

# ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Business Meeting November 17, 2016

**Attendance:** President White, Vice President Elliott, and Commissioners Adams, Cruz, Evans, Hallmark, and Powell; Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams; Student Representative Ja'quez Cochran; and Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President White convened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- I.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.
- II. Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes of the October 27<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting and November 7<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting was made by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Evans. Adopted 7-0.
- III. Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** Parent Margaret Toscano spoke about the proposed relocation of the Rochester's Children School, No. 15 and requested that Board work to preserve the school's culture. Parents Beatriz Lebron and Walida Monroe-Sims spoke about the proposed closure of Martin B. Anderson School, No. 1 and the lack of communication between the school's administrative team and parents. Staff member Michele Butz spoke about the proposed relocation of the Rochester's Children School, No. 15 and requested that Board work to preserve the school's culture.
- IV. Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item:** Community member Carlos Santana spoke about the importance of vocational educational and related opportunities. Staff member Hulda Yau spoke about the need for adequate resources to support bilingual education.
- V. Superintendents Reports:** In his absence, Dr. Nelms, Superintendent of the East High School EPO, submitted a written report highlighting year-to-date data for attendance and student behavior. It was noted that the number of suspensions has decreased in comparison to year-to-date data from last year. From an attendance perspective, it was stated that the school has realized relatively stable numbers as the school continues to employ attendance intervention strategies to address absenteeism and tardiness issues.

In the report, it was noted that East High School is in the process of increasing recruitment efforts for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes for the 2017-2018 academic year. It was stated that the EPO leadership team is actively working with School No. 33 staff and parents to encourage the transition to East High School next year. The school is also expanding efforts to include other students who live in the school's neighborhood but may attend area schools such as No. 23, No. 25, No. 28, No. 45, No. 46 and No. 52. Dr. Nelms and his team is scheduled to meet with Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> to further discuss the plan for partnership with School No. 33.

Efforts to convert East into a Community School were also addressed in the written report. It was stated that the EPO leadership team is working to integrate the school's focus on academics, health and social services to extend beyond the walls of East to incorporate the larger community. To support this effort, the report stated that East in partnership with the University of Rochester is in the process of applying

for the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) grant which seeks to advance systemic changes that embeds health in school environments.

The report concluded with mention of an initiative between the East Culinary Program and the Irondequoit Kiwanis working together to prepare and serve approximately 1,200 Thanksgiving meals next week for families in the community.

Superintendent Deane-Williams delivered a presentation that highlighted recent programming and initiatives. She spoke about upcoming 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 conference organized by SED Office of Innovation where school districts across the state shared best practices. Ms. Deane-Williams also spoke about the recent recognition of District ESOL teacher, Adel Bouallagui for “highest professional standards and work to inspire students.” Ms. Deane-Williams concluded the meeting by mentioning the third annual college fair sponsored by the United Negro College Fund. She noted that more than 1,000 students from Rochester and surrounding school districts.

## **VI. Board Reports:**

### **Audit Committee**

**Chair Mary Adams:** The Audit Committee met on Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> to obtain and discuss the draft Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Office of Auditor General reviewed the draft CAFR and the concerns communicated to Administration have been addressed in the version received. A hardcopy of the CAFR has been provided to all Board Members for questions. The deadline for Board Members to forward CAFR questions to the Auditor General is Tuesday, November 29, 2016.

The Committee also discussed the status of the Office of the State Comptroller’s Audit and a status update on the various projects being performed by the Office of Auditor General. We did not review any audit reports at the meeting, as the new leadership team has increased oversight over management responses in an effort to improve accountability.

The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:45. At the meeting, Freed Maxick will be in attendance to review the 2015-16 Audit with the Board. All Board members are invited to attend.

### **Finance Committee**

**Chair Jose Cruz:** The Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> to consider Resolution Nos. 2016-17: 351 through 354. The Finance Committee recommends of the October 2016 Financial Report. Commissioner Cruz made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Evans. Motion carries 7-0. The following resolutions were reviewed by the Finance Committee, and are advanced to the Board with recommendation: Resolutions 351 and 352 for Procurement & Supply and Resolutions 353 and 354 for Facilities. The Committee anticipated discussing potential modifications to the Financial Reporting & Resolutions Policy to ensure adequate vetting of substantial purchasing contracts, as well as other transactions with a significant fiscal impact on the District. This agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### **Excellence in Student Achievement Committee**

**Chair Malik Evans:** The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, to discuss resolutions related to approval of Career & Technical Education programs and School Comprehensive Education plans for eight schools.

The District is proposing two new Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs: Computer Assisted Design & Drafting, and Digital Video Production. Both programs will be offered at Edison High School and provide opportunities in growing career paths for students, allowing dual enrollment to earn college credits. The plans for the new programs include an employability assessment, program profile, curriculum and coursework description, and evaluation instruments to be used for student and teacher performance evaluation. Board approval is required for the new CTE programs, prior to submission to the NYS Education Department for approval. Members of the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee unanimously approved the plans for the two new CTE programs (Resolution No. 2016-17: 358). In addition, state approval is required every five years for existing CTE programs: carpentry, masonry, electrical, advertising design, and automotive technology. Board approval is not required for these existing programs.

School Comprehensive Education Plans (SCEPs) were reviewed for eight RCSD schools that have been newly identified as priority schools: School No. 16, 35, 46, 50, Wilson Foundation Academy, Leadership Academy for Young Men, Edison High School, and Vanguard Collegiate High School. Each of the schools submitted an application for a School Improvement Grant, which was denied. Consequently, these eight schools are required to submit a SCEP plan for approval by the NYS Education Department regarding actions to be taken to improve student achievement in the next year. The plans for the secondary schools focus on CTE and offering multiple paths to graduation; raising graduation rates; social/emotional supports; and use of an alternative assessment to the NYS Global History exam, such as an Employability Skills assessment. The District is currently working with business teachers and partners to develop the Employability Skills assessment. The SCEP plans are monitored on a regular basis with school principals, teachers, parents and students, with a thorough review of data at the end of each 10-week marking period. The SCEP plans for the elementary schools include comprehensive classroom observations; deliberative lesson planning; and enhanced collaboration with School-Based Planning Teams.

Reading/literacy, math, and providing social/emotional supports are the main focus of the SCEP plans for RCSD priority elementary schools. School Chief Beverly Burrell-Moore discussed plans for the District to place strong teachers in schools that have a large percentage of students scoring at Level 1 or 2 on NYS assessments. She reported that workshops are being offered to teachers on Saturdays and after school regarding using data for flexible grouping of students.

The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee approved the SCEP plans for each of these schools (Resolution No. 2016-17: 357).

### **Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (CIGR)**

**Chair Cynthia Elliott:** On Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, the members of the Community & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met to receive a presentation from the advocacy group Mothers Out Front. Committee members discussed concerns about the Bakken crude oil transports through high-density areas near schools in Rochester. Other types of hazardous materials are required to be re-routed away from high-density areas, but this does not include crude oil. The Bakken crude oil from hydro-fracking is especially flammable, presenting a serious threat to the safety of students, community members, and property.

The Committee requested a presentation of the District's has an evacuation or safety plan as it pertains to Bakken crude oil emergencies. The next Committee meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **Policy Committee**

**Chair Willa Powell:** The Policy Committee did not meet this month, but a number of policy revisions are presented this evening for your consideration:

For Adoption:

- 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. (Resolution No. 2016-17: 368)
- 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. (Resolution No. 2016-17: 369)
- Safe Schools 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. (Resolution No. 2016-17: 370)

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### **Board Governance Committee**

**Chair Elizabeth Hallmark:** The Board Governance Committee has not met since the last Business Meeting. The Committee will host a retreat with Superintendent Deane-Williams to discuss aligning work and priorities on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. No report submitted.

## **VII. Resolutions**

**2016-17: 327:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Hallmark. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**2016-17: 328:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

**2016-17: 329-349:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Adopted 7-0.

**2016-17: 350:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2016-17: 351:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting.

**2016-17: 352:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2016-17: 353:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-2 with Vice President Elliott and Commissioner Adams dissenting.

**2016-17: 354-355:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Evans. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Vice President Elliott dissenting.

**2016-17: 356-357:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Adopted 7-0.

**2016-17: 358-359:** Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

**2016-17: 360:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Evans abstaining.

**2016-17: 361-375:** Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Hallmark. Adopted 7-0.

**No requests submitted for Resolution No. 331, 332, 334, 335, 342, 344, 345, 346, and 347.**

**VIII. Unfinished Business:** None.

**IX. New Business:** None.

**X. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a specific individual** made by Commissioner Powell at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion carries 7-0.

**XI. Motion to enter into open session** made by Commissioner Powell at 9:05 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 7-0.

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Powell at 9:05 p.m. Motion carries 7-0.