke about the 100-Day Listening and Learning Plans and explained how she is several focus areas designed to increase accountability for action. These areas are as follows: prioritizing educational equity, building relational capacity, nurturing innovation, and creating coherence. Ms. Deane-Williams also spoke about her recent participation in a panel discussion, 2016 State of Our Children, hosted by ROC the future to discuss priorities and opportunities for success. She noted that based on conversation the community's metrics for success are closely aligned with the District's. Ms. Deane-Williams also spoke about the development of data dashboards to inform and customize learning for the District's students. She also stated that the District is also developing public-facing report cards on overall school progress that will supplement New York State report cards. It is expected that the first report cards will be released in 2017 and be updated twice a year. Ms. Deane-Williams concluded the meeting by recognizing the members of the Board with gifts of appreciation.

VII. Board Reports:

Audit Committee

Chair Mary Adams: No report submitted.

Finance Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 20th to consider Resolution Nos. 2015-16: 276 through 2941, and two late-submission resolutions related to the FMP. The Finance Committee recommends of the September 2016 Financial Report, Quarterly Change Order Report for July through September 2016, and 2015-16 Annual Student Activity Funds Report. Commissioner Cruz made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions 276 and 277 for Procurement & Supply; Resolutions 278 through 290 for Facilities; and Resolution 291 for Information Management & Technology. Committee members also recommend approval of the following late-submission resolutions: 1. An amendment of contract with Downey-Goodleyn Elevator Corp. for maintenance services to reflect purchase of the company by KONE, Inc. and a 2. Contract for Monroe 1 BOCES to provide transportation services to RCSD students with disabilities attending their programs.

With respect to the Student Activity Funds Report and ensuring adequate oversight and accountability, members of the Finance Committee decided to send a letter from the Board to each of the school principals to emphasize the importance of adhering to accounting and reporting procedures. A copy of accounting guidelines will be attached to the letter.

The Committee meeting also included a discussion of potential modifications to the Financial Reports & Resolutions policy (6630) to ensure adequate vetting of substantial purchasing contracts, as well as other transactions with a significant fiscal impact on the District. Steve Carling will explore the options and implications for modifying this policy, and present this information in an upcoming meeting. In this month's meeting, Mike Schmidt discussed a revision to the Capital Improvement Plan, which involves removing School No. 54 from the CIP because building improvements will be included in the Facilities Modernization Plan. School No. 54 is currently located in the building that used to house School No. 30.

Lauren Poehlman, Chief Financial Officer, provided an outline of plans to conduct a series of public information sessions regarding District funding and budgeting. These sessions will begin in December and continue through January. After the proposed 2017-18 RCSD Budget has been released, feedback meetings will be held in March and April to gather public input. In addition, more information about the budget and District funding will be provided on the website.

The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10th, at 5:30 p.m.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Malik Evans: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday, October 20th, and received an update regarding the District's early childhood education and UPK programs. Dr. Robin Hooper and Andy MacGowan provided a very comprehensive overview of the current status of PreK programs in the District, including the expansion in student enrollment, attendance, results of Parent Satisfaction Surveys, and program funding. Basically, PreK enrollment has exceeded District goals, with sustained steady growth in the program for four-year-old children and continued expansion of the program for three-year-old children. Currently, approximately two-thirds of all four year-old children and one-third of all three-year-old children residing in the District are enrolled in PreK. The

results of four Parent Satisfaction Surveys conducted over the past two years are remarkably consistent, with 95.6% of parents giving the Early PreK program at least a “B” rating and 96.4% of parents giving the UPK program this rating. The vast majority of parents gave each of these programs a rating of at least “A-“ (80% of Early PreK parents, and 83.5% of UPK parents). Both programs were very highly rated by at least 95% of parents on each of the following indicators:

- How well the program meets their child’s needs;
- Quality of teaching;
- Their child’s sense of safety at school;
- Learning social skills and how to get along with other children;
- Bringing home books for parents to read with their children;
- Learning skills in hygiene and basic self-care;
- Teachers’ respect for parents and students;
- Cultural sensitivity; and
- Assistance provided by teachers to help students talk through their problems and generate solutions.

The only area in which the Parent Satisfaction Survey indicated a clear need was in the response of almost 21% of parents stating that they do not have anyone with whom they can discuss problems.

In terms of NYS funding for RCSD PreK programs, seven different grants have been proposed to be consolidated. In recent meetings with NYS Assistant Education Commissioners, District staff have been assured that the consolidation of these grants will not result in a funding reduction for RCSD programs.

Preliminary 2015-16 findings on a number of outcome measures show very high rates of growth for students attending PreK programs in the District:

- An average of approximately 20 months of growth for four-year-old children in one school year; and
- An average of almost one year of growth for three-year-old children in just six months (January to June 2016).
- Young children with the greatest developmental delays experience the greatest growth from attending PreK.

Despite the substantial growth children experience from attending the PreK program, many remain behind developmentally even after completing the program. This attests to the tremendous needs of children in the District, even by age three or four when they enter PreK.

By the end of 2017-18, the first cohort of children who have had two full years of PreK will be entering Kindergarten. It will be interesting to monitor their progress, particularly as compared with previous cohorts who have not attended PreK programs.

Looking toward the future, significant anticipated challenges include:

- Overall teacher shortages throughout the country, with the retirement of approximately 50% of teachers nation-wide over the next 10 years;
- Particular shortages in PreK Special Education teachers, evaluators, and service providers (e.g. OT, PT, Speech Therapy)

A RECAP report will be issued in mid-November, and reviewed in the December ESA Committee meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 10th, following the Finance Committee Meeting.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)

Chair Cynthia Elliott: No report submitted.

Policy Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Policy Committee met on Thursday, October 13th. A number of policies are presented this evening for your consideration:

For Adoption:

Revisions to the Health & Safety policy (8100): The proposed policy has been submitted previously as an Information Item and Discussion Item, and is currently up for adoption. The proposed policy promotes a more proactive and preventive approach in addressing safety issues, and requires district-wide training covering a range of specific potential environmental hazards (e.g. fire prevention, boiler safety, property protection). In addition, the policy would require that clear procedures be established in the District for monitoring and reporting safety issues and communicating safety information to employees. An internal Health & Safety Committee would be required to review incidents/issues at least quarterly with the Superintendent and senior management.

For Discussion:

Proposed Amendment to Visitors to Schools policy (1240): The amended policy would strengthen oversight and accountability by requiring:

- » Visitors to schools to obtain and wear a Visitor's pass;
- » Students visiting other schools would have to obtain the permission of the principal of the building they would like to visit;
- » Parents to complete an early dismissal form before removing their child from school; and
- » Any searches performed are conducted by a school administrator or safety officer.

Parent & Family Engagement Policy (1900): This policy proposal clarifies the definition of "parent"; enables parents to monitor progress in collaboration with the District on family and community engagement, as outlined in the District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP); and establishes a Title 1 Committee with multiple stakeholders and the authority to approve annual plans for parent engagement. The proposed policy incorporates feedback obtained from the Parent Advisory Council and the Bilingual Council.

Education of Homeless Children Policy (5110): The current policy is outdated, and members of the Policy Committee approved updates based on NYSSBA's sample policy and recommendations made by General Counsel.

Safety Policy (8135): Changes in legislation have necessitated revision of this policy, specifically in adding situations in which students, staff, or school visitors present implied or direct threats to themselves; clarifying the elements required to be included in annual safety training for employees and students; annual review and update of District and Building-Level Emergency Response Plans; and designation of a Chief Emergency Officer in the District.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Elizabeth Hallmark: No report submitted.

VIII. Resolutions

2016-17: 247: Resolution withdrawn.

2016-17: 248-250: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 248-250: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 253-263: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 265: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 270: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 271-273: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 274: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 4-0 with Commissioner Evans abstaining due to familial relationship and Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 275: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 276-277: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 278-290: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 291: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

2016-17: 292-310: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 5-0 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Hallmark absent.

No requests submitted for Resolution No. 235-246, 251-252, 264, 266-269, 724, and 733-740.

Commissioner Evans left at 8:10 p.m.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Commissioner Powell opened discussion of the following proposed policies: a proposed amendment to Visitors to Schools policy (1240), a proposed amendment to the Parent & Family Engagement Policy (1900), a proposed amendment to the Education of Homeless Children Policy (5110), and a proposed amendment to the Safety Policy (8135). She noted that all of the abovementioned policies have been vetted by the Policy Committee and will be considered at the November Business Meeting. Commissioner Adams offered amendments to the Visitors to School policy which will be vetted by the Policy Committee for recommendation to the full Board.

X. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual made by Commissioner Powell at 8:18 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 4-0 with Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Hallmark, and Commissioner Evans absent.

XI. Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell at 9:18 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 4-0 with Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Hallmark, and Commissioner Evans absent.

Board members were presented with several options for consideration impacting the redesign and closure of District schools. Michael Schmidt, Chief Operating Officer, presented information detailing options for the redesign of schools. He noted that some of the options required significant investment of District resources. The superintendent suggested that a public forum be held to present the proposed redesign to students, families and staff on November 7, 2016.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 9:20 p.m. Motion carries 4-0 with Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Hallmark, and Commissioner Evans absent.