

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Meeting

Minutes

November 19, 2009

Attendance: President Evans, Vice President White, and Commissioners Brennan, Campos, Elliott, Powell, and Williams; Superintendent Brizard; Student Representative Sarah DeLaus; and Board Clerk Shanai Lee.

President Evans convened the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Commissioner Elliott arrived at 6:39 p.m.

Commissioner Brennan arrived at 7:00 p.m.

- I. Commissioner Campos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- II. **Motion to accept minutes** of the October 22nd Business Meeting, October 22nd Special Meeting, October 27th Special Meeting, and the November 9th Special Meeting was made by Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-0 with Commissioner Brennan absent.
- III. **Student Recognition:** None.
- IV. **Speakers Addressing an Agenda Item and Speakers on other than Agenda Items:** Community member Richard Eaton spoke against the proposed Rochester Teachers Association contract. Parent Cheryl Marshall spoke about the need for parent involvement and the use of Title I funding.
- V. **Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Brizard began by mentioning that the Administration, in particular the Office of Accountability, has worked hard to compile and provide complete and accurate information reflecting student performance and assessment to New York State. Mr. Brizard also acknowledged staff from East High School for their work in preparing students for academic success, and announced that East High School has been recognized as the first nationally-certified AVID school in Monroe County.

Ms. Caterina Leone Mannino, Director of Extended Learning & Intervention, was introduced to present information on the Response to Intervention system. This system is designed to assess student performance and improve instructional design by encouraging schools to employ educational strategies to close achievement gaps for all students, including students at risk, students with disabilities and English Language Learners.

Commissioner Williams noted that the classification rate is the highest in New York, and asked if students currently classified as needing Special Education services will be reassessed with the implementation of RtI. Ms. Linda Blankenhorn, Executive Director of Specialized Services, said that students are periodically reassessed, and with the implementation of RtI the District is now focusing more on intervention services in order to assess whether or not students are still in need of Special Education services. Commissioner Williams asked about the referral process for Special Education services. Ms. Leone Mannino said that the District is currently employing a universal screening process that includes a reading assessment and other interventions to evaluate the need for Special Education services.

Vice President White noted he has had interest in the classification rate of male students and students of color and asked about the ethnic composition of the various Committees on Special Education. Ms. Blankenhorn noted that she would gather information on the demographic composition of each committee. Vice President White said that the diversity of the committees and those making decisions on Special Education classification is an important aspect in solving the issues around the classification of male students and students of color.

Commissioner Elliott noted that members of the various Committees on Special Education should be diverse and have a strong interest in the academic achievement of our students. She also mentioned that the District has to understand that culture is critical in the educational process. Commissioner Elliott asked how the African and African American Studies Department is being infused into RtI. Ms. Leone Mannino responded that Ms. Nyree Strong, Director of the African and African American Studies Department, is working to build teacher quality by infusing African and African American contributions and culture into curriculum. Commissioner Elliott asked that the Superintendent consider assessing teachers' use of cultural pedagogy when completing teacher evaluations.

Commissioner Campos asked what goals are in place to decrease the classification of students in need of Special Education services. Ms. Leone Mannino said the goal is to decrease the classification rate by 10% among the first cohort of schools participating in RtI. Commissioner Campos asked what structure is in place to ensure that progress is made. Mr. Brizard said the implementation of RtI and the reduced classification of students in need of Special Education services must be owned by the individual schools and their Administrative teams. Mr. Brizard also noted that the principals will be held accountable by the School Chiefs for student achievement.

VI. **Board Reports:**

Audit Committee

Chair Allen Williams: The Audit Committee of the Whole met today, November 19th at 5:30 p.m., with Freed, Maxick & Battaglia, our external auditors, to review their audit findings of the district's financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2009. The Committee also met privately with Freed, Maxick and Battaglia in Executive Session, in compliance with the Fiscal Accountability Legislation. The Committee anticipates approving the 2008-2009 CAFR at the December Board Meeting.

Finance Committee

Chair Willa Powell: The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, November 17th to review the monthly Financial Report and Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 374 through 385, 417 and 418. The Committee seeks a motion to accept the October 2009 Financial Report and associated budget amendments, along with the Student Activity Report. Motion to accept the October 2009 Financial Report was made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Board Vice President White. The October 2009 Financial Report was accepted 7-0. The Committee seeks a motion to accept the First Quarter Student Activity Funds Report. The First Quarter Student Activity Funds Report was accepted 7-0. The Finance Committee recommends the following reviewed resolutions to the Board for approval: Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 374 through 385, 417 and 418. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15th.

Excellence in Student Achievement Committee

Chair Van Henri White: The Excellence in Student Achievement Committee met on Thursday,

November 12th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss and approve Resolution Nos. 2009-10: 393 through 416 which relates to Comprehensive Education Plans for the following elementary schools: School Nos. 5, 6, 9, 16, 17, 28, 42, and 45; and the following high schools: Charlotte, Dr. Freddie Thomas, East, the School of Business, Finance & Entrepreneurship at Edison, the School of Applied Technology at Edison, the School of Imaging & Information Technology at Edison, the School of Engineering & Manufacturing at Edison, Bioscience & Health Careers at Franklin, Global Media Arts at Franklin, International Finance & Economic Development at Franklin, Jefferson, Monroe, Marshall, Northeast College Preparatory at Douglass Campus, School Without Walls and Wilson Commencement Academies.

Principals representing the 24 schools presented Comprehensive Education Plans (CEPs) relating to their schools. Comprehensive Education Plans are required for all schools identified by New York State as not meeting Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for two or more consecutive years. Each principal of schools needing to prepare a CEP was given the opportunity to formally present the highlights of their plan to increase student achievement in the area(s) where their school was cited.

The resolutions are advancing to the Board without recommendation due to the lack of a quorum.

Next month's Excellence in Student Achievement Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10th, at 5:30 p.m. An overview of the Universal Pre-K Program will be presented at that meeting. There will also be a presentation by the Office of Accountability highlighting the improvements in Data.cation and the future of the system. The Data.cation presentation will be a hands-on meeting and will be held in the Central Office's Computer Lab.

Vice President White noted that the December Committee meeting would be a Committee Meeting of the Whole, as both of these presentations will prove to be highly informative and of interest to all of us.

Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Chair Melisza Campos: The Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee did not meet in November, but will meet on Thursday, December 3rd to discuss the upcoming community conversation that is tentatively scheduled to take place in February 2010.

Policy Committee

Chair Cynthia Elliott: The Policy Committee convened on November 5th November 10th, and November 17th. A Meeting of the Whole was held on November 5th, to discuss a proposal to provide transportation to all students in kindergarten through 8th grade and to obtain public comment regarding student arrests. The Committee decided to conduct another meeting as soon as possible to address the transportation issue with key District staff present to respond to questions and provide information as to the feasibility of different options.

A second Meeting of the Whole was conducted on November 10th with key District staff present to discuss student safety and transportation issues. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the Administration would immediately transport all students in kindergarten through second grade that can be absorbed on existing routes with existing buses. District staff are to report to the Policy Committee with information regarding the number of students in kindergarten through second grade who cannot be accommodated within the existing transportation structure, as well as the estimated costs of transportation services to these students.

In the November 17th Policy Committee meeting, proposed amendments were presented to the Attendance Policy which would streamline the process. Committee members directed District staff to check State regulations to ensure compliance with current target attendance levels and to report back in December.

Principal Pamela Rutland gave a presentation regarding strategies found to be effective at Wilson Commencement Academy in reducing student arrests, which involved careful examination of the school culture and the way in which staff interacts with students.

Shanai Lee, M/WBE Coordinator, presented proposed amendments to the Responsible Bidders Policy that would establish an internal qualified bidders list. The amended language addresses the implementation of a Qualified Bidders' List for the District's public works contracts. The language requires that contractors prequalify for bidding by meeting criteria as responsible and financially sound business organizations and demonstrating experience and/or the ability to work with minority and women-owned businesses through joint ventures or subcontractor relationships. The members of the Policy Committee directed Ms. Lee to advance this policy proposal to the Law Department for review and to District staff to assess the operational implications.

General Counsel also presented an overview of proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct and a status report regarding development of a policy for the education of homeless students. It is expected that this draft policy will be addressed by the Policy Committee early next year.

The members of the Policy Committee voted 2-0 to accept the proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct with changes recommended by Committee members to provide all references to law and regulations at the end of the Code. With these suggested changes, the revised Code of Conduct (Resolution No. 2009-10: 340) is advanced to the Board with recommendation.

Commissioner Elliott also noted that discussion of a policy regarding the District's Medicaid compliance program be held under New Business and referred to the Policy Committee.

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on December 15th at 6:30 p.m., at which time staff from Erie 1 BOCES will provide an overview of updates to the Policy Manual and explanation of the review process.

Board Governance Committee

Chair Thomas Brennan: The Board Governance Committee Meeting of the Whole was held on November 10th, with a majority vote cast to convene in Executive Session to present the Board's summative performance evaluation to the Superintendent. No meetings have been scheduled at this time for the Board Governance Committee, as the Superintendent's evaluation has been completed.

President Evans requested a motion to extend the meeting past 8:30 p.m.

Motion to extend the meeting was made by Commissioner Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

VII. Resolutions

2009-10: 352-371: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 372-373: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 374: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 375-377: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Board Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 378: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 379-380: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Board Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 381-383: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Brennan. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 384-385: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 386-389: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Board Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 390: Resolution pulled.

2009-10: 391-418: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Powell. Seconded by Board Vice President White. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 419-420: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 421-424: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 425: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 5-1 with President Evans abstaining due to familial relationship and Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 426-428: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 429-430: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0.

2009-10: 431-432: Motion to adopt was made by Board Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 6-1 with Commissioner Elliott dissenting.

2009-10: 340: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 7-0.

Commissioner Elliott said that she dissented on a number of resolutions, not in opposition to employees appointed or terminated or the initiatives supported or created, but in reaction to poor timing and the lack of information presented to the Board to substantiate the need for such actions and agreements.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:** None.

IX. **New Business:** The Board considered the Code of Conduct, Policy No. 5300, by Resolution No. 2009-10: 340.

2009-10: 340: Motion to adopt was made by Commissioner Elliott. Seconded by Commissioner Brennan. Adopted 7-0.

Commissioner Elliott introduced a draft policy in support of the required Medicaid Compliance Program that must be in place by December 31, 2009.

X. President Evans announced that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Vice President White. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. Adopted 7-0 at 9:47 p.m.