

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

Minutes

November 18, 2010

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President Campos and Commissioners Cruz, Elliott, White and Williams; Student Representative Sophie Gallivan; Superintendent Jean-Claude Brizard; Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Commissioner White arrived at 6:36 p.m.

- I. Student Representative Sophie Gallivan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- II. **Motion to amend minutes** of the October 28th Business Meeting made by Commissioner Elliott to incorporate a statement addressing the formation of the Board's ad hoc Diversity Committee. Seconded by Commissioner White. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent. **Motion to accept minutes as amended** of the October 28th Business Meeting made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner William. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** NONE
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item:** NONE

Speakers Not Addressing an Agenda Item: Parent Ernest Flagler and Community Member Lawrence Brumfield, graduates of the District's Fire Fighter Trainee Program, spoke in support of the trainee program and asked that the Board continue to support the program for the benefit District students. Principal James Palermo of Clara Barton School No. 2 thanked the Board, District staff and St. John Fisher College for their support in establishing classrooms to promote literacy. Staff Member Cuevas Walker encouraged the Board and the District to considering infusing prayer in curriculum and programming.

- V. **Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Brizard presented information on the District's Human Capital Strategy. In the presentation, Mr. Brizard highlighted the District's efforts in linking teacher quality to student achievement. Mr. Brizard also provided an overview of how the District is considering reallocating resources during tight budget times to continually invest in teaching effectiveness. He noted that the District's approach will be implemented in two phases over the next two academic years, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013. Mr. Brizard explained that in evaluating teacher effectiveness and performance the District will classify the teaching workforce into four categories: highly effective, effective, developing and ineffective. The classifying categories will be determined based on the following three elements: student growth on state assessments, local measures of student achievement, and qualitative evaluations, which will be locally negotiated. Mr. Brizard concluded the presentation by noting the importance of evaluating and developing teachers as the District moves to increase student achievement.
- VI. **President's Report:** President Evans recognized teachers and non-teaching staff members for their commitment to our children and the school community. He noted that these employees have worked to engage our students, parents and community members, supported the operational demands of our

schools and demonstrated exceptional leadership in making a difference in the lives of our students and the culture of the Rochester City School District. President Evans announced upcoming meetings of the Board including scheduled committee meetings and the Technology Expo which has been designed to provide the Board with a hands-on view of the technology that the District invests in to meet the needs of our students.

**VII. Board Reports:
Audit Committee**

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee did not meeting in November. The next Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, November 9th to consider Resolutions 2010-11: 370 through 377, and 386. The Committee recommends that all of the reviewed resolutions be forwarded to the full Board for approval. The Finance Committee also reviewed the October 2010 Finance Reports. President Evans requested a motion to accept the October 2010 Finance Reports. Motion to accept the reports was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner White. The October 2010 Finance Reports were accepted 7-0. The Committee recommends approval of the Quarterly Student Activity Funds Report. President Evans requested a motion to accept the Quarterly Student Activity Funds Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz. The Quarterly Student Activity Funds Report was accepted 7-0. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on December 9th, following the Policy Committee meeting.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, November 16th to receive presentations outlining suggestions for the training of teachers to be included in the Teaching American History Grant to ensure that the training is culturally sensitive and relevant to students. The presentations were given by Dr. Susan Goodwin, Director of the Rochester Teacher Center, and Delores Jackson Radney, of Kuumba Consultants.

The following agenda items were not able to be presented due to time restraints: African/African-American Curriculum Update from Djinga St. Louis, Director of African/African-American Studies and the 2009-10 District Suspension Report from Dr. Jeanette Silvers, Chief of the Office of Accountability. Both of these reports will be submitted to the Excellence in Student Achievement Committee, as well as to the full Board, in written reports which will be forwarded in the Friday packets.

The next Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. This will be a Committee Meeting of the Whole where the Board will receive an update on the School Portfolio from the Office of School Innovation and a brief update on the K-2 Social Studies textbooks from the Social Studies Department.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee met on Wednesday, November 10th to receive an update on the District's Fire Fighter Program from Beverly Gushue, Director of Careers in Technical Education and Anibal Soler, East High School Principal. The Committee also received an update on the District's plans to reinstate this program at East High School possibly as early as January 2011 and initiatives to roll out the program to other schools in the District. The next Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair Jose Cruz: The Policy Committee met on Tuesday, November 9th and addressed the Code of Conduct and its applicability to employees to provide equity and ensure that children have an opportunity to report Code violations by adults without intimidation or fear of recrimination. Charles Johnson, General Counsel, provided information as to the ways in which the Code and other policies (particularly Harassment of Students & Employees – 1510) offer these protections. The Committee also addressed a new proposed Professional Services Contracting policy, which establishes dollar thresholds for requiring a Request for Information and Request for Proposals and discussed options for modifying the aggregate rule in which small contracts require Board approval when total expenses exceed \$25K over the fiscal year. Mr. Johnson also suggested amending the proposed revision to the Safety Program policy (8100) that was introduced to the Board as an Information Item in the October 28th Business Meeting.

At tonight's meeting the Board will consider a new policy, New Financial Accountability (Policy No. 6000), designed to delineate the various ways in which the Board exercises oversight of the District, from the Code of Ethics to various audit functions. The following policies are being presented to the Board as discussion items this evening: Safety Program (Policy No. 8100) and Safe Schools (Policy No. 8135). And, the Professional Services Contracting policy will be presented as both discussion and information items. The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for December 9th at 5:30p.m.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Board Governance Committee met on Tuesday, November 9th. At the meeting the committee discussed the Superintendent's appraisal for the 2009/10 fiscal year, Board staff evaluation tools, electronic document management tools, and upcoming outreach events. The Committee reviewed the completed the Superintendent's performance appraisal for the 2009/10 fiscal year and suggested that the compiled evaluation results will be delivered to the Superintendent at a meeting of the Board in December. The Committee also discussed evaluation tools and processes for the Board's staff. Both, the tool and the process, will be communicated to the staff in coming weeks. The Committee received information on the BoardDocs application, an electronic document management tool. The Board's staff along with members of the Purchasing and MIS departments will continue to review comparable applications and report back to the Committee with a cost-benefit analysis for implementation. The Committee hopes to forward a recommendation to the full Board in December or January. Finally, the Committee continued discussions on the State of Our School Program scheduled for January 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. The next Governance Committee meeting has been scheduled for December 9th at 4:00 p.m.

Student Representative Report: Student Representative, Sophie Gallivan announced that the Student Leadership Congress met twice during the month of November to discuss developing and filming a public service announcement to celebrate the diversity of the District's student body. Ms. Gallivan also noted that Commissioner Powell met with SLC to discuss her role and responsibilities as a Commissioner of the Board. The next Student Leadership Congress meeting is scheduled for December 15th at 3:30 p.m.

Motion to extend the meeting past 8:30 p.m. made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

VIII. Resolutions

2010-11: 348-349: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 350: Resolution pulled.

2010-11: 351: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 5-0 with Commissioner White abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 352-358: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 359-360: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 361: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 362: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 363-365: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 366-369: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 370-376: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 377: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 378-381: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner White. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 382-385: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Cruz. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 5-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting and Commissioner Powell absent.

2010-11: 386-394: Motion to adopt was made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent.

IX. Unfinished Business: None.

X. New Business: Commissioner Cruz, as Chairman of the Policy Committee, presented the recently drafted Professional Services Policy as an information and discussion item, along with the Safety Program Policy, No. 8100 and Safe Schools Policy, No. 8135 as discussion items. Commissioner Cruz explained that the policies have been vetted by both the Policy Committee and Finance Committee and are now being forwarded to the full Board with recommendation from both committees.

XI. President Evans announced that the next Business Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

President Evans requested a **motion to enter into executive session** to discuss personnel matters related to a specific individual. Motion to enter into Executive Session made by Vice President Campos. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz, adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent at 9:15 p.m.

Motion to enter into open session made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Commissioner Cruz, adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent at 9:55 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Vice President Campos. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Powell absent. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.